 

Registered Charity no.  249726

**Minutes of the Council Meeting, 30th November 2023**

**Coddenham Village Community Centre, Mary Day Close, Coddenham IP6 9SR**

**Present**:  There were 21 members present with 0 present via Zoom.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Linda** **welcomed** everyone and thanked Val & Sandra for providing the refreshments. |  |
| **2.** | **Apologies**: Janice Brett, Rev Catherine Forsdike, Alan Forsdike, Sue Norrington, Rev Helen Davy, Angela Pells, Margaret Lowe, Sue Doe, Caroline Abbot, Rose Savage, Jean Cobb, Chris Jacobs, Brenda Simmons, Rose Cleaver, Janice Wright. |  |
| **3** . | **Conflict of Interest/ Safeguarding / Domestic Violence -**None |  |
| **4.** | **Minutes of meeting 17th April 2023**, there were no matters arising. These were proposed correct by Jeanette Appleton, seconded by Val Jeffreys, and agreed by the meeting.  Signed by Linda Ginn. |  |
| **5.** | **DP Report** – circulated prior to the meeting.  Linda told the meeting that the Annual Meeting held in September in York was now on the MU Website. Linda also encouraged members to read the transcript of Sharon Harper’s speech on the MSH website and to watch the Mothers’ Union “Impact Video” on YouTube which lasts approx. 6 mins.  Linda’s report was proposed correct by Christine Ward, seconded by Jane Lueng, and agreed by the meeting. |  |
| **6.** | **Treasurer’s Report -** Amanda was unable to attend the meeting, Jeanette presented the accounts up to the 24th November 2023. Amanda is still waiting for some branches to send their subs to her. Any question regarding the accounts to be sent to Jeanette and she will forward to Amanda for the reply.  Jeanette mentioned to the members that the accounts can be viewed on share point for those with an Office 365account. Linda gave her thanks to Amanda for the work she has done on the annual accounts.  Proposed by Sandra Griffiths, seconded by Val Jeffreys, and agreed by the meeting. |  |
| **7.** | **Trustee Reports** – Circulated with the agenda.  **Updates**  AFIA – Val told the meeting that we have been able to help a family known to Graham Miles (Rural Chaplain) A new school uniform voucher scheme has been launched in response to the Cost of Living Crisis, enabling a family to obtain the uniform required for a child to go to school. The parenting fund is being used for this. Val has application forms if someone is known to have a problem affording school uniforms.  Sandra updated the meeting saying how there was £519.42 raised at the recent Ipswich Area coffee morning. This money will be used to purchase vouchers from Asda, Tesco’s and Primark and given to the Women’s Refuge in Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. They will also buy chocolates and biscuits for the staff.  Anna reported in Sue’s absence that the I-Chameleon shop in Halesworth has been booked for 2024. NSA are asking for others to work at the shop next year as it is a lot of work for a few people. Sue has written a report regarding this. It was sent out with the agenda.  Cathie said that she requires more knitted breasts for the Suffolk Infant Feeding team. She had a supply of chunky wool which Jeanette is going to take for her branch.  Sue is concerned that no-one has come forward to take on the Diocesan Members rep in the next triennium. She asks all branch leaders to bring this to the attention of their members and ask if someone can take this role on.  Yoxmere area have a travelling crib this year and it is going to children from the local schools - it is a good way of getting children to talk about the meaning of Christmas.  Christine spoke about Clewer and how she has been giving talks to branches. Shotley Peninsular are holding an Advent Service on 6th December at 2.00pm. at Holbrook Methodist Chapel. Deb Johnson from the Refuge is coming to speak, and Sandra will present her with the vouchers from Ipswich Area.  Margaret Morrison will be taking over the role of Indoor Members Rep from Monica. Twaits. Linda gave Monica a Bag of Love and thanked her for the many years she has been the IMPC contact. Monica now feels it should be done by someone who is more mobile but said she has thoroughly enjoyed the time she has been the contact.  Linda said she has started going to Licencing Services and enjoys welcoming the new clergy and gives them a MU Prayer (credit-sized) Card and current newsletter. |  |
| **8.** | After a short break  We resumed and Linda reported while many dioceses had problems receiving their Connected Magazines it seemed that most of our members had had theirs; this was thanks to Clare for keeping the membership database up to date.  Linda asked for any news for the Newsletter be got to Jeanette early in December.  Metamorphosis survey from MSH to be completed asap and returned to MSH. |  |
| **9.** | **Clergy Well Being Discussion–**  The aim of the discussion at council was to encourage us, as part of local churches and congregations, to give time and thought to how best to support your clergy. And to enable congregations and clergy to work together to support one another in partnership is the way the Bible teaches us to serve, as fellow disciples.  Topics included:   * how does your clergy know that you support them? * how realistic are you in your expectations of the clergy? * how do you support your clergy? * Have you talked with your ordained ministers about appropriate boundaries around their time and space, including when they are in their homes?   **Succession planning presented by Jeanette Appleton**  We all have a part to play in growing our membership. Members can ask friends, other members of the congregation to meetings, services or events as a way of introducing them to Mothers’ Union. MSH is opening up membership by having Friends of MU for those people that are not baptised but wish to support others’ Union.  In preparation for the next triennium 2025 – 2027 we already have eight of the seventeen diocesan officer and a Diocesan President. Nominations are now open for the four roles of General trustee. (see attached notice)  **The Rise-Up campaign** against domestic abuse is being funded a Church of England strategic grant. There are resources on the Main Mothers’ Union website and the opportunity to achieve one of the Bronze, Silver or Gold awards, through raising awareness of this issue.  **Member’s Day** 7th March St Michael’s Martlesham. Doors open 10am 10.30 – 12.30 programme. After a consultation with council members this event will include Praise and Worship, Craft activities plus alternative activities to craft and the MUe pop-up shop. There will be the opportunity to book lunch at the Dougles Bader pub afterwards for those who wish to do this. Contact Beryl Mee to book a place for lunch |  |
| **10** | Beryl is to send out the Diocesan Diary with these minutes. If anyone has a date, they wish to publish please email Beryl [secretarysuffolkmu56@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysuffolkmu56@gmail.com) . This will be put on the diary and branches notified or any additions. |  |

 The meeting closed at12.45 with Mid-day Prayers and the Grace.

 Signed:………………………………………………………………Date ……………………