

## **CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held at The Council Chamber, Cinderford on Tuesday, 16th April 2019 commencing at 6.00 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors; C. Witham, (Chair), R.A. Sterry (Mayor) (6.25pm), M. Coborn, T.R. Holder, Mrs J. Johnson, Mrs E.D. Martin, G.L. Morgan, M. Turner.

Town Clerk; Mrs L.L. Thomas

Catherine Harris (Dementia Action Alliance), Claire Smeeth (Crossroads Care)

APOLOGIES for Absence were received from Cllrs. Ms S. Reader, Mrs L.I. Sterry, Mrs K. Turner.

### **1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN.**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Meeting and thanked Catherine and Claire for attending the meeting to demonstrate the Raizer Chair and the Gert Suit (an Age simulation suit), to give everyone an idea of how aging residents manage with different ailments.

### **2. RAIZER CHAIR.**

Claire and Catherine firstly demonstrated the chair, which came in two lightweight, easy to carry cases, which could be recharged by simply plugging into a cigarette charger in any vehicle. Catherine was volunteered to lie down as the 'patient', and Claire proceeded to show how easy it was to assemble the colour coded parts of the chair underneath Catherine, and by simply pushing a button, she was raised into a seating position.

The ease of using the chair, meant that people would not be left lying on floors, waiting extended period of times for emergency vehicles, which sometimes caused their conditions to worsen. This in turn meant that emergency vehicles would not be taken away from their emergency use. Crossroads Care had also estimated a cost savings of £2/300. to the emergency services, by using the chair to assist fallen patients.

Councillors were really impressed with the Raizer Chair and agreed it was an excellent piece of equipment, which would hopefully become widely available throughout the County.

### **3. GERT SUIT.**

Chris was then asked to try on various parts of the Gert suite, being an age simulation suit, which showed how difficult it was for people with certain disabilities to move around. This combined with wearing glasses which simulated various problems, such as macular degeneration, cataracts etc really emphasized the problems experienced by older residents. Councillors also tried on gloves which simulated Parkinson's disease, which was an absolutely dreadful experience.

Councillors agreed it was such a worthwhile experience and acknowledging what older residents have to cope with, and why people need to be more patient with the elderly or anyone suffering any debilitating illness.

### **4. CLOSURE.**

Although no one from the Public had attended, the meeting had been live streamed and the Chair thanked everyone for attending and Claire and Catherine for the demonstration which he hoped would be viewed by many people on the Council web page.

The Meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.