

ECONET Extraordinary General Meeting

3rd October 2024, 2pm

RISC Reading

Attendance: David Barks, Sandra Jackson, Vicky Clayden, Adrian Larkham, Phil Allen, Keith Alexander, Mike Cox, Steve Ayers, Steve Lloyd, Marcus Wheeler, Tricia Marcouse, Cathy Holwill, Peter Scudamore, John Lerpiniere, Barry Franklin, Theresa Varney-Brooks.

Apologies: None

1. To discuss and understand the implications of the changes to our insurance and reaffirm our commitment to welcome children (with reasonable constraints regarding parental supervision, etc.) and vulnerable adults to participate in the group's activities.

Note - the changes to our insurance referred to above require us to have safeguarding procedures to prevent abuse of children and vulnerable adults under the abuse section of public liability. The following are related specifically to this safeguarding section.

- It was mentioned that this was not just an insurance issue, but that legislation also requires that we take action.
- It was decided that we do want to welcome children and vulnerable adults to be able to participate in our activities. It's worth doing.

2. To agree the changes needed to our processes and procedures in order to comply with the requirements of this aspect of our insurance. The following issues were identified:

- To appoint a Safeguarding Officer with appropriate policy and procedure.
Theresa Verney-Brookes agreed to be the Safeguarding Officer, already being qualified for the role. She agreed to guide us where needed in terms of required training for work party leaders, and review procedures. Theresa agreed to develop an Econet safeguarding policy with an appropriate procedure.
- To have someone appointed as Safeguarding Lead for every Econet work party, which would then be covered by these procedures.
It was felt that the work party Leader was the appropriate Safeguarding Lead. Theresa pointed out that there is a 2 hour on-line course, and that all Leads should undergo this training. All the current work party leaders agreed to this.
- It was agreed that the current volunteer registration sheet could be updated to not only include contact and emergency contact details, but also have a section on being aware of responsible working practices and safeguarding procedures, for the volunteer to read and sign before their first task.
- These changes are to be made by the management team and other relevant contributors as soon as reasonably practicable.

- An assessment of the effectiveness and any updating of these procedures plus compliance with insurance requirements is to be built into the AGM agenda.

Separately to the requirements for safeguarding our insurance also covers claims for other aspects under public liability and also covers for personal accidents. For these aspects Econet can set its own rules regarding children. Since we use tools of a potentially dangerous nature it was agreed that for all of these other aspects Econet would stick with its current policy which is that children under 16 should be accompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible adult.

Meeting finished 3.30pm