



Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 1st April 2010

Present: Adrian Smith (AS), Andy Humphries (AH), Barry Lynock (BL), Jim Parker (JP), Bob Dale (BD), Lorna Sage (LS), Dorothy Snaddon (DS), John Alexander (JA), Peter Higgins (PH), Joanne Morton (JM).

Apologies: Kate Brennan (KB), Sarah Courbet (SC), Jill Alexander (JA), Eileen McHugh (EMH), Norma Yarnell (NY), Ray Yarnell (RY), John Sidwell (JS), Grace Hampson (GH), David Matthews (DM), Martin & Pat Phipps.

Welcome / Committee issues

New chairman Adrian Smith welcomed everyone and offered a warm welcome to 2 prospective members, Peter Higgins and Joanne Morton. They had expressed an interest in joining the Committee after the AGM and were duly elected. Joanne was working with LS on the walks programme and Peter would help to represent Hopwood and support MP on planning issues.

Although JA had taken over as Treasurer, he may be moving out of the area later this year. A new long term Treasurer may then be needed. Suggestions were also made that other Committee members might help to support EMcH on the Events Programme and do a co-ordinating role on marketing the Society. **To be discussed at next meeting**

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes from 4th February agreed with no comments.....Chairman duly signed with no amendments.

Matters arising

- Letters had been sent to Bromsgrove DC re planning application for the Old School site....and on the Housing Needs Assessment commissioned by BDC for affordable housing. The latter was *out-of-date and flawed*..
- Facebook link had been added to the web site

2009/10 Programme

April eventPlanned visits to the Mailbox - EMcH has filled all places on Saturday 17th April. Second trip arranged for Thursday 22nd April in the evening. Most places have gone. **EMcH to let AH know if we still need to advertise this event.**

May walk.....LS's brother (Roger Coates) now the leader. AH will do a notice-board poster for this + other Spring events.

Dellow events (Wednesday 19th + Saturday 22nd May).....

- Wednesday evening talk arranged
- LS dealing with Village Hall arrangements on Saturdaywill need Committee help from 2pm onwards
- Agreed we should have an AVS marketing stall at the Village Hall
- EMcH liaising with the Dellow owners
- AH will speak to the Police about reserving parking spaces on the day
- Refreshments probably tea and cakes.....LS and EMcH to ask for help from WIs (+ the Committee) where needed.

Summer Outing.....several options discussed, local and further away. Agreed that a local venue would be best so that more members could easily get there + costs would be kept down. Agreed to arrange a private visit to Pump Cottage in Weatheroak where the large garden is open as part of the National Gardens scheme for charity and the owner is happy to give a talk and provide tea and cakes ! **Now booked....**

PUMP COTTAGE....Wednesday 30th June.....6.30-8pm.....£3 entry, optional tea + cake at nominal cost (all proceeds to NGS charities) As EMcH on holiday, AH will co-ordinate.

2010/11 Programme

Walks programme.....in preparation.. LS and JM are looking for more volunteers to lead walks....suggestion of asking those on the next few walks if they would like to lead one in future.

Talks / events programme....EMcH to let the Committee know if she needs any help putting that part of the programme together. Would be useful for an early draft of both programmes to be on the June Committee agenda. Suggestions for future speakers included our new MP (whoever it is) and Professor Bob Davies (a Worcester china expert from Rowney Green)...maybe have this at the Peace Hall so AVS members can see the new refurbishments.

AVS Policies + Aims

Second draft discussed. BD suggested a change to the housing needs element.... to include the word sustainable
Committee ratified the revised draft and agreed it can now be published on the AVS website and elsewhere.

General feeling that the District Council's Housing Needs Assessment (prepared in January 2010 by consultants) was based in part on out-of-date information and had significantly overstated the true need for affordable housing in the Parish. The Committee therefore believe it not to be an accurate basis for determining planning applications for this sort of housing.

Planning

No information available.....AS will check with MP.

Finance

JA has all the papers now.....forms for new signatories now complete + will be sent in asap £1261.58 in current account.
Several new members at AGM + since.....14 in total this calendar year. Current membership estimate 293. Ten outstanding payments from 2009 and 6 still paying £6 subscriptions....JA will speak to some of these personally. Agreed that we would include a "life-members-check" in the 2011 Annual Reportto make sure we're not sending to anyone who has either died or no longer wants AVS news.

Walks leaflets....agreed we should raise the cost of these to £4 / pack as no increase had happened for more than 10 years.

Footpath budget....BL has the budget papers from the County Council + doesn't envisage problems similar to last year. He will submitting a budget request (of around £800) very soon. JA asked BL to let both County and Parish Council know about the change in our Treasurer.

Footpath Report

A dog gate had already been installed on Newbourne Hill though the season will not start properly till April 24th. Memorial bench for Paul Newbyplanned installation 8th May. Clifford Waller bench – suggestion of siting by the bus stop (Old Rectory Lane).....**JP to talk to the Parish Council.**

Marketing

Carried forward to next meeting

Village Issues

The Neighbourhood Group had been disbanded by Bromsgrove District Council, apparently on cost grounds. BDC and WCC had also pulled out of PACT and its future now hangs in the balance.

AOB

AVS membership details.....a few members had asked why the list had been removed from the annual report. This was done 2 years ago because of potential Data Protection issues. Possibility of publishing just names considered or giving those who ask a list without addresses. Potential difficulties if some other members do not wish their record(s) to be published. Final decision made to stay as we aremembership details only known to Committee members.

Calling Oak and RG Association minutes.....circulated by DS (AS expressed thanks)

Annual Parish Meetingis in the Village Hall on Monday 19th April at 7pm. AH is on holiday so could any Committee member make the meeting to represent the Society. Society reps are usually asked to say a few words about their Society or groupwe could remind everyone that our 40th anniversary year was very successful, that we're enjoying a closer working relationship with the Parish Councilbut concerned that both District and County Councils are using budget pressures to stop attending community meetings like PACT.

Litter picks.....11 village gardens are opening in June/July for the NGS scheme. Garden owners have asked if AVS can arrange a litter pick just before the first opening in early June. Agreed we could help but that AVS should also chase the local Councilsand garden owners themselves could help by doing the area round their houses.

Future Committee meetings

Next meeting is **Thursday 3rd June**please help the secretary by emailing her if you **can't** make that meeting.
Future meetings.....September 2nd and November 4th.....plus an envelope stuffing session for the programme (early August)