



## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Present: John Alexander (JA), Kate Brennan (KB), Bob Dale (BD), Andy Humphries (AH), Jim Parker (JP), Adrian Smith (AS), Norma Yarnell (NY), Eileen McHugh (EMH), Sarah Courbet (SC), , Bob Dale (BD), John Sidwell, Martin & Pat Phipps, Ray Yarnell (RY),

Apologies: Barry Lynock (BL), Lorna Sage (LS), Jill Alexander (JA), Grace Hampson (GH), David Matthews (DM)

Ann Overs, new member of the Parish Council and friend, Sylvia Nash joined the meeting as Observers at 7.40pm

### Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September agreed with no comment or question. Chairman duly signed with no amendments.

### Matters Arising

EMH won't be able to manage the summer outing for next year. Need to find an organiser in January.

### Committee Issues

Treasurer – JA has very kindly agreed to take on the role of Treasurer. KB/JA to organise change of signatories. LS has agreed to stay on the Village Hall Committee. All in agreement.

AH is keen to get closer to other local residents associations. AH has got copies of Weatheroak (83 members) and Rowney Green Association minutes if anyone is interested. Agreed to keep in touch by sharing minutes and it may be that we could have an annual joint meeting.

AH is due to step down as Chairman in 2010 and AS has agreed to take on the role. RY would like to be considered as Chairman once he has retired. AH is happy to stay on as Vice Chairman. The committee was delighted that two candidates had put themselves forward and thanks were offered to both.

### 2009/10 Programme

Three walks have been held; along with a combined talk with the PACT meeting. The walks have been very well attended. PACT was a lively affair this month. AH to gain feedback at the next talk on the value of combining an AVS evening meeting with PACT.

Next walk is on 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30 from Forge Mill car park, Redditch. The walk will be around Arrow Valley

Big thanks go to EMH for organising the daffodil planting. Well attended event with good weather but with very hard ground! It also generated some new members. The publicity received was very positive.

Xmas Evening is to be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Looking to hold a really traditional Xmas get together with live music, choir, readings and carols. Fish & Chip supper with vegetarian and chicken options; plus puddings for a cost of £6. Looking at 45-50 attendees. Hall has been booked; AH will double check. The Hall has been booked for the afternoon which is a slight concern as time is needed to set the hall up. Suggested time 7.30 for 7.45pm. Entertainment to start at 8pm with food at 8.30/8.45 with more entertainment afterwards. Tony Armond has provisionally offered to provide homemade punch as his contribution; AH to ask him to come along for 7.15pm. MP & PP to talk to EMH about wine and soft drinks. EMH to organise a list to capture attendees' menu choices as they arrive. Committee to let EMH know directly quantity of tickets required.

### Finance

Current account stands at £1269.88 and Footpath account at £1133.82.

Outstanding membership subscriptions total approx 16. EMH had brought along one renewal. AH has contacted these members. AH suggested putting a slip in the Annual Report gently asking for two year membership fees along with the suggestion of setting up a Standing Order through their banks. Membership now stands at around 290 with the recent new members. First family membership received.

KB/JA to look at the possibility of producing some forms to facilitate direct payment from the members.

Co-op Community Fund.....AH will investigate in the New Year.

## **Marketing**

The membership drive outside the Co-op seemed to go down well and a couple of members resulted. Thank you to all those that helped out on the day.

AH to draft an article on the AVS 40<sup>th</sup> year and send around the members for comment/approval.

AS suggested that we get other local organisations involved in events such as the bulb planting. AH to invite Dorothy Snaddon from Rowney Green onto the Committee.

Website – JP to have telephone number removed from website. Everyone else happy to have their details posted.

## **Planning**

Should AVS take a stronger stance on issues such as affordable housing, planning, anti-social behaviour etc ? AH opened up the discussion to the Committee. It may be a way of also raising the profile of the Society and gaining new members.

AH asked whether this was acceptable; the only reservation was to make sure the campaigns do not become personal. One way of moving forward and testing the waters is to draft up some policies for discussion at the next meeting. Committee members to submit policies to AH for raising for discussion at the next meeting within the next four weeks. Society should be seen as influencers and provide guidance on the future of the Village.

Specific planning – land on Birmingham Road next to the M42 - new BDHT application for affordable housing has been questioned by various members. General point is brownfield sites should be used before green belt land. Also need to stress that the design and build quality should conform to the Village Design Statement (unlike in Ash Lane, Hopwood).

Plans for a significant housing development east of Bordesley (between Storage Lane and Redditch) are now on hold for the time being. Originally the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy was proposing several thousand new dwellings but opposition had come from many areas and it was likely now that alternative residential development would take place on the southern fringes of Redditch.

## **Footpath report**

No report. End of season breakfast is at the Weighbridge on Saturday morning at 10am.

## **Village Issues**

PACT – Date to be fixed for additional meeting specifically on anti-social behaviour – now fixed for Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup>. This public forum will be open to all residents and AH has asked for two weeks notice so we can publicise the event throughout the village. Could the school send out notification? AH to talk to the Head.

The Meadows – second application was turned down. AH trying to get funding for a project to include pitch draining. (Phase 1); footpath improvements (Phase 2) & fitness equipment (Phase 3).

Alvechurch and Beoley Neighbourhood Partnership (ABNP) – a group of local residents had presented proposals for new facilities for children and young people. The suggestion was well received but AH not aware of any further action as yet.

Halifax closure – in partnership with the Parish Council, AH has been campaigning to get an answer on the Alvechurch closure. AH has set up a telephone meeting with a senior manager to discuss.

## **Any other business**

No AOB.

## **Future Committee meetings**

Next meeting – January 7<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the Village Hall. Meeting closed at 9.00pm