



### **Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 7 May 2008**

Present: Martin Phipps (MP) Noelin Hawkins (NH) John Sidwell (JS) Eileen McHugh (EMH) Paul Newby (PN) Pat Phipps (PP) Kate Brennan (KB) Sylvia Cartwright (SC) Jim Parker (JP) Grace Hampson (GH) Andy Humphries (AH) Lorna Sage (LS)

Apologies: - none received

### **Minutes of previous meeting - 10/4 /08**

The minutes were approved and signed by AH after making various amends to spelling errors and the incorrect date.

### **Matters Arising**

AH advised that the curling fees are £15 and no invoice has yet been received. Since the last committee meeting, AH has also sent a "thank you" email to Nick Day and a letter to Digby Jones

### **Walks**

AH reported that the "*beating the bounds*" walk on 5/5/08 was a great success. A total of 31 started the walk with an additional 4 joining at the Peacock. 25 people completed the entire circuit and everyone said how much they had enjoyed it. The committee thanked AH for organizing the event. AH said that he would forward a letter of thanks to the following:

- The Peacock pub
- The staff at Barnt Green Sailing Club (Bittell Reservoir)
- The Staff at the Peace Hall
- The staff at the Weighbridge Pub

The committee needs to consider a reprint of the Alvechurch Walks between now and September 2008. NH will ask Andrew Simpson for quote for 100 packs.

### **Talks**

Committee members commented on how much they had enjoyed the talk by the auctioneer William Farmer. LS advised that she had been unable to contact the speaker for the next talk and members were asked for alternatives. Several names were put forward as follows:

- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
- Philip Aubury – former Director of the Botanical Gardens
- Jill Alexander – talk on the Galapagos

AH confirmed that the September talk will take place at the new school and Karen Jordan, (Head teacher) will deliver the talk. PP was asked to come up with a title.

### **Finance and Admin**

KB reported that in the absence of a current bank statement, the current account stands at £1496.95 The PFP stands at £151.37. The Corporate subscriptions have increased from £7.50 to £12.50 with effect from 8/5/08 and KB will write to all corporate members to notify them of the increase.

A discussion took place on the idea of “welcome packs” for all new members and it was decided that these would comprise the following:

- Annual Report
- Alvechurch Trail
- Programme
- Covering Letter

AH has composed an outline of a welcome letter and this will be inserted when a mock up of the packs are done in time for the next committee meeting for members to approve.

*(This will be included on the agenda for the next committee meeting).*

KB will distribute membership list either before or at the next committee meeting for checking purposes.

AH signed the amended constitution and will continue to investigate the pros and cons of charitable status for the AVS.

### Footpath report

PN reported that several stiles have been repaired and permission had been given to replace a stile with a gate by a landowner. Auger training will take place at the end of June 08.

The notice boards require additional keys and JS reported that it would cost in the region of £20 for the 5 keys. AH and JS will get together and liaise regarding this point before spending the money.

One of the notice boards in the Village is the result of a legacy and the committee has now agreed that a plaque should be placed in memory of the person and it will be paid for out of existing funds.

### Web-site development

AH reported that the existing web developer had withdrawn from the project and an alternative developer had been found. The new developer will charge expenses only and the development will be paid for from the existing grant given to the AVS in February 08.

### Planning

MP attended the last planning meeting and reported that the Baptist Church will have new glass doors. The planning application regarding 119 Birmingham Road has been rejected in its current format and a request for re-submission has been made as the original plans could not be interpreted by the planning committee.

### Village Issues

- **Annual Parish Meeting**

GH reported on the recent Annual Parish meeting and was pleased with the progress on the traffic calming measures to date along with other issues which were now being progressed, in particular, the work on The Precinct, which forms part of the Village Design Statement.

- **PACT**

AH reported on the recent PACT meeting and said that over 40 people attended. Over 65% voted in favour of the MUGA being sited off Swan's Length and anticipated costs are in the region of £90,000. In general discussion on the village design statement which already forms part of the formal Planning Guidance, the statement clearly emphasises that rural colours should be used and this should be reflected in the use of colours in the MUGA.. JP asked that this should be noted. AH will send a letter regarding this point

- **The Meadows**

Drainage improvement works in certain areas are being budgeted for by the Parish Council.

- **Parking at Social Club**

This car park will be resurfaced as a result of a loan from Bromsgrove District Council (BDC)

**Litter pick**

10-12 people turned out and BDC helped again. GH reported that the group managed to cover a large area in spite of the cold day !

**Any other Business**

AVS will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009 and the committee had already come up with ideas at the last committee meeting in April. One new idea – A Daffodil Plant was added to the existing list shown as follows;

- Have the event in the summer to maximize attendance
- Choose a public space – i.e. cricket ground etc
- organize pig roast
- invite all other societies around the Parish to participate and advertise their societies
- Have Morris dancers
- Do a “fete”
- Borrow Gazebos from Church

JP will report directly to BDC on concerns over the gushing water at Crown Meadow and GH noted that the bus shelter is still in a very bad state in spite of recent attempts at refurbishment.

**The date of the next committee meeting is 12/6/08 at the Village Hall at 7.00pm**