

## **Minutes of Meanwood Valley Partnership Annual General Meeting 2016**

**At Holy Trinity Church, Lower Parochial Hall, Wednesday 16th March 7.30pm**

### **Present**

Scott Westlake (Deputy Chair)

Gordon Charlesworth (Treasurer)

Cynthia Ruston, Sue Sheard, Chris Swales, Karen Waddington, Norman Ramsden, Rachel Fletcher (minutes)

Cllr. Sharon Hamilton , Cllr Alex Sobel and 22 local residents

**1 Apologies** Chris Sheard, Cllr Rebecca Charlwood, Cllr Sue Bentley, Barbara Blakeney, Carolyn Hull, David & Angela Appleyard, Rachel Ramsden

**3 Minutes of last meeting** 18th March 2015 were approved

### **4 Chair's Report (Chris Sheard)**

#### **Background**

Since the AGM on the 18 March 2015, MVP have been quite involved developing both social and community matters.

#### **Meetings**

In addition to the six annual public meetings and committee meetings, I met with Councillors four times to discuss issues either raised in meetings or through other contacts. I have also attended; three meetings with the Leeds & York Partnership Trust who own the woodlands around Woodlea Hall, I met with the Police twice to discuss issues around our events, had four meetings with respect to improvements to the centre of Meanwood and a further meetings with Council Officers in support of grant applications. In addition, I recently attended the seven estates meeting where in particular improvements to the Beckhills were discussed.

#### **Matters of interest**

On a formal footing we represented on the Church Lane 20mph zone, planning meetings with respect to proposed development of the Tetley and other sites and supported a well organised action meeting arranged by Meanwood Transition looking to have the Church Lane paddock site removed from the **LCC** site allocation plans.

Of particular interest was a meeting we hosted on the 11 August where potential improvements to Meanwood Centre were discussed and presented by Council Officers. Like with all things, the outline proposals brought up as many questions as it tried to answer but clearly if these questions can be addressed properly, then this represents a potential substantial improvement to Meanwood and at last, some welcome and much needed investment into our area.

One of my great pleasures was being able to finally solve the problem of the Christmas light turn on so that it was finally coordinated and with good assistance from the Council, local and adjacent ward Councillors. I was really pleased as i managed to organise having a natural tree dressed up to act as a centrepiece for the turn on. I am looking to build on this in the next year and possibly sponsor further lights ourselves.

Soon after our AGM, Meanwood's first beer festival drew quite a lot of attention and support from local breweries. It is hoped this could be run on an annual basis but the usual problems of finding a suitable date that doesn't cross over with other such events remains. We are still looking into this and hopefully this will return in future.

This was the first year of the Meanwood Festival where over 60 activities were available to the public, many of these were free and they covered quite a large section of interest. All participating bodies and those who were involved considered the festival was quite a success and a definite foundation to build on for the future. Much work has been put in hand and the festival will be repeated this year.

The Funday was a further improvement on a great 2014 event and 2016 looks to be even bigger yet. Negative features here being the difficulty of dealing with traffic flows and selfish parking which I am trying to sort by involving the Police and Highways. Success also brings its own problems and to develop the matter further, there is the usual cause of needing volunteer involvement and fundraising. Oddly, a successful fun day means substantially increased insurance premiums and should the weather not always be in our favour, ensuring we have reserves for the future. In particular we are asking this year for assistance with selling of raffle tickets which will soon be available.

### **Future matters**

Things now in progress include the Meanwood Valley Heritage Project, an initiative that if successful will be run jointly by Meanwood Valley Partnership and an appointed Park Ranger. The Festival commences 21May and concludes with the Funday on 30 May proudly bigger and better than previous.

Of particular interest is the regional Somme Memorial Parade on Thursday 7 July and the further initiative on Saturday 9 July which is expected to be attended by the Lord Mayor of Leeds, the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, and others to acknowledge the centenary of that fateful battle, which indeed my own grandfather was involved in.

We have received Council assistance and funding towards identity stones, locations of which are to be discussed at our next open meeting. Where should we have the stones? Perhaps on the boundaries, whatever they comprise, or perhaps in the centre of Meanwood itself when sympathetic wording such as "Welcome to Meanwood Village" could be appropriate.

This year there is a local government boundary commission for electoral review and while it seems unlikely that Meanwood will obtain its own electoral ward it is hoped that some of the administrative boundaries can be moved to become more representative.

The Highbury Cricket Ground rumbles on which is ably led by Julian Oxley and I would ask you to look to minutes and the website for updates.

Again I am quite optimistic for the future and I would like to see some actual physical changes to the centre of Meanwood. We are in discussion on a number of initiatives to look at improvements to surroundings etc and to make the centre look and feel more welcoming. I look forward to advising you further on these as matters develop.

As ever, volunteers are welcome but in particular I would reiterate that if you have a burning issue you wish developed, get involved. If we feel it is appropriate we will always look to assist and support.

I will continue to steer our meetings with a positive attitude receptive to Council departments, local businesses and residents recognising that our meetings are a positive forum for change and improvement. These aims fit with the aspirations of the Meanwood Valley Partnership to preserve protect and enhance.

Finally I am happy to stay in role for a further year should you wish me to continue to represent you.

### **5 Treasurer's Report (Gordon Charlesworth)**

From this year the annual report will cover the previous calendar financial year (ie 1 January to 31 December) financial situation to enable full accounts to be produced and audited as appropriate.

2015 was another solid and successful year financially for MVP. The first Meanwood Festival was self – funding and made a small surplus of just under £100 whilst the Annual Fun Day turned in a magnificent surplus of £1900.

We continued to be successful in obtaining funding including £200 from Wade's Charity, £50 donation from ASDA and our local Leeds City Councillors continued to support and fund us with £750 given towards the Festival/Fun Day - a big thank you to them for their support which has continued into 2016.

The main general expenditure was incurred on buying gazebo's (£1530) for use at the Fun Day (to minimise future marquee hire costs) ; bulbs for planting around Meanwood and our annual Public Liability Insurance (£200) that is required.

On 1 January 2015 the balance on the MVP Bank Account was £4914.38 and at 31 December 2015 the balance was £5188.27. Whilst taking into account the need to provide an element of 'protected monies' to cover any shortfall on the Annual Fun Day due to bad weather or other problems, the MVP Committee has agreed that we have sufficient surplus funding to look at making donations in the second half of 2016 towards improvements/initiatives that will help in improving Meanwood.

I will be arranging for the 2015 accounts to be independently audited and we will continue that practice from now on each year.

## **6 Election of Committee**

Chair - **Chris Sheard**  
Vice-Chair - **Scott Westlake**  
Treasurer - **Gordon Charlesworth**  
Secretary - **Rachel Fletcher**

Cynthia Ruston stated she was standing down from the the committee. **Sue Sheard, Chris Swales, Karen Waddington, Norman Ramsden, Annie Skelton and Eileen Hart** were re-elected to the committee. **Vicky Coleman and Sylvia Jay (Transition Meanwood)** were also elected to join the committee.

## **7 AOB**

### **Tetley Fields**

Carolyn Hull had e-mailed a thank you to those who are supporting the Weetwood Residents in opposing development of Tetley Fields. Dave Middlemas (Meanwood Rambler) said representations on the forthcoming planning application would be much appreciated - see Meanwood Rambler report [meanwoodrambler.wordpress.com](http://meanwoodrambler.wordpress.com)

Cllr Hamilton said that she and other City Plans Panel members had visited the site and had a pre-application presentation at their last meeting where they had expressed their concerns about the proposals.

### **Balsam Bash**

Carolyn Hull had also e-mailed that there will be a balsam bash led by Ranger Joe Walker on 7th June 10-2pm, meet in Park carpark.

### **Collection for Billy Shaw**

Gilli Speakman said that there is a collection for Billy Shaw (Meanwood Park Groundsman) at Fobis and the Park cafe and she also took donations at the meeting. MVP agreed to give £50 and Anne Burgess said the Village Association would also give £50 towards the collection. It is proposed to buy him a fishing reel with a suitable engraving on.

### **Highbury Cricket Ground**

Julian Oxley asked if anyone knew of a Planning Lawyer who would be able to give their time for free to assist the Highbury group, if so please let Julian know. The next meeting will be on 28th April at Meanwood Primary School.

### **Jute Bags**

Sue said that some MVP jute bags have been produced and will be used to raise funds.

### **Headingley Literature Events at the Institute**

Doug Sandle highlighted 2 events at the Institute this next weekend

Sat 18th 11.30 am **Florence & Gem - The Wooden Dragon** by Julian Oxley book launch

Sun 19th 3pm **A Manx Man in Leeds** - in an illustrated performance of poetry, story, music and presenting a number of surprising links between the city and the Island.

Next MVP open meeting Wednesday 13th April 7.30pm in the Lower Parochial Hall.