

## **Minutes of Meanwood Valley Partnership Open Meeting Wednesday 12th July 2017, Holy Trinity Lower Community Hall**

**Present :** Chris Sheard (CS - Chair), Norman Ramsden (NR), Janet Matthews (JM), Karen Waddington (KW), Eileen Hart (EH), Rachel Ramsden (RR), Sue Sheard (SS), Rachel Fletcher (RF- minutes), Cllr Sharon Hamilton (SH) and 20 local residents.

**1 Apologies :** Carolyn Hull (CH), Gordon Charlesworth, Chris Swales, Sylvia Jay

**2 Minutes of previous meeting/s** - agreed minutes with amendments to AGM minutes noted.

**3 Treasurers bi-monthly Report** (report from Gordon Charlesworth read out)

Following the success of this year's Festival and Funday the finances of MVP remain strong. The balance on the account as at 30 June was £7634.20 with the £2000 Leeds City Council Well Being grant still to be received. The 2016 MVP accounts have been independently reviewed and signed off.

### **FunDay**

Despite the weather on the day I am pleased to confirm the FunDay was a resounding success and was extremely well attended. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive about the event and the different stalls, food and children's activities that were on offer. The event made a net surplus for MVP funds of £1670 (and the Festival made a net surplus of £1345) which will enable MVP to make further direct investment in improvements and enhancement to Meanwood. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped plan both the Festival and FunDay and helped out on the day.

**4 Festival and Fun Day update** (report from Chris Swales read out)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who organised, performed at, hosted or attended any of our Meanwood Festival 2017 events. The Festival had another successful year with over 50 events across the 10 day period. The Fun Day was a wonderful event despite the weather and we estimate about 4000 people came out to support what has become the biggest annual event in the area and a real highspot of the calendar.

The Festival provides a great opportunity for community groups, clubs and businesses in the area to showcase what they have to offer, promote themselves to a wider section of the local community and generate new interest, supporters, members or customers, which is of course one of the main reasons we do this. One of the great things about the Festival is that it benefits the Meanwood community as a whole. Obviously it takes a lot of time, effort and money to put on the Festival and as a voluntary, non profit organisation we depend on sponsorship funding and the money we raise at the Fun Day to enable us to put on the Festival the following year, so we'd particularly like to thank our fantastic sponsors whose contribution was a huge help to us: the Myrtle Tavern, Moores Estate Agents, Top Stitch, Moustache Barbers, the Bay Horse, Alan Cooke Estate Agents, Ace Cars, the Meanwood Park Cafe, RDF Builders, Alfred, East of Arcadia, Manning Stainton, QLM, Hana Matsuri Sushi Bar and of course the Community Committee..

For the Fun Day we'd also like to thank (in no particular order) the community and commercial stallholders, food vendors, musicians and entertainers, John the mad compere, rugby tots display, the Meanwood Cricket Club for allowing us to use their pitch, Scott and the Myrtle Tavern for allowing us to use their facilities and for their continued support and Leeds City Council too.

A special thank you goes to Festival Organiser Chris Swales and to Fun Day organiser Gordon Charlesworth and their brilliant teams of volunteers who organised the events for our benefit and to the band of volunteers without whose time and skills the events could not happen.

Finally to the residents of Meanwood - thank you for being so patient and for putting up with the disruption for what has been Meanwood's biggest event.

Rev. Kingsley Dowling also commented that the two street parties were very successful and well attended helping to build links in the community and congratulated the organisers of the events.

**5. Meanwood Valley Heritage Project** (Janet Matthews)

A revised bid is being prepared called 'Wilderness on Your Doorstep', for a ranger for 3 days/week starting Nov./Dec (if successful).

**6. Friends of Meanwood Park** (FOMPMV)

MVP committee have agreed a terms of reference for FOMPMV to make it a subgroup of MVP. All are welcome to the first working party with Leeds City Council Parks and Countryside Ranger Steve Joule on Sat 15th July 10 am - 12 pm then, Sat 19th Aug 10 am - 12 pm; Sat 16th Sept 10 am - 12 pm. Tools, wellies and gloves will be provided. Meet in car park, at end of Green Road. Wear suitable work clothes and boots. Tel: 07891 270855 for further details.

### **7. Enchanted Forest Project (Sue Sheard)**

Douglas Louis has been very helpful and has already made a wood slice with Enchanted Forest on it. Current proposal is to have up to 6 animal carvings made from oak or silver birch.

### **8. Highways proposals for the centre of Meanwood**

CS gave a background summary and update. Highways have bids in to get funds for works and are looking forward to developing a scheme. If/when they get the money they will let us know and carry out a consultation.

### **9. Lighting in the Centre of Meanwood**

CS has been looking at having feature lighting in the centre of Meanwood to give light and enhance the centre and community feel. He is looking for interest from tree owners for up-lighters to highlight individual trees.

### **10. Meadow Planting Round the Meanwood Village Stone**

CS said the meadow planting around the stone is providing quite a feature now.

### **11. Waste bins and litter in the Centre of Meanwood and Park.**

NR and RF are meeting up to discuss waste bins in the centre of Meanwood and anyone else interested in the subject was invited to join them.

Concerns were also expressed about overflowing bins in the park and also balancing not having too many bins (clutter) against having enough in the right places and education to take litter home. It was noted that residents can put in comments direct to the council via the council website:

<https://my.leeds.gov.uk/Pages/Form%20Pages/ReportAProblemWithALitterBinOrDogBin.aspx>

<https://my.leeds.gov.uk/Pages/Form%20Pages/ReportLitterOrDogFouling.aspx>

### **12. Champion Tree**

We have been told by P&C that the tree was probably a Turkish Hazel (*Corylus colurna*), but efforts to propagate cuttings have not been successful. However, P&C say they could get a replacement (at cost) for us if we wish to do that. CS said we probably would not want a replacement as would not be the same as a cutting propagated from the original 'Champion' tree.

### **13. 2017 Apple Pick/Juice**

CS explained that Transition Meanwood had been doing this in the past and a past organiser is happy to co-ordinate this year as long as someone from MVP acts as a co-coordinator. Thus if we want it to happen this year we need an offer for someone to come forward to co-ordinate. There may be an option to just pick our apples and get them juiced in Headingley (on Apple day) if the full picking/juicing not done in Meanwood. Offers to help co-ordinate much appreciated.

### **14. 13-15 Parkside Road**

It was noted that the door opening on Parkside Road had been secured and a bit of work done on the site. The council will be keeping an eye on the site re. enforcement if nothing happens re. development following the planning permission..

### **15. Ornamental Cobbles Adjacent to the Pedestrian Park Entrance (near the bowling green).**

JM had noticed cars parked on the ornamental cobbles adjacent to the pedestrian entrance to the park (near the bowling green) were getting damaged due to cars parking there. As the area is not designed for cars to park there, people are being asked to stop parking there and then it is hoped to get the cobbles repaired (or look at other ideas via Friends of Meanwood Park).

### **16. Good Governance**

CS had produced an 8 page report for the committee which is being discussed with others. Is the organisation appropriate for what the community needs? Are we relevant? etc. CS said he only anticipated staying as Chair one more year.

### **17. Holy Trinity Community Hall Refurbishment**

The hall is being refurbished to make it compliant with current standards (energy efficiency/access etc.) and create an additional meeting room. The work will take 6-7 months. The MVP open meetings will probably be in the main church building during that time.

### **18 Bus Routes 51/52**

Oliver Peace said he had made suggestions to First Bus for improving this route e.g a Woodhouse loop. It was also stated that First Bus are looking at having open meetings.

### **19 Re-imagining the Future of Urban Public Space Conference**

CS and CH went to a Conference on Reimagining the Future of Urban Public Space at Leeds University recently which was very interesting and information will be posted on our website.

### **20 Travellers on King Alfred's Fields, Stonegate Road**

Cllr Hamilton said that the council were going to court on the 17th and hoped the travellers would have moved on soon after then. There is the possibility of a mound to deter future encroachments. The drainage issue is still being looked at and it is hoped to make the field into a proper sports field with suitable funding. Some of the 106 agreement money from the development on the Meanwood WMC site (Greenspace contribution in lieu of on-site) is to go towards this.

### **21 Green Road Surgery**

It was noted that notice has been given that Green Road Surgery (a branch surgery from The Avenue Surgery, Alwoodley) is to close. Although patients there will not need to move to a different practice (unless they wish to do) they will need to go to The Avenue surgery (a 2 bus ride away) if they wish to continue with this practice.

### **22 Christmas Tree**

Cllr Hamilton said she and Cllr Charlwood would be happy to purchase an artificial tree for Meanwood if we would like one. SS asked about a real tree and this might be a possibility. MVP are looking for an appropriate spot for a Christmas tree e.g. in a planter in the courtyard outside ASDA. In the past the owner/agent has not been interested in this, but Fabian Hamilton MP had said he was going to contact them. A PA system for the community was being purchased by our Cllrs which can be used at future events.

### **23 Launderette on Green Road**

RR said that the launderette on Green road is now empty and Scissor Sisters hair dresser may move in there.

### **24 Junior Park Run**

RR said that there was interest from parents in the school for this to take place.

### **25 Alex Sobel**

It was noted that Alex Sobel will still be Cllr (as well as an MP) until the local elections next May. However, SH asked that e-mails etc. are sent to Cllr Charlwood and herself rather than Cllr Sobel.

### **26 Meanwood Stones**

CS is chasing these up.

**Date of next open meeting** – Wednesday 13th September 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church (due to hall refurbishment works) unless notified otherwise nearer the time.