

Minutes of Meanwood Valley Partnership 2017 Annual General 8th March 2017 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Lower Parochial Hall

Present: Chris Sheard (Chair), Gordon Charlesworth (Treasurer), Sue Sheard, Chris Swales, Karen Waddington, Norman Ramsden, Rachel Fletcher (minutes), Eileen Hart, Norman Ramsden, Rachel Ramsden, Janet Matthews, Cllr. Sharon Hamilton, Cllr Alex Sobel and 42 local residents.

Apologies: Doug Sandle, Claire Hamilton, Harriet Earl, Francesca Chappel, Hannah Beckley, Ali O'Riordan, Scott Westlake, Martyn Thomas

1 Minutes of 2016 AGM: approved.

2 Chair's Report (Chris Sheard)

Background

Since the AGM on the 18 March 2016 MVP have continued their involvement in both social and community matters.

Meetings

In addition to the six annual public meetings and committee meetings, I met with Councillors on a number of occasions to discuss issues mainly raised in meetings. I have also attended two meetings of the Leeds & York Financial Trust, the Police, a full committee of the Security & Safety Advisory Group at the Leeds Civic Hall and have met with Council Officers on a number of occasions in support of initiatives that are being progressed. I have also attended the Leeds Parks & Green Spaces Forum at the Leeds Civic Hall. In addition, I have been involved on a number of occasions meeting and corresponding with landowners, encouraging and engaging with property and business owners to assist in support of MVP initiatives.

Matters of Interest

Following on from the presentation by Highways Council Officers on the 11 August 2015, a presentation was made by Mr Victor Jackson and Mary Naylor of the Leeds & District National Federation of the Blind to ensure their observations and requirements were taken into account should any traffic scheme be adopted for Meanwood. In the event that such a scheme does become adopted, we will ensure that the views of the LDNFB will be properly represented.

Our committee engaged with Leeds Rangers to put together a joint Meanwood Valley Heritage Project for presentation to the Lottery Funding. Unfortunately, and perhaps due to the ambition of this presentation, it was refused in this instance with a suggestion it should be returned on a lesser scale.

The Meanwood Festival preceding the Fun Day obtained the best support yet and here we thank local businesses. From 40 events in 17 locations, the feedback was that the festival should be here to stay as the overall feeling from participating businesses and attendees was it was both successful and necessary. On the same theme, the Fun Day just seems to get bigger and bigger with perhaps over the period of the day, well in excess of 3,000 people attending. The event was opened by the Lord Mayor of Leeds and was supported by volunteers from our own team, members of the public, Waitrose, The Myrtle, Meanwood Cricket Club and Moores Estate Agents.

I took great pleasure in leading a group of Cadets to support the Somme Centenary Memorial Service on Thursday 7 July 2016. It was nice to be back in uniform and the Cadets were really pleased with the local intimate feel that the event carries so well.

The Somme event put together by the Meanwood Village Association (MVA) continued on Saturday 9 July in Meanwood Park which we supported in funds and some logistical matters. This was a regional event of some stature for the village of Meanwood and while the weather was not very kind to them the event completed with some measure of success.

After being involved on the Wood Lea site maintenance board, it was a pleasure to see the application of the contractors Treesaw who were tidy, quick and used some of the felled timber to make a seat which many think is a good addition to the woods.

The Highbury cricket ground continues to be a matter which is raising some discord as the property was sold to a local businessman whereas community groups were hoping to obtain this as an amenity for local schools etc. The present owner, Mr Edward Flatley, gave a presentation later in the year on his intentions for the site and a copy of his pre pre-planning site layout is available on our website for perusal.

There has been concern that Meanwood Hall redevelopment works seem to just keep getting delayed after small bursts of activity. I am informed this is now clearly on the "Derelict Land and Nuisance Sites Group" register and enforcement matters may come to hand if the developer delays much longer.

We were very supportive of the objection of the Tetley Field Group on the other side of the Meanwood Beck. We were happy to support this as a group and personally as virtually all members attending meetings were clearly of the opinion that the development of the site was just clear profiteering. This unworthy

attempt to flout the green corridor rules was considered a sheer opportunist measure which was not worthy of local support.

Soon there will be a report by the Boundary Commission regarding electoral wards. Although we will still have these strange boundaries around Meanwood administrative areas, it seems unlikely we will get any substantial change even though the centre of gravity of occupation of the area has changed substantially since the previous review.

The world triathlon series on the 11 and 12 July saw international and world media focussing on the route and the event, 20% of which passed through Meanwood.

After reporting on Meanwood boundary stones for some time, it is a pleasure to find that these are actually now in preparation for installation sometime in the near future. At the same time, the committee and those attending general meetings agreed that Meanwood should have its own stone outside Ladbrokes. I was able to secure support from the landowner, who's permission was secured in a positive and supportive manner. I was also able to get a local business involved to assist in clearing and making the Ladbrokes grassed area into a more attractive and better representative central feature of Meanwood.

Unfortunately the 20mph zone that was brought in following much resident concern with the general route down Church Road, has caused some rat running down the parallel streets of Holmwoods, a matter we have referred to Highways for their attention.

In addition, we have provided support to the Flower Festival held at the Holy Trinity, financial aid to MVA, and my own favourite, the construction of a new Christmas lighting feature which was installed in November 2016, with the support of the Waitrose green token collection.

The lighting feature initiative is to be extended this year and an order has already been placed for a new one. This is to be constructed based on the design of Imogen Moore, the winner of a competition at Green Road School. Her design will be a feature of Meanwood from now on. Funds allowing we would like to continue this initiative circulating the competition through all of the Meanwood Primary schools.

Following on from our assistance to the successful Paddock campaign of 2015 we remain vigilant on national and local government pressure for development of inappropriate sites.

Chris Swales proposed a vote of thanks to Chris, Gordon and Rachel for the excellent work they had done over the past 12 months.

3 Treasurers Annual Report (Gordon Charlesworth)

2016 was another successful year financially for MVP. Our start balance on 1/1/16 was £5188.27 and end balance on 31/12/16 was £7590.82, an increase of just over £2400.

The Festival made a surplus of just under £1000 and the Funday made a magnificent surplus of just over £3400. The surpluses include a £2000 contribution from the Leeds City Council Well Being Fund and a big thank you to our three Councillors for their continued support and help with securing those funds.

MVP donated £1000.51 of its funds, the main items being £500 to the MVA Somme Commemoration ; £140 to Holy Trinity Flower Festival and £165.52 to the Meanwood Cricket Club for bench repairs as a thank you for allowing us to use the cricket pitch for the Funday.

We also funded the extra Christmas Lights and the bigger switch on event, at a cost of £641.50.

4 Election of Committee

Scott Westlake had said he was standing down from the MVP committee and as Vice Chair, but will still be involved in the Funday organisation.

Other committee members agreed to restand for the committee thus.

Chris Sheard was re-elected as Chair, **Gordon Charlesworth** as Treasurer, **Rachel Fletcher** as Secretary and **Chris Swales, Sue Sheard, Karen Ramsden, Norman Ramsden, Annie Skelton, Eileen Hart, Sylvia Jay** and **Vicky Coleman** were re-elected to the committee along with **Rachel Ramsden** and **Janet Matthews** (who had been co-opted to the committee during the previous year).

The AGM was followed by a general open meeting.