

Minutes of Meanwood Valley Partnership AGM on Tuesday 15th January 2019

Present – Chris Sheard (CS – Chair), Vanessa Matthews (VM – Secretary), Sue Sheard (SS), Janet Matthews (JM), Paul Almond (PA), Carolyn Hull (CH), Gordon Charlesworth (GC) Stef Coplans (SC) Julian Oxley(JO), David Preston (DP) and Residents and Councillors.

No	Item	Discussion	Resolve
1	Apologies	Rachel Ramsden, Gillie Speakman, Cllr Sharon Hamilton, Chris Swales, Karen Waddington.	
2	Introductions (CS)	Stef Coplans as Comms and Website.	
3	Approval of Previous Minutes (CS)	Approved	
4	Treasurer Report (PA)	Total funds at the start of the year was £10789 Income received so far is £300 from Festival sponsors. Expenditure has been £1500 to Leeds City Council for the Christmas Lights. £780 paid as a deposit for the stage to use in May 2019. FOMP – No change. Current balance = £8763.00	
5	David Preston talks WOYD	So far there has been 15 public nature events for Wilderness on your Doorstep. Due to the success of previous events they will now need to be ticketed though still free to attend. Successfully set up Friends of Breary Marsh Group and 8 volunteers have worked 12 sessions on habitat management. Impressed with the amount of volunteers for the Meanwood Valley work, an average of 12, but one session saw 25 people attend. Wildlife Surveying Training done and the results are regularly passed to the Council and other external organisations. Bats – 7 different species are found in Meanwood Park out of the 17 species in the UK. Local schools have been slow on the uptake but have now delivered 4 sessions, taking advantage of the funding in place for Meanwood Valley Primary Schools. Looking to work with the Leeds Refugee Council. Attended Headingley Apple Day and recruited more volunteers. Photograph competition – only 12 photos were entered and 18 people attended the event. Next time hopefully will see more entries and better publicity. Planning more guided walks. Contact David Preston for more information. Meanwoodvalley.ranger@leeds.gov.uk 0113 336 7554	
6	2019 Festival (GC)	2019 Festival will run from 24 th May 2019 to 2 nd June 2019 and Harriet Earl is leading the event team, overseen by Gordon Charlesworth. Looking to make the festival bigger and better, but without the funday which is replaced by a Local Music and Food event on Bank Holiday Sunday.	

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7	Friends of Meanwood Park (JM)	<p>FOMP have just purchased a new bird nest with camera, in the process of deciding where it should be set up. Next 2 events are 26th January in Golden Acre Park, and 16th February at the Ranger's Hut. FOMP are happy to be currently achieving everything they set out to do. Steve Joule has been helping volunteers working on the duck pond. Had a Christmas wreath making event . Been clearing laurels. FOMP will attend a Postcode Lottery Session in order to improve knowledge on funding and share with MVP. Had a meeting with Lee Dacre, Park Manager, and spoke at length about all aspects of looking after Meanwood Park. There are many conflicting interests for use of the space and are looking to ensure it is balanced. Looking at the Awards for All scheme and the possibility of a grant for pocket parks. Isabel Swift of Lemonbalm has agreed to apply for a £10,000 grant to use around the community spaces in Meanwood. Working to unite all of the local 'Friends of' groups.</p>	
8	Changes to MVP Constitution (Csh & JO)	<p>JO and Csh are currently working on updating the constitution as it is now out of date. JM and GC have provided some draft changes. Hoping to vote to approve the updates at the March AGM. Looking to recruit a Rep in an active role to represent MVP.</p>	
9	Christmas Lights (SS)	<p>This year saw fantastic support from local businesses which helped the event to be a big success. Next year it will be Friday 15th November as feedback suggested many left early due to it being a school night. The switch on will be at the earlier time of 6pm.</p>	
10	Defibrillator (GS)	<p>Shelved until further notice</p>	
11	Brenda Lancaster Memorial (SS)	<p>Nothing new to report.</p>	
12	Local Planning Issues (Highbury, Mansion etc)	<p>Chris Howley Liberal MP – Announced Highbury Cricket Ground is now within the Weetwood Constituency. The formal application for the Dog Care Centre has been submitted but seen a large number of negative comments on the official application. He is hopeful that the plan will not be approved and the original covenant on the land will prevail. There are ideas being discussed but cannot currently comment further. Meanwood Mansion – local resident: Old planning documents have recently been posted by the council which has confused residents about new applications. Nothing new to report.</p>	
13	Ideas for 2019 and Further on.	<p>JO is looking into applying for Meanwood in Bloom</p>	

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14	AOB	<p>Reverse Advent Calendars – over 100 boxes were issued for filling and over 150 boxes were collected after Christmas for distribution. It has been an overwhelming success and ¾ of the boxes have already been passed to needy families.</p> <p>Csh – There is a need to acknowledge a letter recently received by a member of the public following the meeting in September regarding the Cafe planning application. This will be discussed fully at the next committee meeting.</p> <p>CH – The september meeting should be discussed as the use of facebook to cause divisions of opinion was a deliberate tactic which was underhand. The reaction of the crowd to her comments caused intimidation but there was a need to speak out. Felt disappointed that nobody on the committee spoke up to defend her and reprimand the crowd for behaving in a bullish manner.</p> <p>People should have the right to air views and feel supported to do so. Embarrassed on behalf of the committee for what happened.</p> <p>Jackie – agrees that the facebook frenzy was a problem and remains so.</p> <p>JO – was appalled at what happened at the meeting, apologised to Carolyn for not speaking out at the time.</p> <p>Csh – officially apologised to Carolyn on behalf of her fellow committee members for not supporting and protecting her better during that meeting..</p> <p>21st January 2019 – There is a meeting at Meanwood Institute to try and attract new volunteers and committee members. 25 people have shown interest so far but hope for a good turn out.</p> <p>19th March will be the next open meeting and candidates wanting to join the committee will be invited to express their interest via email and give a brief address about why they want to be involved. Existing members will be encouraged to do the same.</p> <p>Resident – any news on the old Asda site and old launderette? Told it has been let but no further information.</p> <p>Resident – Following the last public meeting with First Bus attending, there have been more comments across social media that it is getting worse. There is another meeting to address the bus services on 7th February at Heart in Headingley at 5:45pm.</p>	
		<p>Meeting closed at 8:30 pm. Next open meeting is Tuesday 19th March 2019 and Committee Meeting is 12th February 2019.</p>	

MVP Treasurers Report – 16 October 2018

The £3000 contribution from the LCC Well Being Fund has now been paid in to the MVP account.
Currently there is £10808 in the account
£949 is remaining FOMP budget.
So this leaves £9859 MVP funds.
Further shed items including lock and shelving has cost £102.
£238 has been spent on preparing the xmas tree base and purchase of items to sell at the lights switch on.