

Holmes Chapel Partnership Meeting

Held on Wednesday 23rd November 2011 at 7.00 p.m.
at the Victoria Club, Holmes Chapel

Present: Jacqui Barton (JB), (JC), Glyn Chambers (GC), Stuart Gammon (SG), Les Gilbert (LG), Phil Hargreaves (PH), Heather Jones, Steve Ranger (SR).

Apologies: Jess Cragg (JC), Alison Dale (AD), Hazel Sutcliffe (HS),

1. Previous Minutes/Matters Arising

The Minutes of the AGM held on the 26th October 2011 were approved, with a small amendment from HJ relating to the number of U3A groups.

2. Correspondence

There was a short discussion regarding portable skate board ramps but it was decided that due to Health and Safety issues, this would not be followed up.

SG read out the letter received from Fiona Bruce MP dated 17th November in connection with the Christmas Fayre which stated that she is seeking further advice in connection with the road closure to accommodate the Christmas Fayre in future.

An e-mail had been received from Jean Edwards (on behalf of Marie Curie) to say that they are currently distributing collecting boxes around H/C and that if any of our members know of a business that would be happy to have a box on their premises. They are also looking to increase their volunteer numbers and has asked if we knew of anyone wanting to join them. It was decided that GC would speak to Rotary in this respect as they are looking for a charity to support this year.

SG reported that the company he works for (IBM) is to run a workshop on the 8th March 2012 for any non profit organisations who wish to attend. Thought to be given as to who would like to attend.

Action: GC to contact Rotary regarding Marie Curie

3. AGM Follow Up

It was reported that the event was satisfactory although next year it was agreed not to hold the AGM during half term, it was therefore agreed that this should be brought forward by 2 weeks and the usual Committee Meeting would also be held in October at a date to be arranged. Alan Nelson who was present at the AGM and showed interest in the Group would be approached to ask if he would like to join one of our meetings. There were a couple of business people who showed an interest in forming a Business Group and they had requested more information on what the Partnership was planning for the future, this had been supplied by SG. It was hoped that this proposed group could work with AD.

SG to contact the Business Group to see if they are making any progress in the setting up procedure and if they would like any help from us, e.g. moderate set up costs etc.

It was agreed that at the next AGM, any speakers would be given clear direction as to what was expected from them.

Action: SG to contact Alan Nelson and the proposed Business Group.

4. Funding Update

There have been 2 separate funding bids submitted, firstly a combined one to CEC for the five partnerships (£8,000 per partnership) and secondly a request for £8,000 from the Parish Council for further funding for publicity and marketing and to take projects to the next stage. If both bids are successful it was thought that GC could be employed for 2 days per week.

Treasurer's Report

PH reported that the budget is the same in that £2,800 remains which is not committed to anything in particular. As no money had been set aside for the Dane Valley project, the Cycling Project or the Business Forum, it was agreed that we should allocate a budget for each project.

5. Christmas Fayre

The main reason for the cancellation of the Christmas Fayre was that CEC refused to allow us to close the road, the Co-op was then approached for the possible use of their car park, this was subsequently refused and it was felt that there was insufficient space elsewhere in the Village and not enough time to organise an alternative. It was felt that valuable lessons had been learnt and we now know the procedures we need to follow to secure a road closure in the future, quoting Remembrance Sunday as a precedent.

It was decided that an events committee should be formed and that all interested parties (Rotary, Traders, Holmes Chapel Today, U3A, W.I., Churches, Schools, Carol Singers etc) be invited to a meeting in January to discuss the planning of possible events in 2012, i.e. Diamond Jubilee, Olympic event, Christmas Fayre etc. It was suggested that those who could, attend alternative Christmas events so we know what to aim for and find out what works etc. Christine Bates (Chair, Alsager Partnership) has agreed to come and talk to us and it was decided to ask her to the January meeting.

6. Reports

A joint vision meeting had been held on 31st October between with Partnership and the PC and it is hoped that a follow up meeting will be arranged and that the joint vision will be agreed by the beginning of the next financial year.

Sustainable Towns Networking Meeting was held on the 1st November where there were 2 main speakers – Bill Smith who talked about the Shop Doctor process and a talk from Heritage Lottery Funds, where there is plenty of money for heritage related projects, possibly the Dane Valley project could be incorporated within this. It was agreed to discuss this with the PC.

7. Project Updates

Cycling – CEC have now received authority to use space behind the Library for the cycle shelter. There is a meeting to be held on the 8th December where this will be formally signed. David Cowgill had agreed that the cycle shelter can be ordered. GC agreed to speak to Direct Works Department at CEC and the suppliers of the shelter for a quotation for preparation of the ground.

Play Area - A meeting is to be held on the 5th December at Karen Cragg's home with the aim of moving the project forward. 350 leaflets have been produced and distributed to schools etc. SG to supply PH with Karen Cragg's e-mail address in order for him to ascertain if the cycle route is to be included in the plan.

Dane Valley – GC reported that the PC are seeking funding to pay someone to move the project forward. SR will find out the current position and report back to SG.

Love Local Life – AD to report on the loyalty card scheme at the next meeting.

Action: GC to speak to Direct Works Dept and shelter supplier in connection with ground works.

SG to supply Ph with Karen Cragg's e-mail address.

8. Any Other Business

Homewatch Scheme - PH reported that the Homewatch Scheme is still in existence and the Partnership agreed to support this initiative by either publicising its existence by printing the newsletter off and attaching to notice boards or for our website to act as a post box to receive the newsletter. PH to progress further.

Communications Plan – HJ's paper was discussed and it was agreed that this was the right way forward. It was agreed that the theme for the next AGM could be "A Celebration of Partnerships" but that in the meantime we need to concentrate on talking to people, older person's forum, groups, residents, business etc to ensure everyone knows who we are.

AP Club – There was a discussion regarding the use/ownership by the Village of the AP Club and it was agreed to bring as many people/organisations together to look at this opportunity.

Action: PH to progress Homewatch Scheme

All – talk about communications at next meeting

All – discuss AP Club opportunity

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 21st December at 7.00 p.m. in the Committee Room at The Victoria Club.