

Holmes Chapel Partnership Annual General Meeting

Held on Wednesday 10th October 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

At The Victoria Club, Holmes Chapel

Partnership Attendees: Jacqui Barton, Glyn Chambers, Dorothy Davidson, Stuart Gammon, Les Gilbert, Phil Hargreaves, Steve Ranger, Hazel Sutcliffe.

Minutes: The Minutes of the AGM held on the 26th October 2011 were approved. No matters arising.

Election of Members

1. Honorary Members

Chairman – Stuart Gammon was proposed by Phil Hargreaves and Seconded by Glyn Chambers.

Vice Chairman – Hazel Sutcliffe was proposed by Phil Hargreaves and Seconded by Les Gilbert

Treasurer – Phil Hargreaves was proposed by Stuart Gammon and Seconded by Steve Ranger.

Secretary – Jacqui Barton resigned from the post of Secretary due to pressure of work, there were no volunteers for this role.

2. Ordinary Members

The standard term of office is 1 year so posts were electable.

No resignations and no proposals for new members therefore existing members continue in post.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave some background as to how the Partnership evolved from the formation of the Parish Plan in 2008, to the Implementation group and subsequently evolving into the Partnership through an invitation by Dot Flint. By being a Partnership, we are able to apply for funding from Cheshire East Council along with the Alsager, Congleton, Middlewich and Sandbach Partnerships and also grants which are not available to statutory organisations, i.e. specific funding for projects from Wren etc.

Over the past year the Partnership has been involved in:

Cycling Project – A cycle shelter has been provided next to the Library which has been well used but unfortunately has suffered 4 separate incidents of vandalism. The Partnership are working closely with the Police, so far no positive information has been forthcoming.

Hazel Sutcliffe had produced a cycling map with suggested routes for cycling within the Village and is now working on routes outside the Village and routes between the Villages.

Play Area – This project is on hold at the moment awaiting the result of a grant application to fund improvements which is due for consideration in approximately 2 months time. We are working closely with Cheshire East Council who are helping us to run the project and submit tenders. Holmes Chapel Parish Council are supplying matched funding of approximately £25,000 and it is hoped that a total of circa £100,000 will be available.

The upgrading of other play areas within the Village are to follow in the future.

Dane Meadow – A grant application has been submitted to Wren for £70,000 and £50,000 of matched funding to be provided by Holmes Chapel Parish Council to improve the access, to create art and an educational facility. A further £90,000/£95,000 has been applied for from the Paths and Communities organisation, therefore giving a total of approximately £200,000.

Communications – A volunteer has come forward from the Comprehensive School to help with the website and social network sites.

Coming Year – Hazel Sutcliffe continues to work on more routes and together with the South East Cheshire Cycling Action Group will work on applying for more funding.

PartnershOp Initiative – It is hoped that local shops will participate in a scheme called the PartnershOp whereby they could have a sticker in their window and the Partnership could include an advertisement for the shop on their website. We are also hoping to build a business forum.

Treasurer's Report

Funding from Cheshire East Council of £8,000 which covers £6,000 for Project Officer fees (one day per week), £700 for the running costs of the Partnership and general project expenditure.

Funding from Holmes Chapel Parish Council of £6,000 which covers Project Officer fees for one day per week, specifically in support of the Dane Meadow Project.

Grants for Specific Projects include £1,250 from the William Dean Trust for the Dane Meadow project, £500 from The William Dean Trust in recognition of the Jubilee Celebrations split between Home Grown in Holmes Chapel and The Village Volunteers.

£1,000 received for the Christmas events from Cheshire East Council.

Christmas Market – Dorothy Davidson gave a presentation on the forthcoming Christmas Market to be held on the 2nd December which had evolved from the proposed Christmas Fair last year, and the very successful Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations which had been held in June. She reported that 22 stalls had already been booked, there would be fairground rides, music events and the Christmas Lights switch on it was hoped that that the shops would be taking part by holding a deliberate mistake in their window competition.

Homegrown in Holmes Chapel

A cheque of £500 was presented to Sue Mitchell (Chair/Originator) of Homegrown in Holmes Chapel which had been received from the William Dean Trust. Sue said they were now at the end of the second season and that the schem was going from strength to strength. The £500 would be used to plant fruit trees at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School.

Guest Speakers

There were 2 groups of guest speakers the first from Holmes Chapel Guides who talked about their forthcoming India 2013 trip where they would be working with partner organisations. Each guide had to raise the sum of £2,500 to fund the 17 day trip. They had already undertaken several fundraising initiatives including contacting local business, visiting local retirement homes, carrying out chores around their homes, holding beetle drives, having a diary raffle and asking George Osborne for advice. They asked if we could spread the word about their fundraising.

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Cadets also spoke about their school building project in Ghana. 15 cadets and 7 volunteers from Cheshire, 5 of which are from Holmes Chapel were planning to help build a vocational centre for young people. They have to raise the sum of £3,000 each before 2013. They have also been fundraising and are holding a coffee morning on the 3rd November.

Questions from the Floor

Fiona Bruce MP advised that there was small amounts of money available via the Sport England Project which may well be worth applying for in connection with the Cycling Project and Play Area.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.