

Minutes of Holmes Chapel Partnership Meeting

Wednesday 27th November at 7:00 pm at the Methodist Church Hall

1 Attendees

1.1 Present

Jacqui Barton, Dorothy Davidson , Stuart Gammon, Les Gilbert, , Heather Jones, , Daniella Russo, Hazel Sutcliffe, Charley Pettit, Susan Cooper (Local Business Representative from The Village Lantern)

1.2 Apologies

Phil Hargreaves, Steve Ranger, Les Gilbert

2 Previous Minutes

The minutes were read and accepted by all present.

2.1 Actions from Previous Minutes.

None

3 Correspondence

1. Stuart confirmed the resignation of Harry Brookes who was unable to continue to commit his time to the Partnership. Stuart has written to Harry thanking him for his contribution to the Partnership and wishing him well for the future.
 2. Confirmation had been received that Holmes Chapel Parish Council had agreed to pay half of the cost of display boards with a contribution of up to £350.00. It was subsequently agreed by the Partnership that a deposit would be required for borrowers to ensure safe return.
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4 Acceptance of Reports.

4.1 Treasurer's.

An email had been received by Phil confirming that balances are satisfactory.

4.2 Play Area.

The play area was now complete and was being well used by young people.

4.3 Dane Meadow.

Hazel reported that the infrastructure works were now nearing completion and that the signs were being installed over the next few weeks.

- The bridleway was all but complete and required top dressing. It was hoped that the work would be completed by Christmas and that the nature trail project funded by WREN including ponds, bird hide, bird feeding station and viewing platform would commence in the New Year.
- Hazel also confirmed she had been lobbying for new friends to join in the Dane Meadow group including local ornithologists, scouts and cubs. Home grown will be planting fruit trees in the New Year.

- The opening event for the site is planned in May 2014.

4.4 Cycling Village/SECCAG.

Hazel confirmed the meeting she had been to with Councillor David Topping the Cheshire East portfolio holder with responsibilities for cycling and with Chris Williams.

- One of the issues Hazel was keen to develop was consultation involvement with new development where advice could be given to developers through the planning process to design in routes which encouraged and facilitated cycling.
- Hazel also confirmed the progress on cycle easing through the Holmes Chapel cycle routes.

5 Communications Update.

- Daniella, having met with Cllr. David Savage, suggested the Partnerships web page should have a link to the Dane Meadow page and vice versa.
- She also felt that she and Charley could help improve the Partnership's website and would contact Stuart to discuss improvements. Daniella suggested that the web page should have a twitter button.
- She confirmed that she was actively marketing the Partnership through twitter and responses had been encouraging.
- Daniella also confirmed she had been promoting the Christmas market to her friends at school.

6 Future of the A.P club.

Stuart referred to the recent meeting regarding the AP club and explained that Holmes Chapel Parish Council is setting up a working party, comprising representatives from the council itself, the Holmes Chapel Partnership and other interested local organisations, to consider the possibility of the community acquiring and operating the AP Club site including the associated playing fields.

The working party will seek expert professional help to undertake this task and will seek a pre-feasibility grant from the Community Right to Bid scheme to finance the initial study. The working party will report back with its recommendations within three months.

The current owners of the site, the French pharmaceutical company Sanofi Aventis, want to dispose of it. They have issued notice to quit to all the users of the club and announced that the site will close in December and will be made secure.

- This has already led to the local squash club having to leave the village.
- The rugby club will have to leave by the end of this season.

Discussions have been held with the owners in an attempt to keep the site open whilst any developments are being considered, but such discussions have not been successful.

Questionnaires have been sent out to the community seeking their views and support to preserve the facility.

The group set up now called **WWW 4HC** is looking at the feasibility of purchasing the entire site or finding alternative ways of providing the facilities and their aims are:

- Get Community Support
- Start a pre-feasibility study through grant aid of £10k to be applied for.
- Pay for professional advice. To advise on the process for buying the site.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council have applied to Cheshire East Council to register the site as a Community Asset. If successful this would have the effect on the sale as a moratorium would be placed on the sale for six months allowing the Community/local council to raise funds to buy the site. This will be considered by Cheshire East council on 3.12.12.

It is thought that the site value is circa £1 million.

7 Final Planning for Christmas Markets.

Dorothy confirmed that everything was in place for the Christmas market and that there were lots of volunteers available for erection of stalls.

Stuart thanked Dorothy for her hard work and looked forward to another successful market. He also suggested setting up a Christmas festival sub-committee for future years so that the work could be shared.

8 Forward Planning.

Stuart led an idea building session on topics for future Partnership projects including;

- Developing Welcome packs for new visitors and residents to Holmes Chapel.
- Production of a Town Guide
- Discussions on having a Village Newspaper.
- Parish Council Projects.

Actions:

- It was agreed that Stuart would speak to the Parish Council on relevant issues including their projects and a village magazine and report back to the next meeting.
 - Glyn agreed to circulate details of the Partnership visioning process.
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8 Any Other Business.

Susan gave an update on the local business forum and confirmed that it had been reorganised and was meeting informally to discuss future projects. She confirmed that the forum had 8 paid up members and in conclusion she gave a summary of the concern of local shops regarding reduced footfall in the Village.

Action:

- It was agreed that this matter be taken forward as a Partnership project in 2014.
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10 Next Meeting

Wednesday 18th December 2013