

Annual General Meeting of Holmes Chapel Partnership

Held on Saturday 25th October 2013 at 11.30 a.m.

At St Luke's Church Hall, Holmes Chapel

Partnership Attendees:

Bill Armstrong, Jacqui Barton, Glyn Chambers, Susan Cooper, Dorothy Davidson, Stuart Gammon, Les Gilbert, Phil Hargreaves, Heather Jones, Daniella Russo, Hazel Sutcliffe.

Minutes:

1. Previous Minutes

- The Minutes of the AGM held on the 26th October 2013 were approved.
- There were no matters arising.

2. Election of Members

• Honorary Members

Written nominations had been received by the Project Officer in advance of the meeting for the following posts; all three were elected unopposed:

- Chairman: Stuart Gammon
- Vic Chair: Hazel Sutcliffe
- Treasurer: Phil Hargreaves

With nominations the post of Secretary remains open.

• Ordinary Members

- The Business Representative resigned a week before the AGM – we are seeking a replacement.
- The remainder of the existing Ordinary Members continue in post.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman looked back at the very successful year to October 2014:

- The Partnership co-hosted the Action for Market Towns conference in November, attended by delegates from across the UK, at which we were able to tell others about the success of Partnership working in the Congleton area.
- We ran our second Christmas Market
 - We implemented lessons learnt from the first Market in 2012, such as better signage and public announcements
 - bigger and better than 2012 - opened with a troupe of dancers, more stalls
 - a huge effort expended in making this happen – thanks to all involved
- We attended the Village Fair in May and sought opinions on what improvements residents want to see
- We co-opted representation from the village's businesses onto our Committee
- The Dane Meadow Project was completed and opened in May 2014 (in the rain!)

- We have created and made available a Welcome Pack for new residents
- Cycling is going from strength to strength, with a Pedalling Picnic in September
- We are working with the AP Club team on the bid to Sanofi
- We helped set up the Community Cinema, which had its first showing at the beginning of September
- We have started the Elm Drive Playarea improvement project – following success of Middlewich Road Play area improvements
- Involvement in village planning has continued
 - We are updating the Parish Plan, which was issued in 2009
 - We expect to work with the Parish Council on Neighbourhood Plan
 - We supported objections to Saltersford Corner Planning Application on behalf of the community
- Sought to improve communications
 - Now have an excellent Communications Officer as part of our team
 - Clearer website
 - Free Monthly Community Newsletter
 - Regular exhibitions – such as this one - to keep the community updated

He added that throughout all of this he had been supported by an excellent, hard working team, without whom we could not have done so much work for the community.

Finally he looked forward to many more exciting projects, and welcomed any suggestions that the community have regarding the Partnership's direction and future projects.

Phil Hargreaves thanked the Chairman saying that “without him there wouldn't be a Partnership”.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer delivered the report of the Partnership's finances for the year ending 5th April 2014. The highlights were:

- Funding from Cheshire East Council of £8,000 which covers £6,000 for Project Officer fees (one day per week), and £2000 towards general project expenditure and running costs.
- The 2013 Christmas Market made a loss of £17
- Overall the Partnership made a loss of £180 over the year

5. Questions from the Floor

- *Is there any news of the proposed Sainsbury Supermarket?*

Councillor Les Gilbert indicated that all issues relating to the planning of the supermarket had now been resolved, but no date had been given by Sainsbury as to when building might commence.

- *Update on vacant 'Williams' shop*

The developer who bought the premises submitted plans to change the accommodation above the shop, and build bin and cycle storage units. This was passed by the Cheshire East Planning authority.

It is understood that the developers plan to split the shop into 5 'kiosk' units, one of which is expected to be a cycle servicing shop.

6. Close

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12:00