Meon Vale Residents Association

Minutes of Annual Meeting

When Held: Thursday 8th June 2023 at 7:00pm

Chair Rosemary Kidd

Attendance:

Executive Committee
Claire Craige
Rachel Faulkner
Richard Whittaker
Carol Watts
Sue Bedford

Meon Vale Residents:
Phil Archer
Sean Edmunds
Suzi Edmunds
Jeff Kidd
Stuart Keighley (SDC)

Apologies:
Caroline Alderson
Andy Beach
Izzy Secombe (Warks CC)
John Wilde (SDC)
Chris Johnson

M I N U T E S

Rosemary welcomed and residents and visitors to the meeting. She also introduced Stuart Keighley – new Stratford District Councillor for Meon Vale.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved: proposed by Claire Craige, seconded Richard Whittaker.

Treasurer's report available – Rosemary advised there are 2 accounts – one for the work of the Residents Association, and a separate one for the environmental work of the Eco Group : proposed Rachel Faulkner, seconded Richard Whittaker.

Rosemary started the main meeting with a celebration of the Association's 2022-2023 achievements. The Meon Vale Residents' Association has been going for 2.5 years, since the initial major success of the battle to save Meon Woods. This year has seen continued progress with a key milestone of the refurbishment of the Village Hall and The Pavilion. The Village Hall now has an additional room and a new kitchen; SJ Therapy will shortly be moving

to the Leisure Centre. The Village Hall is due to open officially early to mid-July, as dictated by St. Modwen.

Rosemary reminded the meeting how the Meon Vale Residents Association (MVRA) interacts with three Parish Councils, two District Councils and two County Councils. At the point of the last General Meeting in February 2023, we were looking for volunteers to stand for each of the parish councils.

Recently Richard Whittaker and Claire Craige were voted onto the Long Marston Parish Council, Suzie Edmunds and Sean Edmunds onto the Quinton Parish Council and Jodie Cotton onto the Pebworth Parish Council. We wish them all the very best in these roles and look forward to joint working for the benefit of Meon Vale Residents in the future. Lots of networking has already been done and we are starting to build effective relationships with all relevant Councillors.

Debbie Woodliffe, the Clerk of Long Marston Parish Council has been instrumental in negotiating the transfer of the assets of the Village Hall, Pavilion, car park and part of Greenway to body jointly run by Quinton & Long Marston Parish Councils. Debbie has also worked hard to negotiate the programme of refurbishment work on the Village Hall and Pavilion. Rosemary passed on her thanks and appreciation for all her efforts and hard work.

The Pavilion will continue to run as a charity with residents on the Trustees, whilst the Village Hall to be run by residents by way of a Management Committee.

In addition to the above, this year has seen the launch of the allotments. This Saturday 10th June, the Community Allotment is being opened up..

Kevin Balchin has led the Meon Eco Group in planting hundreds of trees and hedging plants and creating wildflower areas around Meon Vale. County Council Green Shoots funds were also used for composters and water butts.

The Meon Vale Eco Group, via Claire Craige and Richard Whittaker, are also working with others to launch the Big Green Day on Saturday 10th June. There is a full day planned with various event for children and adults.

Other events held during the year:

- Meon Fest
- Halloween trail.
- Santa's Grotto.
- Easter Egg hunt.
- Coronation Big Lunch.

Thanks to Chris, Janet, Teresa and Carol for organising.

Leisure Centre – The Centre continues to strengthen with plenty of activities available for the Community. A holiday scheme for children is planned for the summer of 2023 and further details can be found on Facebook or via the Leisure Centre.

What's next:

The MVRA was allocated a £1000 grant to set up new groups. At the General Meeting in February a workshop was held to discuss setting up new groups and activities. Progress is being made in setting up a Youth Group and Arts & Crafts Group. The Meon Strollers Walking Group has been set-up with participation from babies through to nonagenarians.

A Warm Hub Pop-up Café appears outside Londis weekly as a trial until the end June.

Rosemary would also like to mention and thank Bobby Fung for all his hard work and efforts in working with Cotswold Vale Persimmon Housing to sort out issues from initial build, in support of all affected residents.

Appointment of Officers:

Rosemary introduced the Executive Committee. She reported that she was planning to step down as Chair but as she has received no volunteers for the post, will stay on however remains open to seeking support for the role. The Executive Committee was re-elected as follows:

Chair – Rosemary Kidd: proposed Claire Craige, seconded Carol Watts.
Vice Chair – Richard Whittaker: proposed Claire Craige, seconded Carol Watts.
Secretary – Claire Craige: proposed Richard Whittaker, seconded Rachel Faulkner.
Minute's Secretary – Sue Bedford: proposed Carole Watts, seconded Claire Craige
Treasurer - Caroline Alderson: proposed Richard Whittaker, seconded Claire Craige
Events Organiser – Christine Johnson: proposed Richard Whittaker, seconded Claire Craige
Preim (Management Company) Liaison – Claire Craige with Richard Whittaker: proposed Carol Watts, seconded Rachel Faulkner
Publicity Officer and Fundraiser – vacant.

Publicity Officer - Teresa Wright: proposed Richard Whittaker, seconded Carol Watts.
Fundraiser - usually done by Chris Johnson as part of her Events Officer role, with Rosemary Kidd supporting with grant application work. Continue with this for the timebeing, leaving the position of Fundraiser as officially vacant. Proposed Claire Craige, seconded Carol Watts.

Rosemary opened up to the floor for anyone who wants to join the Committee to support in whatever means they have. The Committee meet monthly and is an informal and friendly group.

Introduction to Ian Jelley – Director of Landscape Recovery, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Ian gave an extremely informative and well received talk on climate and ecological emergency and how the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust are working to address the key issues.

Key points:

- CO2 levels and global temperatures are rising, leading to extremes of weather patterns.
- Nature benefits human and urban ecosystems in many different ways.
- Abundance and distribution of nature in UK is in sharp decline; 15% wildlife in Great Britain now threatened with extinction.

Q from floor: is this taken into consideration with new estates being built?
A: protection was historically driven by legislation which were EU laws. Now a bit more uncertain due to Brexit. With regard to MV estate – some endangered species would have been considered and monitored and build would have been designed to mitigate any negative effects on them. Some challenges with monitoring of adherence to the legislation. Non-endangered species not considered in current legislation.

- 'Biodiversity Intactness' – the UK ranks 189 out of 218, highlighting the work still to be done. Essentially, nature recovery = humanity survival.
- Health benefits of being in nature are proven

Work by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust:

- The successful reintroduction of otters and dormice to the county.
- The ownership and management of 65 nature reserves
- Supporting a new Trust strategy – '30 by 30', which is to have 30% of UK land and sea actively supporting nature by 2030. This will be a challenge, particularly in this area as there is very little woodland in Stratford District. Success will involve effective collaborative working with key stakeholders such as farmers, landowners and other organisations to increase the levels of wildlife in a sustainable manner.
- There is also work to encourage a change in human behaviour and engagement, using initiatives such as No Mow May.
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust runs as a charity to enable sustainability and as a charity is aiming to put an economic value to the benefits of nature on society.

Comments from the floor:

- *Social prescribing includes getting out into nature and is making a huge positive difference to people's mental health.*
- *Our woodland is not protected and there is no extant legislation to protect it. Developers still own it and we would like advice on how to develop the area to support wildlife conservation without the legal powers.*

Rosemary thanked Ian for his time.

Introduction to Jane Potter, Chair of Governors at Tudor Grange Schools:

Jane reported that the Governing Body are being split due to the increased size of the two schools in their remit: Meon Vale and Haselor. They have Parent Governors but are looking for Community Governors.

Commitment:

- Supporting the experts within the schools in their work.
- Acting as a 'critical friend'.
- 6 meetings per year of 1.5 hours each (at half term).

Those keen to become a Community Governor can have an informal chat with the Chair prior to commitment.

Q from the floor: what is output of the meetings and therefore the commitment outside of that time?

A: Helping to manage projects which are externally funded would be appreciated. E.g. music curriculum development, careers advice.

Rosemary thanked Jane for her time.

Any other business / questions from the floor:

Q: Who is responsible for the roads as road markings are needed.
A: The roads remain unadopted so far so are still owned by St. Modwen who therefore have ultimate responsibility. The Council will adopt them when all the construction on the estate has finished – likely to be another couple of years. Stuart Keighley asked where the areas of concern are and was given as examples the lack of give way signs on ends of Western Heights with the Chatham and Macbeth Road junctions. The Committee advised this has been raised with St. Modwen previously without success. It has also been brought up at Parish Council meetings and there is a historical lack of support from County Councils. Stuart Keighley suggested following up the questions at this meeting with a letter to St Modwens, copying in the Parish Councils, SDC and WCC requesting white lines be painted at the specified junctions. ***Action: Claire Craige to write to St Modwens and copy in councilors.***

Q: Stuart Keighley has asked if anyone in the room lives in the Cotswold Vale Persimmon timber frame homes and has received a letter regarding organising a survey to be undertaken by an independent third party regarding the airtightness of the houses.
A: One advised his son lives in one and will check whether he has received a letter. SK is curious as to whether all of those homes have received them.

Q: Stuart Keighley asked to see the bit of land next to the Leisure Centre as general thought it may be a good area for a small business unit area.
A: Richard escorted him after the meeting.

Q: when will Hall be open to take bookings
A: not taking bookings yet until there is a confirmed date of opening.

Rosemary thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was closed.

08/06/2023 – 9.05pm