

paxcroft mead community forum : inaugural general meeting

Wednesday 14th October 2009 @ Paxcroft Mead Community Centre

Present

Steering Group

Anne Coates	John Hatherhill	Rosemary Hawkes	John Phillips
Ken Hart	Jonathan Hawkes	John Marples	Phil Stevens
Maryrose Mantle	Councillor Ernie Clark	about 40 members	Apologies from:
P.C. Mark Hough	Councillor Trevor Carbin		Councillor
	Councillor Peter Fuller		Steve Oldrieve

1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 7.30pm by Jonathan Hawkes in the Chair.

Jonathan welcomed everyone and introduced the members of the Steering Group. He also introduced Ernie Clark (Wiltshire County Councillor and Chair of Hilperton Parish Council), Peter Fuller (County Councillor and Trowbridge Town Councillor and Trevor Carbin (County Councillor and Hilperton Parish Councillor), also Maryrose Mantle (Community Support Officer for Trowbridge Town Council) and P.C. Mark Hough (Neighbourhood Beat Manager for Trowbridge Rural).

Jonathan outlined the actions of the Steering Group so far: developing the Terms of Reference, putting in place financial arrangements and insurance, developing the website with its facility for registrations, arranging and publicising the inaugural meeting.

2. Presentation by Steering Group

Brief presentations were given by Jonathan, Rosemary Hawkes and Ken Hart

- A brief, general introduction to the ideas behind the Forum: a residents' association focussing on local issues.
- An outline of what the Forum could do to improve life on Paxcroft Mead: canvassing residents about their concerns and ideas for small scale community projects, to be carried out as Forum initiatives or in response to council programmes; helping individual residents with problems wherever possible; representing and protecting residents' interests in responding to planning applications.
- A summary of funding arrangements: as a properly constituted residents' association, the Forum will be eligible for a start-up grant from Trowbridge Town Council, and can apply for a grant towards running costs from Hilperton Parish Council; community projects which are Forum initiatives would be funded on an individual basis by specific grant aid from charitable trusts.
- A summary of membership arrangements: by free registration, open to all residents of Paxcroft Mead over the age of 16; members can be co-opted onto the committee for the duration of a specific project; the more residents who register the better; communication by website, but regular updates for off-line members.

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3. Question and Answer Session

Jonathan invited the audience to raise concerns and put forward their own suggestions. Matters raised included:

the possibility of moving the post-box from Walmesley Chase to Hackett Place; vehicles accessing Green Lane from footpaths, especially by Castell Close; the lack of play facilities for teenagers; the problem of parking on pavements; speeding on estate roads; footpaths overgrown by hedgerows; the flooding of Bitham Brook; the cleaning of graffiti throughout the estate; the inadequacy of provision for recycling at Hackett Place; the need for more receptacles for dog-mess by the footpaths.

There was also a notice-board for members to record suggestions and concerns that were not covered in the discussion. These included:

the need for signposting on footpaths, especially to Sussex Walk; the need for benches along the footpaths; the lack of action in setting up Neighbourhood Watch; the obvious danger of siting the pelican crossing on Leap Gate next to the bus stop; the need for Orpington Way to be identified as a cul de sac; the lack of maintenance of the buffer zone on the western boundary of the estate (behind Cornbrash Rise); the unfortunate division of police responsibilities within the estate.

4. Adoption of Terms of Reference

There was a brief pause, for members to read and consider the Terms of Reference.

Two points were raised:

- The third point under aims states that the Forum "to represent the views and promote the interests of all Paxcroft Mead residents"; it was agreed to delete "all".
- It was noted that "Paxcroft Mead" was not defined: this had been discussed within the Steering Group; it was agreed to leave it undefined¹.

The motion to adopt the Terms of Reference, proposed by Chris Hicks and seconded by Ray Parry was carried unanimously.

Jonathan announced to the meeting that, by this action, the Forum was now officially brought into being; there was a spontaneous round of applause.

5. Election of Committee

Jonathan explained that all eight members of the Steering Group had agreed to stand for the Forum Committee, and that a further nomination had been received, which was most welcome. He identified each of the nominees in turn to the meeting: Jonathan himself, Anne Coates, Ken Hart, John Hatherhill, Rosemary Hawkes, John Marples, Jon Phillips, Phil Stevens, and new recruit Adrian Ingham.

The election was conducted by Maryrose Mantle, Community Support Officer at Trowbridge Town Council, who invited the meeting to elect the nominated committee en bloc, and the subsequent vote was unanimous.

6. Closure

With the Community Forum now being confirmed as a properly constituted residents' association, Jonathan thanked everyone who had attended and drew the meeting to a close at 9.30pm (or thereabouts)

¹ (Note subsequent to the meeting: The possibility of adding an appendix to the Terms of Reference, listing the roads of Paxcroft Mead geographically, to be added to as the estate is developed, will be discussed in committee.)