

Hoyland Milton & Rockingham Joint Ward Alliance
Notes of meeting held Monday 13th July 2015.
The Hoyland Centre

Present: Cllr. Chris Lamb, Cllr. Tim Shepherd, Cllr. Jimmy Andrews, Cllr. Mick Stowe, Andy Hodgkinson, Neil Spencer, Janet Cartwright, Anne Sanderson, Ian Warhurst, Dave Graham, June Walker, Alison Mills

Dawn Grayton
Joan Whittaker (Alliance Secretary)

Apologies: Cllr. Emma Dures, John Lang, Fiona Tennyson, Phil Anderson

Cllr. Chris Lamb chaired the meeting.

1. Minutes of Meeting held 12th May 2015

Page 1 – Cllr. Lamb said that in terms of the final paragraph, the Tankersley, Pilley and Birdwell Neighbourhood Watch does continue and it is thanks to the generosity of Birdwell Methodist Church.

Page 2 – Attendance at Community Events – Hemingfield Gala was held on Saturday 11th July and it was a really well attended event. Dawn and Cllr. Lamb manned the stand for the Alliance in order to get community views in terms of priorities for the future.

2. Attendance at Meetings – Governance Issues

Dawn spoke to this item by saying that she had been having a look at attendance. It is evident that we have quite a few people who never attend. She felt that this could be looked at in two ways, as obviously quite a few people are from voluntary groups so we do not want to make membership of the alliance onerous and we don't want them to feel that they are being bullied into attending, but equally there are a lot of people who could be attending and making the numbers sufficient. Therefore, I have included with the package sent for this meeting, a copy of the Rules of Governance which states that apologies should be tendered if you are unable to attend meetings and if you fail to attend meetings and do not give apologies on two consecutive occasions, then a letter could be sent asking for your resignation. She did not feel, however, that this is the way forward. She stated that she had been in touch with some of the groups and they cannot physically send representatives due to timings, etc. The views of this meeting were, therefore, sought on having groups who received minutes only, i.e. not invited to meetings, but showed an interest in our work by requesting minutes. They could be classed as Associate members.

Cllr. Stowe thought that having Associate members would be a good idea in terms of them receiving information only, as there may come a time when they are able to take on a more pro-active role. There are also new emerging groups, and in fact, at a recent surgery there was a group from Walderslade who came to lobby about yellow lines and parking. When he

had a conversation with them they were an active group who were patient representatives and represent4ed 13,000 patients. They publish newsletters and Cllr.Stowe stated that during the course of his conversation with them he asked if they would be interested in widening their parameters. They are all volunteers and would have time.

Joan said that we do, in effect, already have one associate member and that is the Head Teacher of Birdwell Primary who has never attended a meeting but has indicated that she would like to receive minutes. It was felt, however, that as well as receiving minutes and filing them away, such membe3rs should be some onus on them to comment on their content and give their input. Cllr. Lamb said that it could be that they should be asked to go back to their groups and seek their views to feed back to us.

Janet asked if associate members would be allowed to vote as to where the money goes and as told that they would not. Cllr. Lamb felt that it would be very much as the Secretary stated an exchange of information. In terms of this he felt that it was important to embrace the point that Cllr. Stowe made in relation to the GP Practice, which is probably a slightly separate issue, but if there is a patient representative group, then given the fact that so much of what we do is about health and well-being, it is right and proper that we should try and engage them if we can.

He asked if we would need to have a separate constitutional job description for an associate member, so that it embodies the fact that they would not have the right to vote. It was felt that it was essential to have this so that there is a definite dividing line between full and associate members. Cllr. Stowe felt that for associate members who choose not to attend, they should only receive minutes and not the supporting papers as he feels that these should be reserved to the people who do attend and who need them in their decision making process.

Cllr. Lamb pointed out that the Governance framework applies borough wide and there could be considerable difficulty in adding another tier within that framework. He, however, saw no difficulty in sending minutes to interested parties as it could create an interest in the Ward Alliance.

Dave Graham asked if any of the other ward alliances have addressed this. Dawn was asked to contact other groups to try and ascertain what they are doing to increase interest.

3. Tidy Team Update

Currently they have quite a large number of community events running at which the Tidy Team have been requested to give assistance in setting up and clearing down afterwards. We have tried working on a split reactive and proactive basis and in order to try and maintain a balance so that individual wards are getting an equitable level of service, we are zoning so that, for example we might be in Wombwell on Monday, in Darfield on Tuesday, Elsecar/Milton on Wednesday, Rockingham on Thursday. They will still have Friday floating and will support community events at weekends. This has started to reap some rewards in providing a way for volunteers to come forward and engage with the Tidy Team in their own community. The early signs are very promising. It is also giving us a chance to raise the profile of the Tidy Team with local businesses by encouraging more responsible business ownership by having literature on display or actually engaging with the team.

We are currently recruiting for two school leaver apprentices to complement the other apprentices on site with us. Starting 27th July, we are hosting young people on placement with us through the summer internship programme via C & K Careers, so giving them work experience as well, which might be rewarded with one of the young person's coming forward for an apprentice vacancy.

4. Ward Alliance Funding

Attached to the minutes is a sheet which shows the accounts to date. It is now really just a question of keeping the momentum going and making sure that people know this funding is available and what it is there for.

Cllr. Lamb said that certainly in terms of the Ward Alliance Fund, £33,500 is quite a significant amount of money and whilst he accepts that £22,000 of that was brought forward from last year, his particular concern is that as times get tighter he is not sure we will be allowed to carry this amount of money over on a regular basis. There may be a bit of a "use it or lose it" argument to be made. That is not to say that we use it on anything that is inappropriate, but there is a responsibility on all of us to be getting out there, talking to other groups and organisations and asking if they know about this funding.

Andy Hodgkinson outlined a project to be run by ToCH but using the facilities provided by Jump WMC. He was concerned that there could be seen to be a conflict of interest between his membership of ToCH and his position of Manager of Jump WMC. It was felt that there would be no conflict as long as there was no crossover

Hemingfield Colliery

Cllr. Andrews asked where we were with this. Cllr. Stowe reported that Planning had rejected the application for parking, but he believes there is potential to develop the site.

It is recommended that the generator requested is purchased by the Alliance and loaned to Hemingfield Colliery. After twelve months or whenever the project is completed, it will then be placed with Hemingfield Action Group for them to use and store. It will then be made available to other groups to use. Dawn to clarify the position regarding insurance.

5. New Projects

- a) Platts Common Bowling Club – They are requesting shelters at a cost of £1,200. After general discussion it was agreed that we support this application, subject to the necessary insurances being in place.
- b) Milton Ponds – disabled access to fishing peg and machinery for maintenance of area
It is fair to say that because of cutbacks over recent years, they have not been maintained to a satisfactory level. Volunteers will maintain them as long as they have access to the necessary machinery. Currently there isn't any volunteering going on down there, but what they are

saying is get us the machinery and they will then start to maintain it. There is no bid in and we will have to work out how that can be dealt with, but this discussion is just to test the reaction of people as to whether this would be viable. Cllr. Lamb said that he thought it made good sense. The second element is we have had an approach on the basis that there isn't a disabled peg and the question is being asked is if it is possible to put in a platform with level access so that the disabled can have access. There has been discussion as to whether the top or bottom pond would be the best to use for that and if you concur the elected members could go and look at the location and the two ponds and decide which one would be best for this facility. Cllr. Andrews thought that money had already been given to the angling club to carry out this work but he would clarify this. BMBC have carried out quite a bit of work in cutting back shrubs and the Tidy Team has also been involved. Checks need to be made as to who owns the lease and whether any funds have previously been made available for the creation of a fishing peg for disabled anglers.

Cllr. Lamb asked for the views of members on the first element of the request – the provision of equipment so that they can start to maintain the ponds.

Joan asked if this was not a situation where equipment can be borrowed from the Tidy Team rather than go and buy new. Ian responded by stating that the equipment they hold is for any group to use.

Date of next meeting:

8th September 2015

19th October 2015

All meetings at Hoyland Centre at 17.00 hours.