

Minutes of the First Steps Working Group meeting 08/03/2017

Present: Kathy Higgins (Chair), John Orr, Dave Lee, Ron Ellis, Nicky Johnson, Rosemary Oday, Cliff Green and Lesley Berry.

Apologies: Sheila Taylor, Terry Weller and Derek Weller

1. Matters arising from Minutes of the meeting held on 08.02.2017

There were a disappointing number of Action Points from the meeting not carried forward:

- Follow up with the Juniors
- The planting boxes - getting the wood
- Discussion with Carmela re. possible IT project

2. Financial report a. John. There has been no progress in getting the Treasurer on board so far. We need the auditing of the books to be completed. Ruth (Dave's sister) has made a lot of progress on this exercise but there remain details to be submitted - by John? Nicky again offered all possible assistance as this issue is now being extended and requires closure so we can go forward into 2017 with a new Treasurer and the financial position transparent and organised. The TBRA and the Working Group needs access to relevant information. It was stressed that Sheila needs up to date info. for all future grant applications.

Kathy suggested (again) that it would be helpful for a small group to meet with Mavis and hand over the books (Nicky, John, Mavis and Kathy). John said he would arrange this. **Action:** John

b. Dave - audited accounts - Dave explained that Ruth is nearly completed the assignment she took on for us, but is waiting for information - see above.

Action: John and Dave.

c. In Sheila's absence full discussion about grant applications was postponed.

3. MKC Health Check. Dave demonstrated the application form and explained required information to get a Platinum rating. The form is not yet available for completion. We will need the financial information (see issues under 2 above) and Minutes. Rosemary offered to help Lesley to catch up on typing the Minutes. Nicky offered again, to assist Lesley to use her home computer and WiFi to send out Minutes. Kathy said she would write up these Minutes.

There was also a discussion about how we would share attendance at relevant MKC meetings over the coming months. Dave agreed to draw up a timetable.

Action: Lesley, Rosemary, Kathy. Dave to monitor when form available for completion and draw up TT of relevant MKC meetings for TBRA attendance.

4. Regeneration Watch MK. John explained about the new activist group on Facebook for the 7 affected estates and plans for it to lobby MKC.

5. Council meetings - see 3. Above

6. Community work plan. The meeting discussed possible future events. Ron reminded us to plan well in advance e.g. start thinking about the panto now! Too

late for an Easter event. Possible events discussed were: A Summer Fun Day: dog show? Face painting, father (and mother) kids football; band – needs discussion with Cheryl (brownies) and Deanna to organise?

Quiz Night – Gideon? There was some discussion about using Simpson Hall as a venue as it might be free of charge.

Tea dance – tbc by Lesley.

Panto

Action: more discussion by all. John to talk to Deanna

7. The raised beds. Ron reported that spring cleaning is going on; bulbs are coming through on some beds. Need to arrange work days to get community involvement – an initial meeting to plan a work weekend.

Rosemary reported that the Tesco Bags of Help fund raising in our local Tesco seems to be slow.

John and Ron will arrange to go and get wood and spend the WCC £500 grant we have for this.

Action: John and Ron.

AOB.

- We discussed Bridge contributions: Environment – Ron; Recipes and bird articles – Rosemary; AGM note and officers elected – Lesley; Photo of raised beds etc. – John.
- We will discuss funding possibilities for the Bridge and the Health Check at the next meeting.
- It was agreed it would be more efficient to think about developing a forward budget for annual activities. We will be able to make timely grant applications if we have this tool and we will discuss at next meeting.
- Kathy reported she will be away for the next meeting.