



**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting of
High Lane Village Neighbourhood Forum**

Date: 26th November 2020 **Time :** 8 pm **By** zoom

Present: Richard Jones, Janet Burks, Ann Young, Helen Stocks, Trish Freeman, Trisha Conroy, Carol Taylor Bruce, Claire Porterfield, Cllr Aron Thornley, Mike Arnold, Matthew Nicholson, Ian Carpenter, Neil Ball, Annette Hargreaves, Sheila Harrop, James Moon, Steve Holt, Garry Dockerty, Peter Stocks, Dale Spencer, Laura Dalton, Angela Sequeira, Alison Humphries, Darrell Williams

Richard warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked people for attending the first virtual AGM of the Neighbourhood Forum.

Apologies: Anne Walker, Richard Morton

Approval of last year's minutes: The minutes were sent out to committee and forum members before the AGM and were accepted as a true record.

1) Financial Report:

1) This was prepared by Janet who went through the summary which was shown on screen and had also been sent out prior to the meeting. There were no questions on the summary which was straightforward. Total income £6198.21, expenditure £4376.66, leaving a balance of £1821.55 .

2) The balance will cover costs associated with publicising the forthcoming referendum, ongoing costs for the website and insurance (SMBC will pay for the final consultation on the Plan (Reg. 16) the running of the referendum, and payment of an Independent Examiner.) Janet pointed out we need to avoid an under spend. It will be important for the 6 week Consultation to be finished in good time in the new year so that the final work of our consultant related to any changes needed to the Plan can be completed and paid for within this financial year (by the end of March) .

The Forum appreciates the £500 granted by Marple Area Committee from the Flexibility Fund which has greatly helped with our ongoing costs this year.

3) The accounts have been audited by Robert Taylor 23/11/20 who checked all receipts and payments. Many thanks to Robert for giving of his time

4) Richard was thanked for making the grant applications successfully and Janet was thanked for her work on the accounts and for organising use of digital banking which has made checking and updating much simpler.

2) Chair's Report 2019 -2020

Richard went through the report which was projected on screen and had been sent out earlier to forum members.

Planning Steps

1) The Plan and other documents were submitted to Stockport in September 2020. Various amendments have been carried out since, following SMBC's feedback and the Forum's website has been updated.

2) After Christmas the Regulation 16 Consultation run by the council will take place- giving people from within and outside the community the opportunity to comment on the Plan. Following this the Plan will be looked at by an Independent Examiner.

3) Richard explained that the NF were given a choice of two Independent Examiners who will scrutinise the Plan following the final consultation organised by Stockport. High Lane Forum conferred with a number of people including Woodford Forum and selected Mr John Mattocks who has experience of examining Neighbourhood Plans in similar sorts of neighbourhoods.

4) The referendum will take place over 2 days organised as a formal polling exercise run by the council. Everyone living within the designated area will be eligible to vote on it.

GMSF Update

1) In October '20 GMSF released their revised version of the Spatial Framework showing High Lane as allocation 35 with a proposal of 500 homes to be built. A misleading document from the developers was found in the GMSF supporting material The Forum quickly put together a Correction document which was submitted to SMBC, to local councillors and to William Wragg to show the community's views were not in favour of 500 houses as had been stated and providing the most up to date figures to support this. SMBC apologised and promised a clarification. Stockport postponed their vote on GMSF on November 17th and on 19th November there was an announcement from William Wragg that the High Lane allocation is to be removed from GMSF. The public consultation on GMSF is due to start early December.

2) A statement from Andy Burnham and Cllr Elise Wilson Leader of the Council made after the postponement of the vote on 17th November was read out. It stated “We will be bringing back a changed plan but we are very much now at a point where we have limited room for manoeuvre”.

Richard invited questions (Se Appendix page 5)

3) Richard then went through the timeline which shows High Lane’s referendum is likely to take place June/July 2021 and the Plan to be “made” in September 2021. It will follow a similar time sequence to Woodford’s completed Plan since it is dependent on the cycle of Council meetings in Stockport. It will be a massive achievement for our community and gives local people through the Plan the right to be involved in any discussions on development.

Focus Groups

1) Richard then went through the Forum’s 4 focus groups who have been key to the creation of the Plan’s policies and gathering of evidence: Transport, Housing, Green Space and Recreation, Heritage and Design.

2) The groups represent the work of a lot of people both current members and also past members of the steering group who have contributed significantly to the formation of the Plan and to ensuring the Plan represents the community’s views. Richard thanked group members past and present for all their work.

3) At the moment there is a vacancy for a person to join the Transport group and a person to join the Housing group. If anyone is interested in either of these or would like to have a chat about what is involved please get in touch via email at : ourforum@hlnf.org and we will get back to you. Much of the work is completed but even when “made” the Plan will be a “dynamic” document responding to changing circumstances. People may wish to offer their service for a limited period of time which is quite acceptable.

The Report was accepted and adopted by the AGM.

3) Election of the Steering Committee

No new nominations have been received. The existing committee are happy to continue in post.

Chair: Richard Jones Proposed by Carol Taylor Bruce, seconded by Anne Walker

Vice chair and co- treasurer: Janet Burks Proposed by Trish Freeman , seconded by Ann Young

Secretary: Claire Porterfield Proposed by Trisha Conroy , seconded by Helen Stocks

4) Any Other Business

1) **Flooding:** James Moon raised the issue of flooding at the back of gardens on Aldersgreen Avenue in High Lane caused by a natural culvert emptying into a drain on Hartington Road. In 2019 when flooding occurred, 200000 litres of water were removed from underneath 3 houses.

Cllr Thornley asked James to contact him on his council e mail address and he will follow up on this and Richard advised that the Environment Agency be contacted because of the culvert.

2) **High Lane Primary School:** Laura Dalton from the PTFA at High Lane Primary School informed people about 2 trails which have been organised by the PTFA this year.

'A Winters Trail' **on now** and 'A Christmas Trail' **starts 1 December**

The aim of both is to encourage families with children and all High Lane residents to go out together enjoying the area we are all lucky enough to live in and looking out for the different points on the trails. All money raised will go to support improvements to school life for the children particularly at the moment when the Corona virus has placed such huge extra demands on the school's budget.

Laura paid tribute to the community and the businesses of High Lane who have supported the school and its fundraising through such a difficult year at a time when so many businesses and individual families have faced their own pressures and anxieties. The PTFA have been amazed how keen the community is to support their ventures and the school in turn is eager to support the community and play a key role in it. Details below:

 High Lane Christmas Trail 

The trail starts 1st December! Families will be able to follow a map to find clues set around the village. There are prizes to be won and you can even join in for FREE! All information is available at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/hlps>. Many thanks to our wonderful supporters for making this happen! [Into The Deep - Scuba Diving Training](#) [The Cinnamon Bear - Cakes & Catering, Cheshire](#) [The Bull's Head Pub, High Lane](#) [Simon Dunn Chocolatier Cheshire](#) [Cheese Shoppe](#) [High Lane Garage](#) Home Instead Senior Care High Peak [Blueberries](#) Balloon Ur Room

Can't wait until then to share the Christmas magic? Then don't! If you have decorated, or plan to decorate the outside of your house please share your little bit of Christmas Joy with the community!

High Lane Primary School PTFA presents...

 A Winter's Trail 

Email PTFA.chair@highlane.stockport.sch.uk with your house number and post code and we will add it to this map 

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit...>

3) Richard thanked Laura for her update and stated that the Forum, as a community group, entirely understands and applauds the school's aspirations and wishes them well in their fundraising over Christmas

5) Final Words

Richard thanked everyone who has been on line with us through this evening and asked people to keep in touch as ongoing support from our community is essential and also encouraging to the members of the steering group. He ended with the hope that we will be able to meet face to face some time in 2021.

Mike Arnold offered a vote of thanks to Richard, stating how impressed he is by the group's work and the balanced but tenacious way in which they have progressed. Cllr Thornley echoed his words stating that when the Plan is complete it will give local people a democratic say in the planning process. He commended the "massive work" which has been done. The meeting closed at 9pm.

Appendix : Questions and Answers

1) What is the date of the council vote on GMSF?

Next Thursday 3RD December the vote can be viewed in a live stream online through the council's website.

2) What are the implications of High Lane being removed from GMSF?

Richard explained that the consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan cannot take place until the consultation on the revised GMSF has taken place. Until the vote next week the implications of High Lane's withdrawal are not completely clear.

3) What effect will the government's recent White Paper on the relaxation of planning rules have on the Neighbourhood Plan?

Richard stated this is a very complicated area. The White Paper divides property into 3 categories: (i) with presumption to build (ii) improvement required (iii) protected. At this point we do not know all the effects of the White Paper but as far as we are aware the rights laid down in the Localism Act giving authority to Neighbourhood Plans and stating they must be engaged with when development is considered all still apply.

Cllr Thornley agreed with this and said there are concerns by some people over the White Paper representing deregulation of planning laws. He stated that local democracy will be carried through via the Neighbourhood Plan and hence the Plan's crucial importance for the residents and workers of High Lane.

4) If Stockport votes down GMSF what about Stockport's Local Plan?

On our current timetable our plan goes out for consultation January February time. The Local Plan will be consulted on between Easter and Summer and will be complete 2022. As our Neighbourhood Plan will be completed before the Local Plan it would carry some formal weight when the Local Plan is being created.