

Minutes of Meeting of HLVNF

Date: March 30th, 2021 **Time:** 7.30pm **By:** Zoom

Present: Richard Jones, Janet Burks, Ann Young, Carol Taylor Bruce, Trish Freeman, Trisha Conroy, Andrew Jolley, Claire Porterfield, Cllr Aron Thornley, Christopher Simpson

Apologies: Anne Walker, Helen Stocks

Approval of previous minutes : The previous minutes were accepted as a true record

1) Cricket Club Update:

Richard welcomed people to the meeting and invited Chris Simpson, Chair of High Lane Cricket Club one of the Partners of the Forum, to provide an update on recent work at the club.

Background: Chris explained the 130 year old club has been at the heart of the High Lane community for much of that time. When he became chair 5 years ago he recognised that some difficulties had arisen and instigated a Development Programme now in its 3rd year to do three things: improve the access road , to improve the pavilion which had a leaking roof and lacked heating and to improve the cricket ground itself which suffered from the boggy clay soil and was often waterlogged.

Progress: 1) With a £50,000 grant from Sport England the work on the ground has been completed, making it one of the largest and best in the league, with huge support from grounds man Gavin Graham and his helpers. The car park has also been improved and extended with plenty of easy parking available now.

2) Work on the Pavilion is well underway all being completed by volunteers in their available time at weekends and after work. Chris paid tribute to their generosity in giving their time to the project.

3) Thanks to the efforts of local councillors, particularly Cllr Tom Dowse, Middlewood Road has been resurfaced. The spur to the cricket ground has been paid for by the cricket club and the club is very grateful for generous donations received through crowd funding . It is planned to plant moisture absorbing trees in the woods on the corner close to the cricket club spur as a means of absorbing some of the excess water. Richard suggested contacting the Woodland Trust who will supply packs of particular varieties of trees on request.

Further work remains to be done on converting the Porta- cabins to changing rooms and inserting further drainage on sections of the road

Going forward : In keeping with the club being for the local community, the football club have been invited and accepted to join and use the grounds for their practices and matches.

The club is proud of the progress and hopes local people will come and join and make use of the facilities. It provides another venue for people to use and can be used for a range of events as well as cricketing ones from children's parties to social events both indoor and outdoor or weddings. Social members will be able to join at a reasonable rate and enjoy a drink from the bar while watching a game of cricket. Interest from a range of groups has already been expressed and popular events such as the 6's competition are planned to be revived when it is safe to do so. The season starts in May and all are very welcome. Chris said he hopes the plans for the cricket club are in line with the NDP and stated that comments or suggestions are always welcome.

Richard thanked Chris for the update and congratulated him on the scale of the work achieved. The Forum will hope to hold some future meetings there.

Details of the club and this season's fixtures can be found on:

<https://highlane.play-cricket.com/home>

2) Regulation 16 Consultation Responses

(1) Following the extra Forum meeting held on 23rd March to discuss the responses, the feedback from the forum to the consultation responses has been recorded on two charts which will be sent to the Independent Examiner tomorrow. There was discussion over the responses and in particular the queries over references to large scale development. Richard stated the Plan is not allocating sites only touching on their scale and design. We have a brown field first and small scale policy (small scale in planning terms referring to any development of 10 or fewer houses). We must await the Stockport Local Plan and give our input there. It is very likely there will be another Call for Sites issued by the council when the Stockport Local Plan comes out. It was agreed that is very important for us to engage with SMBC at all points.

(2) There was a query over the low number of responses received (40). Richard pointed out that this was the final consultation out of many. Earlier consultations had received 200+ response. The primary aim of Regulation 16 is to consult official/regulatory stakeholders.

(3) It was suggested we put some explanatory facts round the issue of the Plan's policy on development onto our website and /or High Lane Village Face book to provide clarity and reassurance.

Action: SMBC to be contacted to check on appropriate timing of doing this. Meanwhile a draft of a statement is to be written

(4) Aron stated that the council, the forum and the developer working together would be an ideal and would be in the interests of all residents.

(5) Richard stated that the Forum's work does not finish at the referendum. The really important part will be when the Stockport Local Plan is published and the forum represents the community and ensures the policies in the Plan take effect.

3) Financial Update

(1) Janet reported. £978 has been returned as an under spend from this year's grant. We will be able to reclaim this next year and use the money to pay our consultant to deal with the changes to the Plan arising from the Independent Examination. The forum will have very little money left then and is unable to apply for a further grant.

(2) Going forward it is envisaged that costs to SEO Express for running the website after the referendum will be less . We may just need a once a year upload following the AGM. Minutes could be posted on social media not the website reducing the company's work. The basic £200 a year to keep the website registered will still be needed.

(3) Windlehurst meeting room has been paid for in advance so we have meetings available to hold there without paying more cash.

Action: Helen to be asked to check with Muriel how many meetings we can hold on the payments already made.

(4) Insurance will still need to be paid.

(5) A request to apply for Flexibility Funding to Marple Area Committee has been turned down.

Action: Richard to contact Emma Curle at SMBC to inquire whether there is other funding we may be eligible to apply for.

4) Fundraising Ideas

1)It was suggested we seek sponsorship from our Partners – we ask for a donation and in return agree to put their name and logo on the website and any publicity material we use .

2)Ann suggested using crowd funding and Andrew and Aron backed this up stating the importance of having some cash to ensure we are able to get the Plan over the final stages of completion. Business or private donations could be accepted. The Forum will need cash to sustain it up to the referendum, after the referendum and then to engage with Stockport Local Plan so that we can represent the local community at this point. It was felt there would be support for this from the community.

Action: Trish F agreed to check out how to go about crowd funding

5) Coming out of Covid celebrations

The Neighbourhood Forum would like to support the activities planned in High Lane for the weekend of 3rd/4th September. Suggestions were to have a stall at one or two of the venues with information on the forthcoming referendum and an opportunity to chat with people who wish to. Some Forum members offered to provide transport for residents who may need it.

Action: This information to be fed back to the Planning group by Janet and Trish.

6) AOB:

Carol suggested that over the winter we use Zoom rather than meeting up in bad weather. It was agreed this is a good idea.

7) Next Meeting

Date: 20th April, 2021 Time: 7.30pm By zoom: