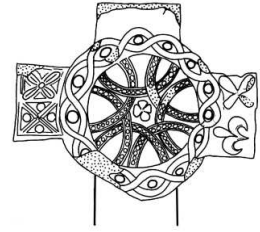


MACA

MITTON AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Minutes of General Meeting **Held at Mitton School on Wednesday 11th July 2007**

1. Present

N Holberton, N E Gyngell, Mary Butcher (Acting Secretary), Geoff Butcher (Acting Chairman), Hazel Knight, Mike Knight, Marion Sanders, Leigh Sanders, Adrienne Skelt, Bob Skelt, Rose Hogan, Sue Dauncey, Robert Rackstraw, Erna Perry, Lionel Perry, K Bayliss, Sarah Peters, Susan Wheeler, Barbara & Tony Fedrick, Mike Sztymiak, Mary Powell, Jo Holberton, Beryl Barnes, Mike McQuillan, Janet Scott, Jim Scott, Jane Gascoyne, Annette Merrick, Carrie Sermon, J Pittman, J Thomson.

2. Apologies

Chris Thomas, Martin Wright, Andy Beadle, Frances Gyngell, Jean Wiseman, Vernon Smith, Jean Thomas, Andy Burley.

In the absence of the MACA Chairman, the meeting was chaired by Geoff Butcher, whilst Mary Butcher took the minutes.

3. Notification of AOB

- Could Mike Sztymiak give an update on car parking situation
- The poor state of Bredon Road

4. Minutes of last meeting, held on 17th May 2007

Acceptance of the minutes as a true record was proposed by Neville Gyngell and seconded by Nigel Holberton. There were no dissenters so the proposal was passed *nem.con*.

5. Secretary's Report

There were no outstanding items reported. Members attention was drawn to the developing MACA website.

6. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported a small increase in membership, including some new members who joined at the meeting. A statement of accounts for the period ending 7th July was presented: in brief, income totalled £149.70, expenditure £25.08, leaving a balance of £124.62

7. MACA Prize Draw

The Treasurer presented details of the proposed prize draw. (Details are also available on the MACA website.) 100 numbers would be available at £1 per month each. A draw would be made each month with three winners being awarded a prize of £25, £15 or £10 for first, second and third prize respectively. Membership of the prize draw is open to anyone aged 18 years or over who lives or works in the Mitton community area. Members will be issued with a copy of the full rules, which will also be available on the MACA website. It is intended that the first draw would take place at the end of September. Geoff Butcher noted that, with the prizes proposed, a minimum of 64 members would be required in order to meet legal obligations with regard to the proportion of money going to Association funds.

Jo Holberton from the floor, said that she had been asked to raise with the meeting the serious concerns of Mitton Manor Playgroup that the MACA prize draw would impact adversely on their own 100 Club. The MACA committee was already aware of these concerns but did not believe that there would in fact be any such impact. An informal poll of

the meeting revealed that none of those present who currently subscribed to the Playgroup draw proposed to stop doing so in favour of the MACA draw, although some would subscribe to both draws.

The acting Chairman assured those present that there was no intention to poach members from the Playgroup draw, and that MACA would seek to promote the playgroup draw as well as its own. He was of the opinion that in general people participate in these types of schemes principally to support the organisations, with the chance of winning a prize just being an added bonus. He felt that until the MACA draw had been running for some time it was impossible to say what, if any, effect it would have on the Playgroup draw.

The acting Secretary (Mary Butcher) who runs the Playgroup draw, pointed out that as this was run on a year-to-year basis it would not be possible to see if there was any effect until January, when membership renewals were due.

8. Update on new play area

Cllr. Mike Sztymiak gave a quick overview of some of the facilities which might be provided in the play area to be located at the northern end of the new housing development. Provision of the play area was a legally binding agreement entered into by the developers. After construction the play area would be run by the Borough Council. Mike Sztymiak had attended a meeting of various interested parties including representatives of the Borough Council, the Town Council, the Police and Miller Homes. MACA was represented by Andy Beadle.

One of the important issues yet to be decided is who will manage the play area, and in what way. Would users need to book? Should it be locked at night? If so, who will do the locking etc. Mike presented plans of the new development and play area and said that the Council wanted to get as much feedback and involvement from the local community as possible, especially from young people, who would be most likely to use the facilities. He urged MACA to get involved as much as possible in organising the running of the play area. Mike suggested that an open meeting specifically about the play area should be arranged, to include as many young people as possible. He suggested that the Town Council would pay for any publicity required to make such a meeting a success.

A questioner from the floor asked about insurance and maintenance: Mike said that provision had been made for maintenance, and pointed out that ownership of the facility would remain with either the Town Council or the Borough Council, so there would be no liability attaching to MACA.

9. Litter-pick and tidy-up

Chris Thomas has attended a Council-run Health and Safety training course which would enable him to supervise 6 or 8 people in a group litter-pick and tidy-up. The Council would provide all the equipment needed: we would just have to provide the volunteers to go round the estate one evening or weekend. Several people gave their names as being prepared to help (see Appendix 1). It was hoped to organise this in the next few weeks.

10. Social Committee's report

Carrie Sermon began her report by thanking Annette Merrick for her hospitality at the two meetings of the Social Committee that had been held so far. She also extended an invitation to any member who would like to join in with any future meetings. She emphasised the importance of developing the social side of MACA, involving people of all ages to increase awareness of MACA. It is intended to publish a seasonal Social Newsletter four times a year. New ideas for social activities are needed and would be welcomed from anyone.

Two events are being planned so far:

- A guided historical walk around Mitton, to be conducted by Richard Sermon. This was

scheduled to take place on Sunday 22nd July at 2.00 pm. and would be followed by refreshments.

- A “Mitton Day” celebration to coincide with a celebration of the 40th anniversary of Mitton Manor Primary School this year. Carrie asked if anyone with any sort of memorabilia of the school would be prepared to make it available for exhibition on the day. The proposed date for this event is Saturday 15th September. She asked that any member knowing someone who had an association with the school would pass this information on to them.

In addition to the exhibition of memorabilia it was hoped to have such attractions as cream teas, a table-top sale, and a talent competition which would be run throughout the day. Mrs Walker from the playgroup has very kindly agreed to organise the talent competition.

One idea from the floor was to try and locate the “time capsule” which was buried somewhere in the school playing field.

11. Request for notification about new residents

Members were asked to notify a member of the committee about any newcomers to the area so that they can be contacted with information about MACA.

Mike Sztymiak suggested that a “Welcome Pack” might be produced by MACA (with possible support and funding from Miller Homes and/or the Town Council). This could be given to all residents of the new housing development.

It was also suggested that a notice could be placed on the noticeboard near the shops.

12. Any Other Business

a) Car Parking

Mike Sztymiak reported that representatives of the Town Council had met with representatives of the Borough Council to discuss parking charges. The Town Council is going to conduct a survey of as many residents and businesses in Tewkesbury as possible to provide evidence to the Borough Council. A questionnaire will be distributed for this purpose.

b) Condition of Bredon Road

The Town Council has contacted Gloucestershire County Highways Department. The Highways Department has agreed that the road is structurally unsound. The building developer has agreed to contribute £200,000 towards road improvements but there are conditions on where this money is spent – in particular the stretch of road beyond the garage towards the town would not be included.

Traffic lights are proposed for the junction between Bredon Road and Mitton Way.

- c) A question was raised about the fate of a silver-birch tree that was planted 30 years ago by local residents as a Silver Jubilee commemoration, and which is threatened by the development of some land for housing. Mike Sztymiak had asked the planning committee to make a site inspection to see if access to the development would be possible without removing the tree, but this did not take place. In Mike Sztymiak's view there is no need to remove the tree, however, provided the correct procedure is followed by the developer there is little that residents can do about it.
- d) Questions were also asked about what could be done about people damaging trees and other property. Residents were urged to report any acts of criminal damage to the police, and in particular not to be afraid of dialling 999 if they see any such acts taking place. Even though no immediate action may be forthcoming, the police have to record all such reports and will base future policing priorities on this information.

- e) A point was raised about a fallen tree obstructing the Carrant Brook near the Handyman Centre. Mike Sztymiak said he would approach the Environment Agency.
- f) MACA logo: A questioner asked for some explanation about the origins of the MACA logo. Details of the history of the Mitton Cross which features on the logo are contained in the MACA website (www.mittoncommunity.org.uk).

13. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd October 2007 at 7.30 pm. in Mitton School Hall.

Appendix 1

The following people said they would be prepared to help with the proposed litter-pick:

Jo Holberton, Lionel and Erna Perry, Richard and Janet Thompson, Marian Sanders, Carrie Sermon, Jim and Janet Scott, Beryl Barnes.