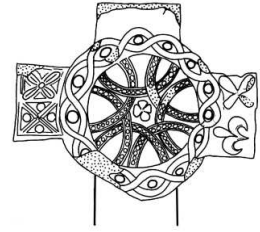


MACA

MITTON AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Minutes of General Meeting Held at Mitton School on Tuesday 23rd October 2007

1. Present

M Butcher, D & H Maul, C Barradell, Pam & Tony Burr, A Beadle, D Stocks, R Foster, H Knight, M Knight, A Turner, M Sanders, K Sanders, G & H Hill, K & M Powell, Bill Barker, J Thomas, A Skelt, R Skelt, S Hogan, R Hogan, J Elliot, A Merrick, C Sermon, J Wiseman, E Perry, L Perry, R Rackstraw, B & T Fedrick, J Mooney, P Bedwell, S Peters, K Gough, R Gough, S Wheeler, M & J Lucas, J Holberton, C Thomas (Chairman), G Butcher (Secretary), N Holberton (Treasurer)

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Ted & Gel Sprackling, Mike Sztymiak & Andy Burley, John & Vicky Pittman

3. Notification of AOB

There was no advance notification of AOB

4. Minutes of last meeting, held on 11th July 2007

Acceptance of the minutes as a true record was proposed by Ken Powell and seconded by Mary Powell. There were no dissenters so the proposal was carried *nem.con*.

5. Secretary's Report

The secretary informed the meeting that he had received letters from some new residents' associations which had been formed in the area. MACA has offered them advice and assistance.

Correspondence is also received regularly from the Town and Borough Councils. Anything of immediate relevance is posted on the MACA website.

One item of interest received was information on proposals to reduce the number of street lights left on all night. Email addresses are available in case anyone would like to contact the Council about this.

6. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported that the Mitton Walk conducted by Richard Sermon raised £91.39, the September 100+ Prize Draw raised £36 after deducting the £50 prize money, and the October 100+ Prize Draw has raised £94, of which £50 will be deducted as prize money.

The net funds now stand at £430.01.

7. Talk: *Community Health & Development* – Keith & Marian Sanders

Keith and Marian gave an interesting talk about their experiences working to improve the health of communities in northern India. They emphasised how important it was to fully involve the local community and to get to know, and respect, their customs.

8. Volunteers to distribute MACA circulars

In addition to the existing volunteers the following people also offered to distribute leaflets for MACA:

Lionel & Irma Perry, Andy Beadle, Kim Gough, Keith Sanders, Carrie Sermon, Mary & Ken Powell.

9. Request for new committee members

The Chairman asked for anyone who would be prepared to serve on the MACA committee to replace two members who had resigned since the inaugural meeting. Jo Holberton has already offered to serve: her membership was proposed by Chris Thomas and seconded by Annette Merrick.

Jean Wiseman also volunteered. As there were only two candidates for the posts, both were accepted without the need for a vote.

The Chairman thanked Andy Beadle and Mary Butcher for their help on the committee in the formative stages of MACA.

10. Flood Mandate – future developments

The Chairman noted that he is a representative for MACA on the Tewkesbury Forward Group who do a lot of work behind the scenes to ensure that the interests of the people of Tewkesbury are properly considered by their Councillors. He asked the meeting for a general mandate so that he could present an authoritative voice for MACA. The meeting approved this by a general consensus, without a vote.

The Chairman then introduced Cllr. Vernon Smith (Tewkesbury Town Council), who chaired the Infrastructure Committee and is one of the main architects of the recently produced flood report. Cllr. Smith gave an eye-opening presentation of the flaws in the implementation of local planning with regards to the potential flooding situation. He presented three different maps of the local area, all produced by the Environment Agency. The maps purport to show the parts of the local area lying on the flood plain and therefore susceptible to flooding. Alarmingly the three maps showed considerable differences in the area of the flood plain with only the most optimistic map currently being used when approving new developments. Many of these developments would be submerged if the data from the most pessimistic map were correct. This map, produced in 1998, predicted many of the areas that were flooded for the first time this year, including the Mythe water works.

After the presentation a lively discussion followed which showed an overwhelming lack of confidence in the planning process for new housing developments by Tewkesbury Borough Council and its agencies.

11. Litter-pick and tidy-up

A litter-pick and tidy-up will take place on Sunday 18th November. A number of people have already volunteered to help with this. The Chairman will obtain the necessary equipment from the council. Volunteers will meet at 10.00am outside the Mitton shops.

12. October Draw for 100+ Club

The draw took place in front of the meeting. The winning numbers are as follows:

1st Prize (£25) – number 14, 2nd Prize (£15) – number 70, 3rd Prize (£10) – number 39

13. Social Committee's report

Carrie Sermon presented the social committee's report on recent events. With regard to the guided walk around Mitton she thanked the following, on behalf of MACA:

Bredon Church and Tewkesbury Museum, Richard Sermon, Mrs Bristow, Mrs Merchant, and anyone who donated cakes for the refreshments.

The next event will be a Coffee Morning to be held at 17 Mitton Way on Friday 9th November from 10.00am to 12.00pm. The cost will be £1 for coffee and cake.

It is also proposed to hold Communal Carol Singing on Sunday 9th December at 7.00pm, meeting at the Mitton shops.

Carrie also said that any more members prepared to serve on the Social Committee would be welcome.

14. Any Other Business

Lionel Perry raised a question about where members of the Tewkesbury Borough Council's planning committee live, bearing in mind that the Borough covers a large area but that their decisions can have a major impact on the town of Tewkesbury. The Town Mayor was invited to reply, and said that although he did not know where all the members lived, but only 6 out of 36 Borough Councillors are from Tewkesbury. The Chairman asked the Mayor if it would be possible to find this information and to make it more widely known.¹

15. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM, and will be held on Friday 28th February at 7.30pm in Mitton School Hall.

Note MACA website is: mittoncommunity.org.uk. Information on this site is updated regularly.

¹ *Post-meeting note:* Dave Witts of Newtown Area Community and Residents Association has drawn up a list, and this is on the agenda for the Constitutionalised Residents Groups Chair and Secretarys' meeting scheduled for 12th November 2007 at Strings Club, Newtown.