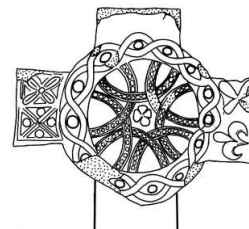


MACA

MITTON AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Minutes of General Meeting

Held at Mitton School on Tuesday 29th September 2009

Present:

Committee members: Chris Thomas (Chairman), Geoff Butcher (Secretary), Nigel Holberton (Treasurer), Jo Holberton, Neville Gyngell, Jean Wiseman, Bob Rackstraw.

A register of other attendees may be inspected upon request.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Mary Butcher, Fred & Pat Butcher, Jan & Margaret Lucas, Andy Beadle, Ken Powell, Annette Merrick

2. Chairman's introduction

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited suggestions for AOB.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record – proposed by Mary Powell and seconded by Neville Gyngell. Carried without dissent.

4. Secretary's report

The secretary reported that there are currently 99 members of MACA.

An email has been received advising that Cllr. Vernon Smith has arranged for the local MP, Lawrence Robertson to meet residents who still have unresolved insurance problems as a result of the flooding in 2007. The meeting is on Saturday 3rd October between 10.00am and 1.00pm at the town hall.

5. Treasurer's report

The chairman provided a statement of account for the period up to 31st August 2009: it showed income during the period of £878.37, expenditure of £60.34, leaving a net surplus of £818.03. The balance sheet showed balance b/f of £1460.48, adding the net income for the period leaves a balance £2278.51 carried forward. £174 of this is cash in hand to meet expenses such as 100+ club prizes.

The chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Jo and Lee Holberton for standing for the treasurer while he was unwell. The meeting showed its appreciation by a round of applause.

6. Marina Court

Lesley Gilmore, who works for Gloucestershire County council and is responsible for therapy and well being, coordinating various activities at Marina Court. Lesley gave a very interesting and informative talk about the various activities arranged at Marina Court, including the little-known fact that many of these are free, and open to non-residents.

Her talk was followed by a round of applause.

7. Social Committee's Report

Jo Holberton reported on various forthcoming events, including scarecrow making, a barn dance, Christmas pomanda and mulled wine making, and carol singing at Mitton Manor House.

8. Donation to Mitton Playgroup

It had been suggested (see GM minutes for 18th November 2008) that MACA might make a donation to Mitton Manor Playgroup. A recent committee meeting voted to put before this General Meeting that £500 be donated to the Playgroup. This was proposed by Bob Skelt and seconded by Bob Rackstraw. No objections were raised so the motion was carried.

9. Break

10. Estate Cleanup

A litter-picking event was proposed for Sunday 15th November. As usual the meeting point would be at Mitton shops at 10.00am. Volunteers were asked to give their names to the Chairman, who will organise the loan of equipment from the Borough Council. It is also hoped to plant some daffodil bulbs (provided by Chris & Jean Thomas) in the grassed area outside the shops.

11. Sewage Update

Severn Trent are investigating an overspill of sewage at the back of Brookside. It is thought that the problem may have been caused by a local blockage.

Cllr. Smith mentioned that other sewerage problems in the Mitton area are being investigated, also that measures were at last being taken to improve drainage and ditches.

12. Initial results on Community Land Survey

The chairman reminded the meeting about the background to this survey, viz. that an area of land of approximately 1 acre had been set aside under sec.106 planning regulations for the purpose of constructing a church hall or similar. The stipulation being that if this land was not so used within 5 years it would revert to the builders for their own development. In order to have a chance of obtaining funds for this project it was necessary to provide evidence that the local community wanted and needed it. The survey was intended to gauge the level of local support.

The number of homes surveyed was 649, with 415 replies being received (63.94%). The chairman thanked those involved with the canvassing. 384 returns were in favour of a village hall (92.53%), 169 (40.72%) were in favour of a grassed area as an alternative and 260 (62.65%) in favour of a children's play area. The results will be given to the Borough Council who will ultimately have to provide the facility if a need is shown.

- A number of residents of the Rosefields estate were present at the meeting and they raised strong objections to the idea of building a village hall on this land. They also raised a number of objections to the format of the survey and believed that Rosefields residents had not been properly canvassed.

It would appear that the developers had failed to inform purchasers of property in Rosefields about the planning strictures applying to this land.

The chairman apologised to Rosefields residents who felt that they had not been properly consulted, and pointed out that our aim was to prevent this land being handed back to the developers, as well as to provide a useful facility for local residents.

A heated discussion followed with a frank exchange of views but with no consensus being achieved. All residents of the new development were encouraged to join MACA so that their views could properly be represented.

13. Any Other Business

Bredon Road concerns: a number of residents have contacted the chairman with concerns about the length of time being taken to complete the works on the Bredon Road. The temporary traffic lights are causing a lot of problems. The chairman stated that he has written to a Mr Chris Rogan at the County Council asking when this work will be completed. A reply has been received stating that the matter will be investigated.

The chairman also stated that some parts of the hedgerow that had been removed would be reinstated.

14. Date and time of next meeting

The next General Meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 1st December at 7.30pm in Mitton School.

[Post meeting note: the venue for this meeting has had to be moved to Mitton Manor Playgroup building]