

# **paxcroft mead community forum : annual general meeting 2010**

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Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010 @ Paxcroft Mead Community Centre

## Present

### Full Committee Members

Ken Hart                      Rosemary Hawkes                      John Marples  
Jonathan Hawkes              Adrian Ingham                      Phil Stevens  
Also nominees Chris Hicks and Warren Lee

### Associate Committee Members and Advisors

Councillor Steve Oldrieve                      Councillor Peter Fuller  
Councillor Ernie Clark                      PC Mark Hough  
Also 30+ Forum members

## Apologies

Anne Coates and John Hatherill (of the committee), Maryrose Mantle (TTC Community Support Officer), Graham and Stella Leader

### 1. Opening

Jonathan Hawkes opened the meeting at 7.35 pm.

### 2. Apologies and minutes of the Inaugural Meeting

Jonathan welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the councillors and PC Mark Hough of the Neighbourhood Police Team. He introduced himself and the other committee members. He referred everyone to the papers available – copies of the Agenda, Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting (October 2009) and the Financial Report.

### 3. Matters Arising

A question was asked from the floor as to how the concerns raised by members were dealt with and Jonathan explained that concerns were generally received by e-mail and passed on to councillors, neighbourhood police team or council officers, as appropriate.

The adoption of the minutes was proposed from the floor by Ray Parry and seconded by Gordon Rees. The minutes were formally adopted as a true record and signed by Jonathan Hawkes as Chairman.

### 4. Chairman's Report

Jonathan read the Chairman's Report, and announced that it would be posted on the website after the meeting. Thanks were recorded to John Hatherill (absent through illness) for his hard work on the post box issue.

Jonathan invited questions but there were none.

### 5. Financial Report

Jonathan introduced Chris Hicks who would present the Financial Report as Acting Treasurer, since Ken Hart had stood down as Treasurer due to family illness. He thanked Ken Hart for his work in setting up the financial arrangements for the Forum – Ken withdrew from his position as Treasurer, but remains on the committee. He thanked Ray Parry for certifying the accounts in his capacity as certified fraud examiner.

Chris Hicks presented the Financial Report to the meeting and invited questions from the floor, but there were none.

The adoption of the Financial Report was proposed by Ken Hart and seconded by Phil Stevens. The Financial Report was unanimously agreed and formally accepted as a true record.

### 6. Alteration to Terms of Reference.

Jonathan explained that the AGM gives an opportunity to alter the Terms of Reference. He outlined the two proposed changes:

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### Item 5 Committee point 2

“The Committee shall have no more than 10 members, including officers”: it is proposed to add “elected” to remove any ambiguity, so this will now read: “The Committee shall have no more than 10 **elected** members, including officers”

### Item 8 Committee Meetings point 3

“The quorum for a Committee Meeting shall be 5 full members”: it is proposed to reduce the number of full committee members for a quorum from 5 to 4, so this will now read: “The quorum for a Committee Meeting shall be **4** full members”

The adoption of these changes was proposed by Ken Hart, seconded from the floor by Alan Jales and carried unanimously.

### 7. The Election of the new Committee

Jonathan announced that there were some members stepping down from the committee: Vice chairman, John Marples, who is moving away from the area with his wife Pauline, Committee member Anne Coates, who is leaving to concentrate on volunteer work at St James’s Church, and Committee member Jon Phillips, who has already moved away from the estate but will remain as an Associate member. Jonathan wished John and Pauline Marples good luck in their new life and thanked all three retiring members for all their hard work and support

Jonathan confirmed that all the other committee members are willing to stand again and welcomed two new nominees: Chris Hicks and Warren Lee, Acting Chair of the proposed Allotments Committee.

Jonathan formally introduced those who were those standing for election to the new forum committee to the floor: Ken Hart, John Hatherill, Jonathan Hawkes, Rosemary Hawkes, Chris Hicks, Adrian Ingham, Warren Lee and Phil Stevens. He explained that he would stand down as Chair of the meeting for the election and handed over to Councillor Steve Oldrieve.

Steve Oldrieve proposed a vote of thanks to the old committee, eliciting a warm round of applause. He then invited the meeting to elect the new committee en bloc. This action was formally proposed from the floor by Jane Wosika, seconded by Peter Collins and carried unanimously.

Jonathan thanked the meeting and took over the Chair once again. He recorded thanks to Steve Oldrieve for his good offices.

### 8. Allotment Proposal

Warren Lee gave a short presentation, outlining his proposal for allotments on Paxcroft Mead, to be sited in a suitable corner of the country park and run by a committee of local volunteers. He reported that there was a lot of interest from residents. He had been in contact with local councillors and planning officers, but the project was being held up because of complications ensuing from the formation of the new unitary authority as to the responsibility for allotments. No precise location had been identified as yet. This issue was complicated because while the land was owned by Wiltshire Council, Paxcroft Mead straddled the parish boundary between Trowbridge Town and Hilperton Parish and would soon encompass Steeple Ashton Parish as well, so that there were several councils to consult.

There was a lot of discussion about these issues. The meeting was in general support of the proposal. Jonathan confirmed that the website page for the Allotments would be up and running that night.

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### 9. BMX Track

Adrian Ingham gave a short presentation about the plans for a BMX Track on Paxcroft Mead. He explained that one of the key issues to come out of the inaugural meeting of the Forum last October was the lack of activities or facilities for older kids on the estate.

Adrian had recently been involved in a successful project to build a BMX track in Lambrok Road in Trowbridge. He had come along to that meeting with the express purpose of urging the committee to do something to engage young people and was elected onto the committee on this basis. The committee went with the idea of a project which is reasonably priced, realistic and attractive to its target audience.

Since then Adrian had been meeting with council officers, councillors and local agencies. A proposed site had been identified, in the nearest corner of the field behind the community centre and Adrian was now involved in consulting interested parties. The project was supported by the Management Committee of the Community Centre and the Nursery. The Mead School had been contacted but had not yet responded.

There followed a lively discussion with many questions. The proposal was particularly supported by Councillor Steve Oldrieve. PC Mark Hough confirmed that there were currently a lot of youths coming onto Paxcroft Mead from outside and said that he did not think that a BMX Track would significantly increase their number. It was pointed out that the field was used in the football season for children's matches on Saturdays; there were worries about putting the track so near to the children's playground.

Jonathan closed the discussion by saying that it was clear that there was a need for more consultation with residents before this proposal went forward. It was suggested that this might take the form of some kind of on-line discussion followed by an on-line poll.

### 10. Any Other Business

The need for an extension to the footpath on the edge of the estate towards Paxcroft School was raised and it was agreed to look into ways of enabling this.

The problem of overgrown hedges obstructing the efforts of residents to maintain the back of their fences was raised. Jonathan reported that he had recently had a meeting with the new Parks Manager, who had confirmed his intention to start a program of shrub management.

### 11. Open Forum

Issues raised were:

- The need for a new secondary school in the east of the town: Steve Oldrieve expressed his hope that this might be achieved as part of the proposed housing developments towards West Ashton Road.
- Anti-social behaviour: PC Mark Hough reassured the meeting that the issues of anti-social behaviour were not great on this estate, but he urged people to report each and every incident as the police teams required specific details in order to be able to act most effectively.
- The paucity of play equipment in the minor play areas: it was unlikely that this could be addressed in the current financial climate.

### Closing

Jonathan concluded by thanking everyone for a lively and encouraging meeting. There would be a voluntary collection at the door to raise money towards next year's public liability insurance.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.