

Minutes of MCA meeting: 6 September 2017

Present: SDE (Chairman), C Hartley (Secretary), L McCulloch (Dep. Chair), G Martill, P Moore, S Rix, Cllr. Dale Smith, Cllr. G Barker, Q Mackenzie, J Naylor, A Elsegood & 1 member of public (female, not identified).

1. Apologies:

Cllr. J Whiteley

2. Minutes of last meeting:

On website. Main issues raised relating to drains and roads.

3. Correspondence

Co-op keen to consider new initiatives. One item might be redevelopment of Barn Close (?Japanese Garden?) for 3rd Phase. Funding in 1st Phase was for MIB, 2nd Phase was for bird & bat boxes (for High Royds Mem. Garden, Primary School and possibly Butterfield Park). Slow start on that Phase owing to school holidays, but children will construct boxes on return to school for Autumn Term.

Cllr. Dale Smith suggested advice in positioning of boxes to encourage bats and birds to use them might be sought from Ken Limb (lives on Croft Park). Between £300 and £400 likely to be available for 3rd Phase, but could be as much as £900 as for 1st Phase. Co-op has also provided bags for recognition of delivery agents for MCA Newsletter, bearing Co-op and MCA/Business Association logo.

Joanne Dixon standing down as Caretaker for Menston Methodists. Vote of thanks for her services. New Caretaker to be appointed a.s.a.p.

Cllr. J Whiteley has copied to MCA a letter received from WYCA re. Menston Station Car Park. WYCA has concluded it's not cost-effective to build a decked car park given various constraints, neither on land adjacent to Menston station or alternatively on the Cricket Field. Feasibility Study said existing area was too constrained by tree-line and narrow width: would be impracticable, whilst the Cricket Field was 3rd Party owned and involved unacceptable expense whilst also being excessive walking distance from station. No other options, so not a viable proposition to extend car parking at Menston Station.

Neither Cllr. Whiteley nor Cllr. Barker remain on CBMDC's R&A Committee so Menston & Burley have no direct representation.

LMcC needs assistance to travel by train from Menston Station: not available. An unacceptable situation. Complaint made. To be followed-up at Oct meeting with Northern Rail & WY Metro. LMcC unable to attend. ADE will substitute on this occasion and attend with Cllr. Whiteley.

4. AGM of MCA

Normally held as first item on Agenda of October Forum. Scheduled for 12 Oct. This (October meeting) is Menston's Forum: first Agenda item is to re-elect the Committee and call for any new volunteers. We then move on to Menston's other priorities including: (not necessarily in this order) Planning issues, Highway items, Local crime & policing, and possibly Neighbourhood Watch: Bradford's priorities are secondary for the October meeting.

5. Parish Council Update

Parish Council has agreed to write a letter of objection re. misuse of airspace and need for recognition of Menston's residents in forthcoming change process.

Mirrors now available for traffic concerns at roundabout, Main St./Bingley Road.

Disabled access at station being addressed.

Library re-opens 11 September. Re. Kirklands ... a Community Trust is being set up to enable continuing use.

Re. proposal for 600 additional houses in Menston and potentially another 2,700 residents: MPC will decline to allocate sites via Neighbourhood Plan as the only sites we have (apart from Bingley Road and Derry Hill, already with evidence to show they are unsuitable) are Green Belt, and MPC has no powers to authorise development on Green Belt. That's an issue for Bradford Council after extensive consideration to change Green Belt boundaries, which must be subject to "exceptional circumstances".

Flood and Drainage Report produced by JBA (national consultants) received and adopted. Made available to Bradford Council. Thanks to Prof D Rhodes for his recommendation. Report will be paid for by MPC.

6. Menston in Bloom

Strawberry Tea & Plant sale in June raised £917, which will provide planters and bedding plants.

Lots of issues and projects for Autumn, including: Railway Garden makeover: Barn Close redevelopment: Regular work sessions. For fuller information, please refer to Village website and MIB Facebook page.

Menston Show will take place on Sat. 9 Sept. Heritage Weekend at High Royds Mem. Chapel Sat 9 & Sun 10 Sept. Flower Festival and Passchendaele (WW1) Centenary Commemoration, St. John's Church, 23-24 September.

7. Forum Meeting Update: already covered above

8. Crime in the Community

Recent meeting at The Menstone Club with Philip Davies MP. Lots of issues up for discussion. Concern about residents posting holiday pictures or otherwise making it clear they're away from home .. may be leading to burglaries and theft of/from cars. Follow-up at Menston Forum on 12 October.

9. Newsletter

Progressing, but some contributions yet to be finalised. Not enough advertising being placed to defray costs: we need more advertisers. Need to recognise the contribution of deliverers: possible Christmas Party to show appreciation?

10. Bingley Road Planning Application

Hard to believe that, with all the evidence, Bellway Homes are following in the footsteps of Taylor Wimpey, who eventually realised the folly of thinking about building there. All this is costing Menston residents money, both directly and through Council Tax. More submissions/objections are needed to finally show Bradford Council that Menston does not want the increased flood risk and hasn't the infrastructure to cope with volume housebuilding. SDE will include some text in the Newsletter and there's more available on the Menston Village website (www.menston.org.)

11. Any other business

C Hartley seeking information on construction of a jigsaw for charity. Committee all willing to stand for re-election at Menston Forum. ADE is in dialogue with Leeds/Bradford Airport re. proposed Airspace Change and has arranged that a meeting will be held with airport reps. to ensure they fully understand the implications for Menston.

12. Next meeting

Pre-Christmas? November date probable - date to be confirmed.