

Valley Parishes Alliance Meeting
Annual General Meeting
11th June 2014
Monkton Combe Village Hall

Present: Hugh Delap (Freshford), Simon Coombe (Limpley Stoke), Des Wighton (Monkton Combe), Nick Stevens – Acting Chair (Freshford), Lyn Alvis (Monkton Combe), Tony McCann (Bathampton), Hugh Baker (Bathford), Anna Beria (Claverton), Alan Parker (Westwood), Robin Davies (Winsley)
Ingrid Maher Roberts – Minute secretary

1.0 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Steve Mackerness (Bathford) and Vito Pecchia (Batheaston).

2.0 Minutes from pervious meetings 19.03.2014 and 22.05.2014 and matters arising.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the chairman. Any matters arising were dealt with in the meetings agenda items.

3.0 Environmental Mapping

Tom Harper has spoken at length with the environmental mapping people. Unfortunately the boss of the people with whom he had originally negotiated would not commit to the VPA getting information from Wilts as well as B&NES. They also wished to increase the pricing over what was originally indicated. Additionally BRERC would only standardise colour schemes for more money. Tom concluded that, despite his hard work and the VPA's commitment, the Environmental Mapping department would not consequently provide us with meaningful data at a reasonable price and his recommendation is that the VPA drop this request for now. This recommendation was supported by all members present.

4.0 A36/A46 Link Road

Neil Butters has indicated that the Link Road proposals will be discussed by the B&NES Lib Dems as being added to their official policy. Presently they are just ideas submitted by an unsuccessful candidate. SC believes the Lib Dems are feeling very vulnerable given their national collapse in popularity and the VPA should try and influence this discussion. Following further discussion VPA members agreed it would be beneficial to distribute the letter to Paul Crossley more broadly and include all B&NES Cllrs, not just Lib Dems as previously suggested.

Action: SC to amend letter to clarify where the initial link road proposals came from.

IMR to distribute to Cllrs.

SC
IMR

5.0 Matthew Symonds, Boating Liaison Manager – Canal River Trust

Matthew highlighted the key points of the new Local Mooring Plan, which began to be implemented on the 1st May 2014.

Long Stay Moorings- Boats between Bath and Foxhangers are expected to:

1. Move to a new neighbourhood every 14 days
2. Spread their mooring pattern evenly across 14 different neighbourhoods covering a range of at least 20km

All Boaters have been made aware of the changes via email, letter on notice boards along the canal and other communication methods.

Visitor Moorings - Maximum stay times at Visitor Moorings between Bath and Foxhangers will be set at 48 hours from 1st May 2014 along with no more than 7 days being spent at the site during any one calendar month. An extended stay charge of £25 per day will apply. These stay times will apply to all boats. With the exception that holiday hire boats will be exempt from the '7 days in a calendar month rule.

Volunteer Rangers and Enforcement Officers – There will be Rangers in various locations recording sightings. If any boats overstay, letters will be sent out warning them of the changes. If they continue to overstay an enforcement notice will be sent. The CRT doesn't have powers to issue fines, but can issue extended stay charges. With persistent offenders the CRT can claim the boat and have it removed from the water if boaters don't comply. An additional Enforcement Officer is being recruited to deal with any increase in non-compliance.

Monitoring - The quality of the monitoring will be dependent on the number of volunteer rangers recruited. There has been no hard data gathered yet, the first set of data will be available in August. Anecdotally boats appear to be moving, but unsure as yet if this is being done consistently.

VPA K&A Canal Committee

Matthew confirmed that subject to his schedule he would be happy to attend VPA K&A committee meetings.

Action: All VPA members to discuss with their PC's if there are any members (they do not need to be Cllrs, who would be willing to lead this committee.

VPA Members

6.0 Variable Message Signs

As agreed at the last VPA meeting, all VPA members object to the VMS. It would appear however that B&NES are desperate to sign off on this plan and could end up putting the sign anywhere.

NS will be meeting with Communities Minister Stephen Williams MP as part of a DCLG visit on the 16th June. B&NES Chief Executive will

be in attendance and NS will discuss the issue with him then.

7.0 Neighbourhood Plan

Freshford and Limpley Stoke are on the verge of submitting their NP to the Local Authorities. This is the completion of 2 ½ years hard work and over 5,000 volunteer hours. The Plan will be given symbolically to the LA's when Stephen Williams MP visits on the 16th June.

8.0 VPA Chairman

For health reasons David Gwyther is having to stand down as VPA Chair. SC has agreed to stay on for the September meeting, but a new chair will need to come forward after that. If no one is willing to take on the role, then the Chair position will be done on a rotation basis. This is not ideal, but may be the only option.

9.0 Finance

Currently the bank account has a healthy balance of £3,334. A reminder to those PC's who have yet to pay their subs Limpley Stoke (£100), Batheaston (£150) and Winsley (£150).

Action: IMR to send out reminder invoices

IMR

10.0 AOB

Anna Beria highlighted Claverton PC's concerns over planning breaches in relation to the erection of Solar Panels on a house in their village. She would like the VPA to write a letter supporting B&NES Enforcement Officers decision to request the solar panels be removed. SC did not believe it was appropriate for the VPA to do this, as they did not currently have a policy on solar panels. The VPA would need to agree a view before committing anything to writing. NS suggested Anna draw the Planning Enforcement Officers attention to Cotswold AONB strategy as a means to support their planning decision.

The meeting ended at 2.00pm

NEXT VPA Meetings 10th September 2014

10th December 2014

Monkton Combe Village Hall