

**Valley Parishes Alliance Meeting**  
**19<sup>th</sup> March 2014**  
**Monkton Combe Village Hall**  
**Minutes & Action items**

**Present:** Hugh Delap (Freshford), Simon Coombe - Chair (Limpley Stoke), Des Wighton (Monkton Combe), Nick Stevens (Freshford), Lyn Alvis (Monkton Combe), Tony McCann (Bathampton), Steve Mackerness (Bathford), Anna Beria (Claverton).

Ingrid Maher Roberts – Minute secretary

**Invited guest:** Tom Harper – Freshford and Limpley Stoke Environmental Working Group (<http://flewg.weebly>).

**1.0 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from Alan Parker, post meeting (Westwood) and David Gwyther (Limpley Stoke). SC explained that David Gwyther was currently recovering from major heart surgery and was not yet well enough to take over the chairmanship of the VPA. SC agreed to chair the meeting in his absence. It is hoped that David will be fit enough to resume the role for the next VPA meeting.

**2.0 Previous Minutes and matters arising:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 were approved.

**3.0 Environmental Mapping**

SC welcomed Tom Harper to the meeting. Tom is a member of FLEWEG (<http://flewg.weebly>) and has been working on environmental mapping on behalf of the VPA. He feels that if a parish map shows the habitats where people live, this could make residents more aware of the environment they live in and hopefully engage them to want to protect it.

Tom has been working closely with Alan Pleasant from BRERC (Bristol Environmental Record Centre), who has produced draft habitat maps for the VPA parishes. These do not include specific species, as this is an important revenue service for BRERC and there would need to be further negotiations if the Parishes wished to have this on the maps. BRERC only cover the B&NES area, but Tom and BRERC have been in contact with WSBRC (Wilts), who are happy to provide information in principle.

Tom highlighted that mapping information can be sporadic and comes from a number of different sources. There is the opportunity to get some Heritage lottery funding so that the PC's could do environmental mapping themselves.

<p>The cost for the habitat maps would be £90 per parish. This data could be put on village websites and provides a snapshot of what is in our valley. It is hoped that the mapping information would be reviewed every 5 years. Steve Mackerness queried the benefits of such maps as they could just sit in the PC files and not be used. Tom suggested that putting them on village websites could allow residents access to them and raise awareness of the habitats in their area.</p> <p>B&amp;NES and Wilts also have a biodiversity action plan which highlight the top 10 species most at risk in the area.</p> <p>In principle the map could be integrated with Parish Online maps, but there is currently no national joined up approach to gathering the data, so this is not something which has been progressed.</p> <p><b>Action: Talk to Martin Laker from Parish online about the BREC data.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Steve Mackerness to talk to his contact at Avon Wildlife Trust about the data they hold on habitat and species.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Assuming BRERC data is not currently in existence, the VPA agree to acquire the maps for the parishes from BRERC.</b></p>	<p>Steve Mackerness</p>
<p><b>4.0 VPA/Highways meeting 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014</b></p> <p>The draft minutes of the most recent VPA/HA meeting have been circulated. Anna Beria queried whether the concerns of Claverton PC, which had been sent in a letter to VPA members, had been discussed at the meeting. Hugh Delap confirmed that although the specific letter was not discussed the issue of A36 speed and safety had been raised.</p> <p>Anna Beria also raised concerns over the poor communication from HA over issues such as the A36 road closure. Many times they were finding out the information from the Bath Chronicle. SC confirmed that Claverton were very welcome to attend the HA meetings and were part of the group.</p> <p><b>Action: Anna Beria to ensure a Representative from Claverton will attend the next VPA/HA meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Hugh Delap to send Sean Walsh the correspondence from Claverton regarding their A36 concerns.</b></p> <p><b>Action: IMR to distribute any emails from Cllr Neil Butters regarding transport issues along the A36</b></p>	<p>Anna Beria</p> <p>Hugh Delap</p> <p>IMR</p>
<p><b>5.0 Bath Transport Commission</b></p> <p>There has been no meeting since the last time the VPA met. There will be a meeting of the committee on th 25<sup>th</sup> April and a</p>	

further Bath Transport Strategy Consultation on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. There are no further details on the meeting.

At a recent Parish Cluster meeting for Bath Avon North, Dave Dixon gave several comments on the Conceptual Park and Ride East of Bath.

- Short list of possible sites is due shortly.
- Project is still at an early stage – no funds have been allocated.
- Wiltshire sites are currently being scrutinised in particular and it was intimated that this was not the Meadows.
- There may be a fall back situation where more than one site is used, but each on a smaller scale.
- He raised the doubt that the way ahead may be upset by a new administration.
- The Meadows are included in the Flood Alleviation planning, although the principle of making space for storage of vast volumes of water has given way to wider/deeper flow channels.

#### **6.0 Neighbourhood Plan**

Freshford and Limpley Stoke Parish Councils are on the verge of submitting their draft Neighbourhood Plan to the Local Authorities for approval. It has been a lot of hard work but has brought the two communities and PC's much closer together which is very positive.

Nick Stevens also confirmed that Freshford PC had finally completed on the purchase of the Tynning. The cost of the purchase was progressed with a 30year loan from the Public Works Loans Board. In general obtaining the loan was a very straightforward process.

#### **7.0 Kennet and Avon Towpath Mooring Plan**

SC has spoken with Dave Batho about the recent publication of the Towpath Mooring Plan. It is his view that they have not taken into consideration the views of the PC, highlighting the example that the stretch of canal relevant to the VPA will have 14 separate neighbourhoods to monitor as opposed to the 4 suggested by the VPA. This will in essence make it easier for boaters to stay in each neighbourhood for up to 14 days, making it much harder to move boats out of the area.

Dave Batho confirmed to Simon Coombe that he was withdrawing his involvement from dealings with the Canal Trust. The VPA agreed that there was a need for another Canal champion, but as yet there was no one willing to come forward.

**Action: SC to invite Matthew Symonds from the K&A trust to the next VPA meeting.**

SC

<p><b>8.0 Finances</b>  SM proposed that the VPA membership was kept at the current rate for the next year. All those present were in agreement. The audited accounts will be sent to VPA members in due course. Attached account transactions were unanimously approved subject to the annual audit, which occurs in April (after the end of the financial year).</p> <p><b>Action: IMR to send out membership invoices for 2014/15</b></p>	<b>IMR</b>
<p><b>9.0 Any Other Business</b>  SC raised the question of whether it would be appropriate for Bradford upon Avon to join the VPA. The members did not feel it appropriate for BoA to become a full member, as it was a District Council and significantly bigger than the current parishes.</p> <p><b>Action: SC to talk to the Major of BoA - John Potter about attending as an observer without voting rights.</b></p>	<b>SC</b>
<p><b>NEXT MEETING Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014,  Monkton Village Hall, 12.30pm</b></p>	