

**Valley Parishes Alliance Meeting
Annual General Meeting
4th March 2015
Monkton Combe Village Hall**

Present: Hugh Delap (Freshford), Simon Coombe (Limpley Stoke), Des Wighton (Monkton Combe), Tony McCann (Bathampton), Anna Beria (Claverton), Alan Parker (Westwood), Chris Jenson (Claverton), Mike Townly (Batheaston), Steve Mackerness (Bathford), Robin Davies (Winsley), David Gwyther (Limpley Stoke)

Ingrid Maher Roberts – Minute secretary

<p>1.0 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Vito Pecchia (Batheaston), Nick Stephens (Freshford), Lyn Alvis (Monkton Combe), Hugh Baker (Bathford). Sincere condolences on behalf of the VPA were sent to Hugh Baker for the sudden death of his wife.</p> <p>2.0 Chairman’s report SC believes it had been another good year for the VPA. The work they were doing was gathering momentum and traction within the political community. The VPA was gaining confidence and should be proud of the ground breaking work that is being done with the Highways Agency and Canal and Rivers Trust. The Parishes within the VPA may not always agree, but are working well to deal with differences.</p> <p>3.0 Finance Report All subscriptions for the year were paid and there is £3413.61 in the bank account. It was proposed that the VPA subscriptions should remain the same for 2015/16. Large PC’s to pay £150.00 and small PC’s to pay £100.00. All VPA members present unanimously agreed with this proposal. HD suggested that Hinton Charterhouse might become members of the VPA. They currently sit on the VPA Highways agency sub committee. VPA members agreed that they would look positively on an application by Hinton Charterhouse to join the VPA. SC will be making a presentation to BoA Town Council and it was agreed that they too be asked to consider becoming members of the VPA. If BoA joined, it would be on a one-man one-vote basis.</p> <p>Action – HD to discuss VPA membership with HCPC. Action – SC to discuss VPA membership with BoA Town Council Action – IMR to send out VPA annual subscription invoices</p>	<p>HD SC IMR</p>
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<p>4.0 Election of Committee Members SC will be stepping down as Chair and as there is no one willing to become the new Chair, this role will be undertaken on a rotation basis. SC agreed to be acting Chair at the next meeting. It was proposed that SM should continue as treasurer and IMR as VPA secretary. All VPA members present agreed with this proposal.</p> <p>5.0 Previous minutes 10th December 2014 and matters arising. The communications sub committee set up as an action point from the last VPA meeting has been working hard and have written directly to the Parliamentary candidates of the five main parties for the three seats which are most influenced by the Link Road (namely Bath, NE Somerset and Chippenham) and, in the absence of prospective candidate names, the existing Conservative and Lib Dem candidates for the B&NES Council. Duncan Haimes MP for Chippenham and surrounding area has been very supportive. He believes that Corsham station may be reopened and if this was the case, it would be very unlikely that another station would open at Bathampton. A positive if vague response has also been received from Jacob Rees Mogg. No response has been received from any Bath candidates. The communication sub committee are currently drafting a letter to go into the Bath Chronicle and Wilshire Times. The committee will also look at the benefits of social media for raising the profile of the VPA.</p> <p>6.0 Bath Transportation Plan The Highways Agency is aware of a plan put forward by others for a link between the A36 and A46 trunk roads, which might incorporate a park and rail facility. Their strategic route review is on going and will take account of evidence that will inform that review as it emerges. The meeting took the view that with the stability of the A36 requiring lengthy full closures so that repairs can be made the case for the A350 as an alternative must be strengthening. Add to that the support being given to the upgrading of the A350 through Wiltshire by Wiltshire Council Action – HD to ask for a written statement from the HA about their views on the Link road scheme.</p> <p>7.0 VPA Highways meeting This meeting was held on the 3rd March. The HA communications team are very interested in the role of the VPA HA group and are keen to role out similar practices across the country. Ultimately the HA runs a system for long distance traffic, its focus is not on smaller local traffic issues. That said, due to the positive working relationship it has with the VPA, the HA are very responsive to VPA</p>	<p>HD</p>
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<p>correspondence. This has helped particularly with A36 road closure communication. HD requested that VPA members put reminders in their PC newsletters with the relevant contact details for road and traffic issues.</p>	
<p>8.0 A36 road closure between Brassknocker Hill and Bathampton HD was asked to raise with the HA the suggestion that a manned gate house be placed at the A350 round about directing large lorries to use the A350, as there has already been a number of large lorries passing through the barriers at Brassknocker hill. Action: HD to discuss with Sean Walsh of HA</p>	<p>HD</p>
<p>9.0 Community Infrastructure Levy – B&NES The CIL has now been approved with a cost of £100per sqm on all new residential developments and extensions. It was agreed that it had been useful for the VPA to have the cross border information on what other Councils were charging.</p>	
<p>10.0 Neighbourhood Plan update The Freshford and Limpley Stoke NP has now passed Independent Inspection and will be moving to Referendum as soon as it can be organised by the Local Authorities.</p>	
<p>11.0 VPA K&A Canal Committee DS has agreed to join this committee and AB will attend meetings if DS is unable to. The C&RT are currently in the process of consulting over their Mooring Plan. SC to talk to BoA and ask if they would be interested in joining this committee. Action: SC to discuss K&A Canal Committee with BoA</p>	<p>SC</p>
<p>12.0 AOB Tony McCann will be stepping down as a Parish Cllr at the election in May. SC on behalf of the VPA thanked him for his tremendous contribution since the VPA was established. Hugh Delap will also be standing down from Freshford Parish Council in May. He will discuss with his PC about his role on the VPA HA group going forward. The VPA agreed that lay people could represent the VPA on sub committees if the respective Parishes had nominated them.</p>	
<p>The meeting ended at 1.45pm</p>	
<p>NEXT VPA Meetings: 3rd June 2015 16th September 2015 2nd December 2015</p>	
<p>Monkton Combe Village Hall</p>	

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