

WFAC Report for October

WFAC held its AGM on 16th October.

The following trustees were elected:

Jackie Head	Chair
Pam Haynes	Secretary
James Collier	Vice Chair
Rod Head	Treasurer
Rob Dinn	Trustee

We await confirmation of the PC nominated trustees.

A full Trustee meeting will be held on 6th November

A sub group has been set up to look at all potential avenues for grant funding.

This group comprises of Diane Bratt, Keith Mitchell, James Collier(sub group chair), John Critchfield, Gareth Jones, Rueben Brown and Jackie Head.

Particular areas to focus on will be the FA, Sports England, The Lottery, Cherwell DC and the Arts Council. This group will meet again very shortly.

A second sub group is now investigating a website update. This group comprises Jackie Head, Gareth Jones, Laura Walker, Diane Bratt and Pam Haynes. The first meeting is 30th October.

Finally a Fundraising group will meet on 14th November to analyse events held so far and to plan activities for 2020.

On that note, please note that there are still tickets available for the Autumn Ball on November 9th.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

I am delighted to report that we have had a busy and productive 12 months with notable successes on the progress of the Milton road development and allied fundraising efforts, there has been a lot of cake!

I must pay tribute to all the WFAC Trustees who have served over this period, Pam Haynes, Kate Gibbins, James Collier, Keith Mitchell, Martin Rye and Victoria Head. Not forgetting of course other key members Gareth Jones, Rod Head and Rowland Bratt who all helped drive the project forward.

Key to our success has also been the unstinting efforts of the Parish Council Chairman, Diane Bratt, who has had to deal with a lively and somewhat opinionated group.

To get to where we are now has been an interesting journey. At the very start two of our key objectives was to communicate with the village as a whole and to be transparent in all that we do. To that end we have invited the village to various events, a cheese and wine evening to increase

membership and a presentation evening where we able to show the initial architect plans and invite discussion.

As Chair I was also asked to make a presentation at the annual parish council meeting which turned out to be a somewhat interesting event. One of the outcomes of this meeting was a call for a second parish poll asking the village if it wanted to divert the section 106 money already allocated to Milton road to fund traffic calming measures. This was firmly rejected.

Throughout the year the Building group has met to refine the original plans with constant reference to village surveys and opinions and also in the light of usage research. The centre has to be self-sufficient and cannot be a drain on village funds. Work has been carried out contacting potential users to determine how often the facility might be used and how much they might be prepared to pay. This information is now being incorporated into a viable business plan.

Final plans which you can see here this evening are about to be submitted to Cherwell District Council and we await their decision.

Once we have full planning permission we can then apply for grant funding and a small group has been set up to research various avenues. Currently we will be looking to the Football Association, Sport England, Lottery, Cherwell DC and the Arts Council. James Collier has stepped forward to drive this through. We would be delighted to accept any offers of help in this area.

Two years ago we decided that we needed to begin fundraising, clearly to raise much needed money but also to give WFAC a face and raise awareness of the project. Our most public event has been Aunt Agatha's Afternoon Teas which have been held successfully on a regular basis. Together with 2 Balls, 2 Community Days, a Classical Concert and 2 Quizzes. We are about to plan 2020 so watch this space.

All of these events could not have happened without the unstinting support of 2 trustees, Kate Gibbins and Pam Haynes. My sincere thanks to you both. Of course there has been many other helpers and my apologies for not mentioning you all by name.

We now need to get a bit more organised and to widen the group of helpers. We have an approximate idea of costs and if anything our fundraising activities need to increase.

We need to make much more use of our website and social media and also be much more switched on to publicity and promotional activity. Again we would welcome any help in this area.

Finally I believe that we can now go forward with a facility that we can be proud of and one which will prove to be a long term asset for the village as a whole.