

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SPINNEY PROJECT
COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2006
LLANFAIR HOUSE, ST MARY CHURCH**

PRESENT:

Melanie O'Neill
Lindsay Turner
Carolyn McKenzie
Tim McIlveen
Celia Leeke
John Casey
Jim Teague
Angus Thody
Sarah Wallace

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Marian Hale

1. FORMALITIES

1.1 Broad aims/objectives.

The broad aims of the Project were outlined, which are to improve the Spinney by repairing trees, paths etc and generally making it a much more pleasant and safe place for residents.

1.2 Membership

It was agreed that membership of the group should not be limited in number and there would be a probable need for working groups

1.3 Appointments. The following persons were elected:

Chair: Melanie O'Neill
Secretary: Sarah Wallace
Treasurer: Carolyn McKenzie

1.4 Melanie has received a copy of a draft constitution, which is being considered for adoption

2. BUSINESS

2.1 Mission Statement. Melanie is to draft a statement and bring to the committee for suggestions and approval at the next meeting.

2.2 Actions/initiatives taken prior to formulation of committee.

Melanie outlined the following courses of action which have been taken:

- (i) Canon Belcher has been approached. Melanie has written a letter to Canon Belcher which will be passed through the Sector, PCC and Community Councils. John

reported that the matter has been passed for approval by the Sector. The PCC meets in March and the Community Council in April. It was agreed that the Community Council Solicitors, Larby Williams, can be contacted before the CC meeting. The possibility of Solicitors' fees was discussed, and it was suggested that these might be met through the retainer fee.

- (ii) She has had preliminary talks with various organisations in connection with funding, e.g. VCVS
- (iii) Photographs of the Spinney have been taken which will be useful as a future guide and will also prove a valuable historical record
- (iv) A Tree Surgeon from Treescene Ltd has visited the Spinney to identify trees with Tree Preservation Orders (approximately 25 trees), assess the work which might have to be undertaken and also to provide an estimate for the cost of the proposed work. The amount quoted is £2150 excluding VAT. He will liaise with the Electricity Board as the branches of one tree are encroaching on an electricity pylon. John Casey informed Melanie that David Ilsey has a list of the trees which have Tree Preservation Orders on them and Melanie will contact him for this list.
- (v) Melanie has been verbally canvassing residents locally and reported that she has received some very positive feedback

2.3 (i) Angus will be setting up a village website, originally intended for Spinney Project news, but it will be also useful for a number of matters, including the posting of information and also for leafleting. Angus reported that the probable name for the website will be stmarychurch.org.uk. It was suggested that a forum could be included on the website, both for contributions and also to help maintain interest in the Project, together with historical information on the village, and photographs of the Spinney. A diary of fundraising events, together with a Church timetable would also be useful for the website. John reported that he has an up-to-date list of residents, and he will give a copy to Melanie.

(ii) The matter of canvassing residents via a questionnaire was discussed, by which residents may not only be able to give their opinions, but would also be able to offer help.

2.4 **Raising funds.** It was agreed that the Project would be unable to obtain a Bank account or to apply for funds without a constitution (see 1.4 above). Members were also asked to consider ideas for fundraising events. The possible Village constitution was discussed which is being formulated in order that a bank account may be administered for future fundraising projects.

3. FUTURE CONDUCT

Frequency of

3.1 **Meetings** – to be decided at a future date

3.2 **Location** – to be decided at a future date

3.3 Agenda Items

- (i) Flier to residents. Members were asked to consider questions for this.
- (ii) Draft project plan. Members were asked to consider and bring to next meeting with amendments/suggestions
- (iii) Website

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 4.1 Jim reported that Llanfair Primary School would be holding a grand opening of the new School Hall on Saturday 1st April. This will be an all day event from 10.00 a.m. He also reported that the School is keen for the Hall to be used for the local community. The School is in the process of obtaining the appropriate licences. It was agreed that the Hall could be a possible venue for future open meetings of the Project.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 6th March at 7.00p.m. at Llanfair House.