

RURAL FORUM MEETING

Thursday 24 July 2010

Sambrook Village Hall

Present:

Richard Bruce	Newly Elected Chair
Caroline Oakes	T&WC
Jan Williams	T&WC
Lois Breen	CVS
Claire Brodrick	Rodington PC
Andrew Careless	T&WC
Paul Doherty	Edgmond Village Hall
J. Wright	Tibberton & Cherrington PC
Sue Parsons	Little Wenlock Village Hall
Louise Hughes	Ercall Magna PC
Louise Holland	WHT
David Adams	

		<u>Action</u>																												
1. Welcome & Introductions	<p>Caroline opened the meeting thanking people for their attendance.</p> <p>Caroline then spoke of the election of a Chair to lead the group. Richard Bruce, who joined the group in March, was happy to fill this role and to look at the development of the group.</p> <p>Members present agreed that Richard take this role and welcomed him into the roll.</p> <p>Richard can be contacted via email brdbruce@aol.com</p>																													
2. Apologies	<table> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jaz Sandhu</td> <td>TCAT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mick Lloyd</td> <td>CVS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rachael Jones</td> <td>T&WC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deb Williams</td> <td>T&WC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Katrina Baker</td> <td>Wrekin Area Committee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Karen Roper</td> <td>SALC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clare Rowson</td> <td>Countryside Alliance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hilda Bertie</td> <td>T&WC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Angela Holloway</td> <td>T&WC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Gray</td> <td>Ercall Magna PC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steve Jaggs</td> <td>Tibberton & Cherrington PC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jill Seymour</td> <td>Wrekin Area Committee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dave Hanley</td> <td>T&WC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Gray</td> <td>Edgmond PC</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Cllrs Eric Carter, Sean Kelly, Jacqui Seymour & Tracy Hope were called to a cabinet meeting therefore apologies were submitted from them all.</p>	Jaz Sandhu	TCAT	Mick Lloyd	CVS	Rachael Jones	T&WC	Deb Williams	T&WC	Katrina Baker	Wrekin Area Committee	Karen Roper	SALC	Clare Rowson	Countryside Alliance	Hilda Bertie	T&WC	Angela Holloway	T&WC	John Gray	Ercall Magna PC	Steve Jaggs	Tibberton & Cherrington PC	Jill Seymour	Wrekin Area Committee	Dave Hanley	T&WC	John Gray	Edgmond PC	
Jaz Sandhu	TCAT																													
Mick Lloyd	CVS																													
Rachael Jones	T&WC																													
Deb Williams	T&WC																													
Katrina Baker	Wrekin Area Committee																													
Karen Roper	SALC																													
Clare Rowson	Countryside Alliance																													
Hilda Bertie	T&WC																													
Angela Holloway	T&WC																													
John Gray	Ercall Magna PC																													
Steve Jaggs	Tibberton & Cherrington PC																													
Jill Seymour	Wrekin Area Committee																													
Dave Hanley	T&WC																													
John Gray	Edgmond PC																													

<p>3. Minutes of Previous Meeting</p>	<p>The March 2010 minutes previously distributed were accepted as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising.</p> <p>Caroline update members on the topics from the previous minutes: Communication – it was hoped that the Rural Newsletter would be available for tonight’s meeting, unfortunately she has been let down. As soon as it is in print members will be forwarded an electronic copy. Rural Housing – the housing needs survey is on-going. The results will be available as soon as it is complete. Climate Change – on-going communication with Ben Boswell who is keen to attend a future forum meeting – please forward any ideas to Caroline. Rural Roads - this is also an on-going programme – please feedback to Caroline any difficulties. Rural Health – no information from the PCT</p>	
<p>4. Rights of Way – Andrew Careless</p>	<p>Andrew introduced himself and spoke of the work that the service is involved in and its commitment. There are over 400km rights of way in Telford & Wrekin and a new Improvement Plan has been developed through extensive consultation with the public. The plan will be available on the web site once it has been approved. The service wants to work with rural parishes on a network of improvements to develop areas for use by local residents for leisure activities and maybe promote for tourism. This would provide increased and enhanced opportunities in terms of access, health, recreation and leisure. Rural tourism development would also help local businesses such as shops, pubs & restaurants, B & Bs etc. The current plan is also sympathetic to the environment needs. Andrew is very keen to hear ideas and is very keen to work with Parish & Town Councils, farmers and landowners as well as local residents, horse riding, walking and bi-cycling groups etc. He is keen for each area to erect their own notice board in which local maps could be displayed, better signposts and general clearing work to be undertaken. Andrew and his colleague Jas can be contacted on 01952 384614/5 email: Andrew.careless@telford.gov.uk or Jassidhu@telford.gov.uk both are very keen to attend any meetings with groups or for general advice. It was agreed to ask Andrew to attend another forum meeting in the future.</p>	
<p>5. The future of Village Hall Sub Group:</p>	<p>Paul Doherty submitted the following – ‘I don’t know how many village halls there are in</p>	

	<p>T&W. I suspect it would be a tortuous process to try to find out who to contact at each and every one. Yet with no apparent central database of contacts, information or experience, we are all losing out.</p> <p>At Edgmond we recently looked into buying new chairs. It would have been so helpful if we could have drawn on other halls' experiences – as it was we started from scratch. We have old chairs to give away now – how great it would be if I could contact other village halls to see if they were interested. I've also discovered a charity in Northamptonshire that takes away unwanted chairs and recycles them in educational projects in Africa. I'd like to share that information in an easily accessible and public forum. It beats paying £5 for them to be recycled in Bridgnorth.</p> <p>The same applies to another project we might move onto – broadband provision at the village hall. Do any other halls have broadband? Are there recognised suppliers for this sort of service? What are the pitfalls?</p> <p>At Edgmond we are looking at the future of our hall and need to talk to other halls in the area about all sorts of things, but there is no central resource for this. Who is building? Who is thinking of building? It is all about not re-inventing the wheel every time. That is why I hope T&W through its rural forum could provide village halls with the sense of 'federation' that would help all the hard working volunteers that keep village halls open for business – and at the same time ticking lots of LDF boxes with regards to supporting sustainable local communities.</p> <p>Lois Breen from the CVS stated the difficulty with holding information – most keyholders are volunteers, so to display and pass over personal contact details is very delicate. The CVS have some contact details and Lois is keen to help promote village halls. Gill Porter of Shropshire Community Council is an advisor for village halls – some contact information is available on their website.</p> <p>Caroline suggested that once the new web site is up and running we may be able to include information on the rural affairs link.</p> <p>All agreed that this subject needed to be looked at again in more depth at a future meeting.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Way Forward – Richard Bruce</p> <p>As discussed in past meetings, for the group to achieve and grow it is important that membership and ideas are shared.</p> <p>Richard suggested alternative venues for the next</p>	

	<p>meetings and to involve local business. – NOM Dairy. NOM have expressed an interest in working with the local community – Richard has made links with them and is looking at various opportunities.</p> <p>The next meeting will take place at Harper Adams – the host will make a short presentation of their community involvement. The meeting will also be used to work in interest breakout groups. These groups will be</p> <p>A – Community (including access to services and village halls)</p> <p>B – transport</p> <p>C – Business – including rural broadband</p> <p>D – land use and planning (including agriculture)</p> <p>A volunteer to steer on each interest group will be required – please let Caroline or Richard know if you have an interest. Lois volunteered to lead the Community Group.</p> <p>Members discussed the ideas and came forward with the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ How do we encourage better attendance ❖ Danger of imaging the work of Parishes ❖ Need better engagement with farmers ❖ Need to link with business run from home ❖ Look at things at a different level – strength in number on a common ground ❖ Work across parishes ❖ Form groups – and use the forum as a spokesman. <p>If any member has an idea or information they would like to raise at the next meeting, please let Caroline or Richard know asap.</p> <p>Richard said the meeting may have to be extended to finish at 9.30pm</p> <p>AOB</p> <p>Paula highlighted the problem of advertising local events i.e. summer fates etc. What is the law / guidelines set out by T&WC.</p> <p>Draft TOR leaflet should be available by August – presently with Electoral Role. It is hoped that they will encourage membership.</p> <p>Newport are keen to look develop links with schools, maybe the forum would also like to look into this type of link.</p>	<p>Caroline to look into.</p>				
<p>7.</p>	<p>Dates for Future Meetings:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Thursday 14 October 7pm</td> <td>Harper Adams College</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday 19 January 7pm (Budget Consultation)</td> <td>Longon-upon-Tern Village Hall</td> </tr> </table>	Thursday 14 October 7pm	Harper Adams College	Wednesday 19 January 7pm (Budget Consultation)	Longon-upon-Tern Village Hall	
Thursday 14 October 7pm	Harper Adams College					
Wednesday 19 January 7pm (Budget Consultation)	Longon-upon-Tern Village Hall					