

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPINNEY PROJECT COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2006 AT LLANFAIR HOUSE, ST MARY CHURCH

PRESENT:

Melanie O'Neill
Jim Teague
Lindsay Turner
Angus Thody
Sarah Wallace (Minutes)

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Carolyn McKenzie, Celia Leeke and Tim McIlveen

(2) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed

(3) MATTERS ARISING

(4) Progress with Church. Jim reported that a meeting had taken place on 21st August between representatives of the Residents' Association (Jim Teague, Melanie O'Neill, Malcolm Waskett and Geoff Simpson) and representatives of the PCC (Elizabeth Evans, David Ilsley, David Sheen and John Casey) to discuss the present situation regarding the Residents' Association with regard to finance, fundraising etc. This meeting had gone extremely well and it had been agreed that the Residents' Association will give the sum of £1500 per annum to the PCC for Church funds. A lengthy discussion had taken place at the meeting about ways of spending money on the Church in terms of turning it into a community facility, for example a film night. It was agreed that it had been a very constructive meeting.

(4) PROGRESS OF WORK

Melanie is obtaining re-quotes for the tree work, in view of the time difference between originally obtaining the quotes and commencement of the work. As Avian Business Community has been set up to give work to people in the Barry area and is a non-profit organisation, the group agreed that if possible their quote should be accepted. The original quote was for approximately £9000 and Melanie has asked for a breakdown of this amount. Avian will charge for work done by the day, rather than for individual trees, which means that if they have completed work on the trees, they will be able to undertake other work, for example they will dig the stumps as far as they are able below ground level, and distribute logs and mulch to residents. The group agreed that a small charge could be made to residents for this. A re-quote is also being obtained from Treescene. Melanie has started making enquiries about using the wood for making furniture and/or bowls with a view to marketing them, and has been advised that Ash would be more durable for outside use if maintained and would last for about 10-15 years, Sycamore has good bacterial properties and could therefore be used for chopping boards etc., Pine would be good for making "stickers" which are used for layering timber when it is being seasoned. A mobile sawmill could be hired at a cost of approximately £300/per day. The Group were asked to consider the viability

of making and selling products, and considered that this might not be cost-effective. The timber will probably therefore be turned into logs as above. Melanie is to find out what other work Avian might be able to provide, as they might be asked to do further work, for example, levelling and digging in topsoil for turfing, and digging a trench for electricity cabling. At this point Lindsay asked if there would be any planting of shrubs, and was informed that the area would be completely grassed to begin with as a "blank canvas" and shrubs planted at a later date.

It was agreed that an afternoon should be allotted at the end of October (possibly 29 October from 2.00p.m. to 3.00p.m.), when members of the group would be available to explain to residents about exactly what work will take place in the Spinney, e.g. which trees will be felled (these will be clearly marked), the produce and distribution of logs etc. A letter will be distributed to residents inviting them to attend and also stating that they might like to visit the Spinney beforehand. Melanie is to approach the Council to ask about taking off Tree Preservation Orders.

A letter has been sent to Canon Belcher (copies to David Ilesley and David Sheen) in advance of work, in case any other ramifications are needed. A letter has also been sent in connection with the lighting of the Spinney. Low level downlighting (triggered by sensor) was considered and also 2 spotlights for events. If 2 x 1000W spotlights were used, the approximate costing for this would be 18.35p/hour. Jim Teague and Malcolm Waskett have met to discuss the possibility of pillar lighting. These would use 60-100W low energy bulbs, with a sensor built into each pillar. It was thought that approximately 10 pillar lights would be needed in total. The possibility of wiring some lighting into a lamppost was discussed. This is the responsibility of Western Power and not the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Western Power will therefore be contacted about this, and/or whether a power outlet could be provided.

(5) FUNDING

A grant of 5000 has been received from Kickstart. A formal presentation is to be made in September at Dyffryn Gardens. Melanie will attend and invited members of the Group to attend. VCVS have continued to be extremely helpful and have provided Melanie with details of funding opportunities. One stipulation of the grant was that work would start within three months of receipt of the cheque, but when it was pointed out that this timescale might not be practical, Kickstart stated that a meeting of the Group would be sufficient.

(6) WEBSITE

Geoff Simpson is to be approached about providing details of a wildlife watch. Melanie will provide details of the funding details and also the Barbecue and Tennis events.

(7) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing to report at this time.

(8) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 15th November at 7.00p.m. at Llanfair House.