

STANDISH VOICE

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 21, 2023

The meeting commenced at 7.45pm

Management Committee present: Paul Ogden, Gill Foster, Allan Foster, Sharon Gerrard, Kathy Robertson, Diane Gore, Ron Wade, Fran Aiken, Karen Bliss, Sarah Djali.

1. **Apologies:** Janet Monks, Andrew Holliday, Nicky Ogden, Ian Trafford.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of November's Management Committee meeting were passed without alteration.
3. **Meetings with Wigan Council.** Gill and Paul talked about the recent meeting with Wigan Council and said the meetings would now take place every 6 weeks. Paul said the issue of pressure on Standish Medical Practice was raised due to the high amount of new patients and the council said they would look into this and liaise with Healthier Wigan Partnership. The village centre improvement scheme was discussed and the council will look at these plans again and report back. Standish Western Cycle Route. This is a planned cycle route and footpath upgrade from Standish centre to Wigan, down Standish Wood Lane and part of the old Line. There will be a public consultation on this route in summer. The repairs to St Wilfrid's Church spire were raised and the council said it would liaise with the conservation officer over this.
4. **106 Section schemes.** Gill said the council has said the current schemes had to be completed before others were identified and planned but the car parking working group would be established. Paul said there had been a great deal of dissatisfaction with the cycle path scheme on Preston Road but the councillors were looking into the details of this.
5. **Planning applications.** Arbour Lane. Allan said Standish Voice had objected to a planning application to build 5 large homes on Arbour Lane as the plan is for the Green Belt where this type of development is not allowed.
6. **Standish Christmas Market:** Kathy outlined that the Market on December 3 had been a great success with few issues raised. There had been a follow up meeting with volunteers who had come back with ideas of how to improve the 2023 event. A profit of around £3,000 was made. Gill thanked Kathy and the Market team for their hard work in putting on the event and the committee decided a Market should be held in 2023, with Saturday December 2nd being the preferred date.
7. **Standish Medical Practice:** Paul said the practice had recently put out a public appeal for understanding due to the pressures on the surgery. One of the GP partners had stated, as reported in the press, that nationally recognised problems in primary care had been made worse by the huge increase recently in the patient list due to "relentless housebuilding". Standish Voice has made a statement saying the former CCG (now ICB Healthier Wigan) has failed to flag problems of capacity in the planning process when housing applications were logged and not

- upgraded services while housebuilding was taking place. Wigan Council said it would liaise with Healthier Wigan about the situation and report back at our next meeting.
8. **St Wilfrid's Church Spire:** Paul said a committee had been established by the church to fundraise for repairs to the spire, which is in the region of £400,000. Paul is on the committee and will report back with progress.
 9. **Owl Festival.** Fran said the Friends of Standish Library were organising Owlfest, a celebration of the symbol of Standish, with a number of activities, in late April. The committee expressed its support and agreed to give the event £500 as main sponsor of the event.
 10. **Update from lead committee members:** Ron said he was organising the building of bird boxes with two local schools and would be appealing for donations of wood to help with this. Paul said Councillor Debbie Parkinson was organising a series of community coffee mornings for the year ahead and was again using Standish Voice's bank account to pay for the expenses, with money from her Brighter Borough Fund.
 7. **Date of next meeting:** March 21st.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm