

# **STANDISH VOICE**

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 20, 2024

**The meeting commenced at 7.45pm**

**Management Committee present:** Paul Ogden, Sharon Gerrard, Kathy Robertson, Fran Aiken, Nicky Ogden, Sarah Djali, Judith Atherton.

1. **Apologies:** Gill Foster, Ian Trafford, Karen Bliss, Allan Foster, Ron Wade, Janet Monks, Diane Gore.
2. **Declarations of interest:** Paul Ogden and Nicky Ogden for Pepper Lane planning application as they live near the site.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of November's Management Committee meeting were passed without alteration.
4. **Update:** Paul advised that Gill had attended a meeting with Wigan Council in January where a number of subjects were discussed. There was no update about the future of Kilhey Court – the council was still in discussion with Macdonald Hotels. Work on Bradley Lane Bridge lights had been due to start on February 17<sup>th</sup> and the bridge was currently closed to traffic while it went ahead. On Wigan borough's Local Plan, the council has said discussions with Standish Voice will be continuing after the latest round of consultation is completed.
5. **Planning Applications:**
  - i) Pepper Lane. Paul outlined the planning application from Persimmon Homes for 57 homes off Pepper Lane. He said this was the first new application for safeguarded land since the adoption of Standish Neighbourhood Plan and Standish Voice would object as it breached several policies within the plan, the proposed access was dangerous and local infrastructure could not support it. He said social media and a press release to the local media would encourage residents to also object to the application.
  - ii) Preston Road. Paul outlined a planning application for green belt land on Preston Road. This would be objected to as it was inappropriate development for the green belt.
6. **Robin Hill Tree Planting:** In the absence of Ron, Councillor Terry Mugan spoke about the day of tree planting at Robin Hill Field, organised by City of Trees. Terry said the day went well and there were enough volunteers, despite the inclement weather. Around 250 trees were planted and students and staff from Standish High School also took part. Paul said a poll would be held to select a name for the field with the word 'park' at the end.
7. **Standish Crossroads Traffic Lights:** Sharon spoke about the need to investigate the timing of the lights in the centre of Standish to see if changing them, or using new equipment could reduce congestion. She said that at busy times of the day, some roads – especially Almond Brook Road and School Lane – were more

- congested than others and a change to the timing of the lights could help. The committee agreed to write to Wigan Council to ask that they look into this and also ask if there was new technology which could detect the build-up of traffic and change the lights sequence accordingly.
8. **Standish Christmas Market:** Kathy said an ‘after party’ thanking volunteers and sponsors went well and the first meeting to organise Standish Christmas Market 2024 would take place on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The date for this year’s Market would be November 30<sup>th</sup>.
  9. **Update from lead committee members:** Fran said the Friends of Standish Library would be holding events in early 2024 – one celebrating International Women’s Day, two tea parties and a Festival of Wellness week in May. Fran asked for a donation of £500 from SV towards the week, and the committee agreed to this. Kathy said she, Ian and Paul had met Caroline Tomlinson, CEO of My Life charity to discuss possibly working together to stage a summer event. Kathy said this would be considered by the Christmas Market committee.
  10. **Any other business:** Councillor Mugan talked about a road traffic accident at the new zebra crossing on Preston Road and how he is hoping to improve the crossing to prevent future incidents. He would be meeting with the council to discuss this.
  7. **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**The meeting ended at 8.30pm.**