

# **STANDISH VOICE**

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 18, 2025

**The meeting commenced at 7.45pm**

**Management Committee present:** Gill Foster, Paul Ogden, Allan Foster, Kathy Robertson, Sarah Djali, Sharon Gerrard, Fran Aiken, Judith Atherton

1. **Apologies:** Janet Monks, Diane Gore, Karen Bliss, Ian Trafford, Andrew Holliday, Ron Wade, Nicky Ogden
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the November Management Committee meeting were passed without alteration.
3. **Update:** Gill said that she, Paul and Ron had met Wigan Council recently and discussed a range of issues:
  - Morris Homes would not replace equipment on its playground at Copeland Drive and the council had no powers to compel them to.
  - The same company had been given an enforcement notice to carry out planned leisure improvements on its estate behind Standish Leisure Centre within 14 weeks or be potentially taken to court.
  - Ron had met the council to identify areas of Standish to plant new wildflowers.
  - Lighting on Bradley Lane bridge was with Network Rail to give their views on the proposals.
  - On new public rights of way, four proposals were with Wigan Council's legal department with one on the way.
  - Standish Voice told the council that a footpath leading from Robin Hill Lane to Robin Hill ponds was unfit for purpose and Bloor Homes should repair it. The council will look into this.
  - The council had allocated funds to pay for CCTV for sites across Standish village centre – more details would follow.
  - Standish Voice had given its concerns about frequently faulty traffic lights in the roadworks on Wigan Road.
4. **Planning applications:** Paul said that no appeals had yet been received by Wigan Council about the Pepper Lane and Chorley Road planning applications linked to housing which Wigan Council recently rejected. The developers had until April 8 to appeal.
5. **Wigan Local Plan:** The proposed changes to Standish village centre had been finalised by the council. National changes to planning policy had delayed progression of the plan.
6. **Ashfield Park improvements:** Gill said she and Paul had met the council about improvements to Ashfield Park, including footpaths, new outdoor gym equipment and a new older children's play area. She said path improvements would take

place at the end of March and plans were in place to improve drainage at the four playing fields. This work would go out to tender in autumn.

There were proposals to move the larger play area to near the toddler's play area and grass over the site. The new play area would cost around £200,000 and a new equipment would include a large rope climbing frame, which the council assured was safety compliant. The committee approved of the proposals but asked if the toddlers' play area could also be improved and the zip line kept in the new design as it was popular. The committee also asked if the orienteering posts could be retained.

The outdoor gym would cost about £27,500 and the committee approved.

Gill said that Southlands Rec would have drainage improvements and the council was hoping to instal a running track around the perimeter of the playing field.

Sport England would not allow any reduction in the size of the playing area so no other leisure improvements could take place there.

7. **Quakers Place:** The committee welcomed plans to increase capacity at Quakers Place car park from 18 parking spaces to 24. The trees fronting School Lane would be kept but vegetation removed in early March ready for the work to be done in summer. Cars would only be able to park for 3 hours.
8. **The Line Phase 2:** Gill said SV had been invited to a meeting to discuss footpaths and bridleways in Standish. The meeting discussed Phase 2 of The Line, which was being upgraded from Standish Wood Lane to Beech Hill. The committee asked for lighting, bins and bollards to stop motorised vehicles using it. These would be put to the council.
9. **Standish Christmas Market:** Kathy said the date of Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> had been chosen for the Market and the Market committee would meet at the end of the month. The after-party for volunteers went well. She said a report would be written about the circumstances surrounding any cancellation of the event due to adverse weather.
10. **Update from lead committee members:** None.
11. **AOB:** Gill added that SV needed to begin the process of redesignation as a Neighbourhood Forum which was ending after 5 years in May. A vote to take redesignation forward was unanimous.
7. **Date of next meeting:** March 18.

**The meeting ended at 9pm**