

The Community Action: Whitley & Shaw (CAWS) committee met at the Head Shed at 7pm.

1. **Welcome / Present /Apologies:**

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Alex Lunt who was attending for the first time.

Present: Peter Richardson; Pippa Richardson; Lesley Sibbald; Kirsty Jamieson; Nick Adsett; Maureen Hibbot; Alison Candlin; Joan Boorer; Ann Harrison; Mike Booth and Alex Lunt

Apologies: Mary Pile; Angela Ferris; Dan Pike

2. **Minutes and Actions from the meeting held on 27 July 2022**

All actions covered in agenda items below except for:

- Inclusion of the Spindles / Whitley Stores as a Community Asset. Discussions have started with SWCH as per the action. Peter has written to Alison with some thoughts about the process, and he met with Nathan on 06/09/2022 to discuss further. Key action following this discussion was for SWCH to have an open and transparent conversation with the owners with a view to seeking their support. Alison reported that they had already received letters of support from PAFOS and the Church, that MWPC were supportive, and that an initial conversation with the owners had taken place.
- In addition to the completed action of denoting existing committee members as 'voting' or 'non-voting' it was agreed that Councillor Stefano Patacchiola should be added to the list of non-voting members. **Action Lesley**

3. **Key Issues for discussion and agreement:**

3.1. **CAWS Funding of Community Projects:**

Peter explained that MWPC have confirmed that if CAWS were to issue a call for grant nominations, then it would likely lose its ability to request grants from MWPC and the Area Board on its own account. He had therefore edited his community funding paper to state that we will make direct funding/donations only.

Peter then led a discussion on which potential projects should be taken forward, without further resident consultation, and which should now be advertised to the community for support. The potential of setting up or supporting a 'warm bank' (a public space such as a community centre, church or other building where people who struggle to heat their homes this winter will be able to gather in a warm room) was discussed and added to the list.

The following projects and actions were agreed:

<p>Projects that CAWS will progress ASAP, without further discussion.</p>	<p>Discussions CAWS will have with residents and/or community groups regarding the appetite to set up new groups or special interest groups</p>	<p>Potential Projects that CAWS will consult with the community on to ascertain interest/support, and if necessary, prioritisation and/or provide alternative suggestions</p>
<p>1. A donation to Melksham Foodbank - £250 suggested and to be confirmed ex-committee</p>	<p>1. Community Garden/Veg Plot</p> <p>Action – Lesley to Contact the Whitley and Shaw Gardening Club to gauge interest and see if they might take the initiative forward.</p> <p>Action – if this is outside the remit of the Gardening Club, Peter will gauge other interest and seek a champion via Connect.</p> <p>Action – Pippa to investigate if space might be available on the Allotments next to Whitley Farm should there be interest.</p>	<p>1. Benches – on verges in the villages and/or on footpaths with a vista.</p>
<p>2. “Slow Down” stickers for wheelie bins (including the purchase of additional stickers if existing stocks are depleted)</p>	<p>2. Wildlife Group</p> <p>Action – Peter will gauge other interest and seek a champion via Connect.</p> <p>(Note - Bat Boxes may be an early initiative should there be interest)</p>	<p>2. Chatty Benches – a specific named bench to facilitate conversations (this is a scheme deployed successfully in Salisbury).</p>
<p>3. A display case for the Crown from the Create a Crown Competition</p> <p>Action - Nick to obtain 3 quotes.</p>	<p>3. Warm Bank</p> <p>Action – Peter will compare notes with MWPC and explore interest with the Reading Rooms and the Friendship Club et al to see if they might be able to host a regular event.</p> <p>Action - Subject to interest and a venue, CAWS to consider what support it may be able to offer to help support any additional costs at a future meeting.</p>	<p>3. Additional playground/gym equipment for Shaw Playing Field.</p>

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	(Note – subject to any interest, CAWS may also discuss at its next meeting what it might be able to do to support transport arrangements for any residents who might need assistance.)	
	4. Community Orchard Action – Peter to consult with the Neston Estate and the Golf Club to gauge interest.	4. Additional Topography sign (1) at the top of Littlewoth Lane to identify/explain the vista including the Roman Road, footpaths and any relevant local history, similar in style to the sign by the School on Corsham Road.
		5. Additional Topography sign (2) in the car park area at Shaw Village Hall to include any relevant local history and footpaths etc, again similar in style to the sign by the School on Corsham Road.
		Action – Peter to publicise the above options in Connect. Notes: 1 - CAWS should maximise the opportunity to seek match funding in any project that is taken forward. 2 – There was some discussion regarding a running track around the Shaw Playing field noting that this is potentially a longer-term project that should be led by SVH but which CAWS may decide to support in the future.

Jubilee tree planting:

Peter confirmed that some of the committee had walked around Shaw & Whitley to identify potential tree planting locations (Note: list circulated with the agenda). These details have been sent to MWPC for review and consultation with the Highways Engineer. Once this is complete Shaw & Whitley residents, Lowdens and the Wiltshire Tree Officer will be consulted regarding locations and species. Alex suggested using ‘What 3 Words’ app to identify locations by map.

Post meeting notes: 1) Action complete. 2) In view of the sad news regarding the death of Queen Elizabeth II, CAWS should also consider planting in her memory.

Planning Concerns:

Neighbourhood Plan: Peter explained that concerns continue regarding a potential allocation of 95 new houses to Shaw and Whitley and there is some resident anxiety regarding any development plans for First Lane, the large field opposite the Golf Club and School and elsewhere. These matters have been taken up with Phil Alford et al by reiterating our consultation response and asking for updates and feedback etc. Parish councillors and the Wiltshire Cabinet Member for planning have also been copied.

Bypass: Peter explained that a decision on the bypass appears to on hold pending a strategic review that will include a study on routes from the M4 to the south coast including the A350 (Melksham), A46/A36 (Bath) and the A34 (Newbury). If the A350 were to be identified as a preferred route, then the bypass project might be funded by central government. There has been anecdotal comment that without central government funding, the business case is now “marginal”.

General Finance Update:

Joan provided a summary of the CAWS accounts as follows:

- £500 paid to Shaw Village Hall as a contribution towards the cost of the new cooker.
- £60 to Roger Hatherall for auditing last year's accounts.

Current balances:

- CAWS - £7,098.22 / CEG - £483.84 /Total - £7,582.06

Joan also reported that the annual Insurance renewal had been received and that it had increased by £16, but she queried why we were paying for ‘employers’ liability’. **Action: Joan to query**

Update on CAWS Activities (where necessary / as appropriate):

- Phone Box / Library:** The committee agreed to defer the repainting of the box until 2023, unless further deterioration requires urgent action. Maureen reported that she had culled and tidied the books that morning.
- Litter Pick:** Confirmed as **Sunday 25th September 2022** meeting in Shaw CofE school at 1300. Lesley to promulgate on Facebook and WhatsApp groups. **Action Lesley**
- Internet connectivity improvement campaign:** Dan has confirmed that BDUK have published a colour coded map, but the key is unclear. Dan is investigating further.

2. Updates on other Community Activities as appropriate:

a. Speedwatch:

- i. Kirsty confirmed that there had been no speedwatch since before the pandemic. She was still awaiting formal training but was pursuing this.
- ii. Peter reported on his discussions with Teresa Strong as follows:

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A range of speed calming measures have been proposed to MWPC including improved 30 MPH signage, 20 MPH limits/zones, Speed Indicator Displays, Traffic Surveys etc. MWPC will reply in writing in due course, but in the meantime the summary appears to be:

- 30 MPH signage – additional signage will not be provided (or supported) as that would breach current regulations. CAWS is strongly advised not to deploy its own signage.
- Traffic Light Shutters – MWPC will consider adding these to the lights at the end of Corsham Road by the Church (the previous lighted were shuttered).
- 20 MPH Limits on the lanes – unlikely to be considered for funding as a key criterion is that the average existing speed is less than 24 MPH.
- 20 MPH Zones – there is confusion about whether such a scheme would need to include traffic calming measures. If these had to be included that would need the input of the emergency services and residents. MWPC will investigate whether a zone can be introduced without calming measures.
- Speed Indicator Displays (SID) – a permanent SID will not be provided as TRL research shows that after 2 weeks the signs become largely redundant. MWPC will continue to deploy SIDs to the villages on a rotation basis.

Action – Kirsty to provide Peter with any evidence that shows, notwithstanding MWPC comments, that permanent signs are a useful deterrent

- Traffic Speed Surveys – not required as previous surveys show average speed is above 35.1 MPH and this allows Speedwatch to be deployed. If a survey showed that average speed was lower, we might lose Speedwatch.
- Awareness – MWPC will consider putting an article in Connect and Melksham News etc.

b. **MWPC News:** Nothing to report.

c. **CEG:** Peter reported that a grant of £1,400 had been approved from SSE in support of the CEG (payment pending).

d. **Whitley Stores:** Other than the ACV issue discussed above, there was nothing to report.

3. **Other Community Events and Planning updates (where necessary): (Chair)**

a. **Melksham Climatefest:** (information forwarded separately in advance of the meeting) It was agreed that there was no benefit to CAWS from direct participation in this event but CAWS members are encouraged to attend if they have time.

4. **AOB**

a. **Christ Church Shaw Christmas Tree Festival:** CAWS had been invited to participate in a Christmas Tree Festival in Christ Church Shaw on Friday to Sunday 2nd to 4th December 2022. This was agreed and Pippa / Peter offered to loan a suitable tree which would need 'ornaments' depicting CAWS activities. All committee members were asked to help with making these. **Action: All**

b. **WhatsApp Group:** Peter advised that the CAWS WhatsApp group now had more than 30 members and would help in speedy communication with residents.

Action – all to use the WhatsApp group if possible.

c. Ann reminded everyone that a Cream Tree was being held in Shaw Church on Sunday 11th September from 140 – 1600. **Post meeting note:** Now postponed following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

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5. **Date of next meeting:** **Wednesday 2nd November** at the Headshed, commencing at 1900hrs.
6. **Closure:** Peter thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting at 2032hrs

Distribution:

Action addressees: Peter Richardson, Pippa Richardson; Mary Pile. Angela Ferris; Lesley Sibbald; Dan Pike, Kirsty Jamieson; Nick Adsett; Maureen Hibbot. Alison Candlin; Joan Boorer; Ann Harrison; Alex Lunt and Mike Booth.

Copy addressees: Melksham Without Parish Office; Councillor Terry Chivers; Councillor Phil Alford; Councillor Stefano Patacchiola; Alan Paterson, Wiltshire Police.