



ROSS-ON-WYE TOWN PLAN AGM

Thursday 3rd January 2008

7pm

The Larruperz centre

Present: Chris Bartrum (Secretary), Jane Roberts (Chairperson), John Edwards (Treasurer), Mary Brewin, Caroline Utting, Sue Lampert, Rosamund Skelton, Nathan Avard, Robert Ratcliffe, Dai Harries, Nigel Gibbs, Colin Gray, Brian Marshall, Stephen Earl, Rob Brain, Jeronimo Maeso-Castrillon, Denis Claringbull and Jo Lane (Publicity Co-ordinator).

Apologies: Judith Landau, Richard and Pat Pope, David Smith, James Weatherhead.

Welcome: Jane welcomed everyone to the meeting and said how encouraging it was to see a few new faces.

Arrangements for AGM: first would be the election of officers to the Steering Group followed by an ordinary meeting of RoWToP. The Steering group would also vote on co-opting those with specific skills or representing specific groups for whom there is not room on the Steering Group.

Confirmation of membership of the Steering Group: Jane read out the membership list and asked each person to identify themselves.

Chair: Cllr. Jane Roberts, Secretary: Cllr. Chris Bartrum, Treasurer: Cllr. John Edwards, Publicity Co-ordinator: Cllr. Jo Lane. Stage 1 Working Group: Caroline Utting, Mary Brewin, Denis Claringbull, Judith Landau, David Smith. Stage 2 Working group: Brian Atherton, Dai Harries, Rob Brain. Fundraising Group: Cllr. David Ravenscroft. Two vacancies reserved for younger members of the community.

Adoption of the constitution: Adoption of the constitution was proposed by Rob Brain, seconded by Denis Claringbull and carried unanimously.

Co-option of additional members:

1. James Weatherhead (Ross Rural Council member) Carried unanimously.
2. Nathan Avard. As Nathan is 33 it was felt he would qualify for one of the places reserved on the Steering Group for younger members of the community and was, therefore, adopted as a full member.
3. Nigel Gibbs (to represent tourism in Ross) Carried unanimously.
4. A representative from Ross Civic Society - to be confirmed.
5. Stephen Earl (Ross Cricket Club) carried unanimously.
6. Colin Gray (Tudorville Community Association) Carried unanimously.

Jo Lane said that she has a young man she would like to propose is co-opted at a future meeting.

Election of officers:

Secretary - Chris Bartrum proposed Caroline Utting who was elected unanimously and unopposed. Caroline then took over from Chris.

Treasurer - Chris Bartrum proposed John Edwards who was elected unanimously and unopposed. John said he would be happy to step aside should someone else wish to take over the role at a future date.

Publicity Officer - Chris Bartrum proposed Jo Lane who was elected unanimously and unopposed. Jo said she would be happy to step aside should someone else wish to take over the role at a future date.

Dai Harries said that he would be willing to take on one of the officer roles after April.

Volunteer Co-ordinator - there were no nominations for this post. Jane felt that it was not urgent to appoint someone. Dai suggested a subcommittee be set up to fulfil this role as it is quite broad.

Chair - Jane Roberts stood down and Caroline took the chair for the election of the Chairperson. Denis Claringbull and John Edwards proposed Jane should continue as Chair. Jane asked the Steering group to acknowledge that there was a risk of the Steering Group being perceived as council controlled if most of the officers were serving councillors. This was agreed but it was felt that Jane had done a tremendously good job so far and for the sake of continuity it was better that she continue in the post. She was duly unanimously elected.

Jane asked that should anyone else wish to take the role of chair in the future they come forward.

The AGM was closed.

Routine Business

Minutes of the previous meeting: adopted as a true record.

Matters arising:

Insurance - John had looked into the matter of insurance. Denise Mason (Town Clerk) felt the group would not be covered by the Town Council's policy. John said he would like to compare a few more companies, as the quotes he had had so far were rather high in his opinion.

Ross Rural Parish Council - John Agreed to go and address their next meeting on 9th January to seek additional funding for the Town Plan.

The youth Council - Jane said that she would contact them again to try and engage them in the process.

Exhibition Bus - no action at the moment.

Stage 1 Group Report - Jane said that she was planning to speak to Herefordshire Council Research Centre to see if they had any data that would be helpful. Rob Brain has already spoken to someone there, as part of the Stage 2 Group and thought there might be duplication of effort if Jane did too.

Caroline said that she was going to trawl through the Ross Gazette Archives for the past 12 months to see which issues were raised on the letters page.

Jo asked if the head teachers of the schools had been approached. The answer was no and it was agreed that Jo, Dai and Steve would get in touch with the school councils to try and engage them in the process as it is the opinions of the children that we are really after.

Jane asked them to e-mail her with the responses they get.

Nigel asked when the cut off date for submissions was. Jane said it is mid January but not set in stone so late submissions would be considered.

Dal commented that he thought the letter in last weeks gazette from Bernard Fowkes was unfortunate in its tone. Denis said that he had spoken to The Basement Trust and had the impression they felt they were not getting the support and encouragement they would like.

Jane said that she would phone, as well as write to, Bernard Fowkes and speak to him about his concerns. Caroline confirmed that a letter requesting input to the Steering

Group had been sent to the Basement Trust. 'SO/WA— CMJt\$ { *p&£M- AVvW

Stage 2 Group Report - Rob said the group had not met since the last steering Group meeting. Brian has made contact with the strategic Housing Officer for Herefordshire who

deals with Ross. Jane suggested a meeting to collate the information we now have and to circulate it.

Dai suggested each group member approach 20 of their acquaintances to respond to the newsletter that had been circulated. Jane suggested sending a flyer to each person on the mailing list with the request they forward it to as many people as possible. Action on Caroline.

Jane asked Nathan for his comments on the process so far. He said he felt the website could be more interesting. Jane replied that it was planned to improve it for the next stage. Dai commented that he thought the letter in last weeks gazette from Bernard Fowkes was unfortunate in its tone. Denis said that he had spoken to The Basement Trust and had the impression they felt they were not getting the support and encouragement they would like. Jane said that she would phone, as well as write to, Bernard Fowkes and speak to him about his concerns. Caroline confirmed that a letter requesting input to the Steering Group had been sent to the Basement Trust.

Rob said that he has been in touch with John Passmore, who has a lot of relevant information on Ross, and asked him to feed it into the group. Jane thought it would be useful to meet him in her role as Chair.

Rob said that he would be quite happy to write The Options Report when the time came as he has some experience in town planning.

Jane felt we were nearly at the point of needing to establish a Stage 3 Group and suggested that those interested in being on it agree to meet after the meeting had closed. Those interested in stage 3 were Rob, Denis, Nigel and Nathan. Dai did not want to commit himself at this stage.

Fund Raising - David was not present. Action on John to speak to David about the grant applications.

Next Meeting: it was agreed meetings would continue to be held on the first Thursday of the month.

The next one will be on Thursday 7th February at 7pm.

It was agreed that in future we will meet at The Larruperz Centre as it is less associated with The Town Council.

John Edwards invited all those present to attend the next meeting of The Sports Council (Friday 1st Feb at The Larruperz Centre at 7pm) as it is closely associated with what RoWToP is trying to achieve.

Any other business: Dai requested that contact numbers and addresses be circulated to the membership. Action on Caroline.

The meeting was closed.