

Whitwell Action Group

Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday March 5th 2008

Present;

Joan Wilkinson (Treasurer) Margaret Beeston, Harry Brown.
Colin Machin and Wayne Hatton (WAG Promotions) George Webster and Viv Mills (Parish Council) Emma Stevens (Whitwell/ Hodthorpe After School Clubs) Sue Draper (Whitwell Brass Band)

Apologies;

April Nicholas (Chair)

In the absence of AYN, WH chaired the meeting

Minutes of the Last Meeting; Approved as a true record JW/CM

Matters Arising; AYN had contacted the webmaster and informed him that WH would be in touch.

Treasurers Report; JW informed the group that there was no change and that the balance stood at £325.00

Introductions; Harry Brown explained that he was attending out of personal interest and was not representing any particular group. Emma Stevens explained that she had recently been appointed co ordinator of Whitwell and Hodthorpe After School Clubs and was hoping to establish both as Health Promoting Schools. In order to do this she would like to run a project at both Schools which would include pupils growing and cooking their own food. She was looking for support from the group and ideas that would compliment her own initial thoughts which included School allotments, which Hodthorpe already had, the purchase of a portable stove, themed nights and how to access grant aid to fund the project.

Actions from the groups discussion,

Funding needed to be identified -

Whitwell Head needs to be approached as to whether any land could be put aside

Overall content and cost of project has to be identified

WH to Action

ES to Action

ES to Action

WH asked about the possibility of some of Malc Streets (Parish Handyman) time in order to prepare any possible land identified by Whitwell School for the project. Whilst in support of the project GW and VM added that it was not solely their decision but that of the Parish Council as a whole and therefore the Parish Council would need approaching in writing.

Volunteer Update; NW required JW to e mail content that was to be included in the Parish Newsletter, this was to be A4 size and would be circulated at the end of the month through the Trader. **JW to Action**

Website Update; WH asked members for any suggestions on any possible improvements to the WAG website following comments that it was perhaps a little bland at the moment. WH added that he was hoping that WAG Promotions would be able to have a link on the left of the home page as it was not easy at the moment to identify a link to the diary or events listings, MB added that a review had appeared under the news section. Members felt that they were perhaps not converse enough with the technology to comment in any depth. VW commented that BDC were having an input into the Parish Council website and felt that it would be possible to have a link from WAG to the Parish council site. Suggestions will again be taken at the next meeting and the link with the Parish Council site discussed.

Publicity and Media Opportunities; WH asked if it might be possible to have a regular page in the newsletter and GW confirmed that this was possible. Content and circulation dates to be discussed at further meetings. **WH to agenda.**
It was suggested that it would need a volunteer to oversee the content. This to be discussed further.

Gala Day 5th July; RS had already kindly volunteered to attend in some form in order to promote Whitwell Action Group. WH suggested that this be discussed further when RS present. MB asked that WH clarify the position of WAG Promotions with regard to the day. WH confirmed that they had approached the management committee with the offer of support in providing musical entertainment for the day and that this was to be discussed at a later date, for instance at this meeting. GW clarified for WH that there was no budget available for musical entertainment for the day and that the event would run from 1.00 to 6.00pm. It was noted that Whitwell Brass Band had not been approached to be part of the day, WH proposed that because the Gala was a community event, the Management Committee write to the band and request their presence and that by the same principle the band should give their time voluntarily and perhaps use the opportunity as a chance to raise awareness locally, attract new members and perhaps request donations from the general public on the day.

**GW and VM to put to management Committee
SD to put to Whitwell Brass Band Committee**

WH added that it would not be easy to provide music with no available budget but would look into it and asked of the possibility of a member attending the next management Committee meeting. GW informed the group that WH could attend and that the next meeting was on Wed 26th March at 10.00 am.

WAG PROMOTIONS UPDATE MARCH 2008.

COMEDY – Ongoing, members have made contact with Mr Anthony J. Brown, who promotes the Comedy Nights at the Circle (formerly the Regal) in Worksop and with the Dukeries Entertainments Agency who provide Comedians and Comedy Acts.

Costs are around £375 per act and therefore funding a monthly Comedy Night in the village would not seem feasible, it is envisaged that a quarterly Comedy Night, at least initially, will be a more achievable target. At the prices being quoted any such event would need to be based on ticket sales and not only on admission on the door.

DERBYSHIRE FILM – Progressing, contact has been made with the Derbyshire Field Worker, Kay Ogilvie, it is hoped that screening of Childrens films, in the first instance, will commence during the Schools Easter Holidays.

Each Screening will cost £75.00, any profit over and above this is for the Action Group though should be made available for the further promotion of arts and film events. Members will need to be trained to use the equipment by Derbyshire Film who will come to the venue to stage the training. The equipment needs to be collected and returned to a central venue and will fit into the boot of an average saloon car. It is foreseen that any group making use of the equipment will at some point purchase their own equipment and make the hire equipment available for other starter groups.

On any evening that a screening is to take place a number of trained volunteers will be needed. One to show the film, someone to take payments on the door, someone to run errands in an emergency, someone to serve refreshments and someone to oversee the audience, so it may be that the sub group will require some assistance on the days that films are screened.

Workshops that are linked to the screening of films and run alongside the films are a possibility and could attract new audiences. Derbyshire film can provide trained artists covering a variety of media from digital arts to portraiture, film makers from animation to documentary, dancers from salsa to modern, singers, puppeteers and musicians.

THEATRE – Progressing, WH and TMc attended a Live and Local Promoters evening in Darley Dale at which they met other Live and Local promoters to discuss points of interest, take part in a workshop, view one of the acts and to collect this seasons menu of artists from which we are to choose.

This information will be circulated and before bookings are made various individuals, groups and members of the general public will be consulted, though we have to bear in mind that our selection has to be made by May the 16th, in order to access both the acts and the preferred dates we need to complete consultation sooner rather than later. The first show will be prepared for the Autumn and a second for the Spring if all goes according to plan.

We have been advised that 3 or 4 staged events or acts in our first year is perhaps over enthusiastic considering the amount of preparation that is involved and that one or two would be a reasonable effort.

WH has written to the Whitwell Players Management Committee to explain our involvement with Live and Local and as offered to speak to them personally to give a more in depth account. He has reiterated that Live and Local will compliment and not impinge on what good work the Players do.

MUSIC – Evenings in the room above the Boot and Shoe, christened by the WAG Promotions team as The Attic, began on Feb 9th, with Indie Band, First Pocket Last. Above fifty people attended the evening though there was never more than 30 in the room at any one time, the donations pots placed on the bar raised a meagre £18.00 and £4.00 of that was from WH and CM! Relatively disappointing but a start.

Feb 23rd saw Surgery With A Grenade support Rock Band Thunderpussy. Whitwell I fear were not ready for SWAG although Thunderpussy had them dancing and more than made up for the support act. Over 60 attended and all at once, this time a collection for donations raised just short of £60.00. It was noticeable that locals were prominent in the audience and have vowed to attend regularly. Our thanks to Marg and her husband for supporting the night.

Any Other Business; MB explained that Steve Randolph had resigned his post as Community Nurse and therefore would not be attending any of the WAG meetings.

SD told of the Whitwell Brass Bands good fortune. Following SD's attendance at WAG meeting earlier in the year when she was put in contact with the BDC Arts and Cultural Officer, the band had been successful in accessing £10,000. Thanks to both WAG and BDC. The funding was to be used by the band to take their music into Schools, providing 6 workshops, this would hopefully raise awareness of the work of the band and boost membership. Also through this funding a piece of music had been commissioned and was currently being written, which would reflect Whitwell village and its history. The piece would get its first airing at the Louise Smalley Walk presentation evening as the band were to be this years beneficiaries of the funds raised by the walkers.

Unfortunately we have not been able to book a band for the 8th of March so next up are experienced local rock band Cold Gin who are sure to attract a strong following.

Following Cold Gin will be Nobodys Heroes, a tribute band paying homage to punk band Stiff Little Fingers on 5th April, we are still waiting confirmation for the rest of April.

May 10th sees our first really big event and our first really big band. The Whitwell Centre is to host TWIN LIZZY one of the countries leading Thin Lizzy tribute bands. These guys are at a cost of £500.00 and we will be selling tickets for the event, hopefully everyone will play there part in advertising and the selling of tickets. Interest is already high and we are sure that we can make a success of the evening. WH is currently looking at the production of tickets which will be on sale before the end of March. Our thanks to the Whitwell Centre Management Committee who after considering the overall costs of the evening and the benefits of supporting Whitwell Action Group and WAG Promotions have seen fit to waver the cost of venue hire for the evening.

May 24th will see a young Barlbro' based rock band Electric Hazard take the stage in the Attic at the Boot and Shoe.

Kay at the Boot and Shoe has remained supportive and along with CM is hoping to organise an Easter Raffle to raise funds for the Music Nights.

WH has produced income return forms which can be used for all the sub groups financial transactions so that Joan can identify and ring fence any monies and so that the WAG accounts have an audit trail.

We are exploring the possibility of being part of the folk evening held annually in the name of the late Bob Walker and staging a charity night in support of the Louise Smalley Walk. Also we are hoping that we can work with the Parish Council to provide entertainment on the day of the Gala.