



Annual General Meeting Minutes

7:30pm, Wednesday 25th January 2024

Salford Priors Memorial Hall
School Road, Salford Priors, WR11 8XD

Present:

Joe Harvey - Chair TSG
Jill Smith - Hon Sec TSG
Daryl Bailey - Treasurer TSG
Colin Tether - TSG Exec (Zoom)
Graeme Reeves - TSG Exec
Cllr Susan Juned – Stratford DC
Cllr Manuela Perteghuella – Stratford District Council (Zoom)
Cllr Erick Wilson - Alcester Town Council
Cllr Simon Carter – Chair Welford Parish Council (Zoom)
Alan Green – Consultant Salford Priors Parish Council
Alan Saunders - Evesham Rambling Club
Cllr Robert Hale - Evesham Town Council
Cllr Ian Graham - Offenham Parish Council
Cllr Colin Jones – Harvington Parish Council
Cllr Alison Hegarty – Luddington Parish Council
K Hegarty – Luddington Parish Council
Michael Clifford – Film maker
Gillian Pawson Chair Evesham Civic Society (Zoom)
Alexandera Jones
Chris Hill
Trevor Homer
John Cashmore
Pat Perry
Liz Heneghan
Pete Havard
Steve Freer
Anne Freer

Apologies:

Liam Maude - TSG Exec
Cllr Justin Kerridge – Councillor Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Kim James – Salford Priors Parish Council
Robin Walker – Cycle Evesham Vale
John James - Bidford Health Centre Patient Participation Group
Piers Daniell – Alcester Councillor

Election of Chair

Joe Harvey was proposed by Robert Hale and seconded by Gillian Smith. Elected unanimously.

The other officers were elected as follows

Jill Smith – Hon Secretary

Liam Maude – Vice Chair

Daryl Bailey – Hon Treasurer

Colin Tether

Graeme Reeves

A request for representatives for the Broom to Stratford route was made. Any volunteers to join the executive group should be made to Joe Harvey.

Introduction and Chairman's Report – Joe Harvey

Joe Harvey welcomed the large audience to the Two Shires Greenway AGM and reminded them why the charity had changed its name to better describe its aims and its ambitions.

We cross two beautiful rural counties and want to engage them both to work with us to develop a strategic partnership to create a new and exciting network for walking and cycling. In particular, we need them to lobby Active Travel and the Department of Transport to move away from their policy which strongly favours funding urban routes over all else and accept the argument that rural counties need connectivity as the key objective.

While we are working hard with our supportive district councils of Stratford and Wychavon all of you here today can put the argument to your organisations and contacts that these are changes you see as critical in developing much needed infrastructure in your areas.

Two Shires have raised the amazing sum of nearly £1 million pounds to get sections of the routes under way but the serious money required for delivery of the whole package can only be found via the government coffers

If you wish to comment, email or phone those who can influence and change, parish/district/county councillors, MP's, walking and cycling activist organisations wherever they are, and ask for their support.

Treasurer's Report – Daryl Bailey

We currently have just under £7,500 in the accounts. This year our expenses were £700 and are for items such as paying for the AGM meeting. All applications for the main works funding are done by parish councils with our support. Any grant funding is held by parish councils and not the TSG. This is public money and parish councils are set up to hold and use such funds. This also means that VAT can be recovered. This ensures all financial transactions are transparent and in the public domain. A copy of the financial report has been sent to all contacts of the TSG.

Progress: Evesham to Harvington – Jill Smith

We are working on this part of the route in two sections, Evesham to the Valley and Harvington to the Valley.

Evesham to the Valley Jill has walked the route with Chris Day and officers and it is confirmed the Section 106 funding towards the cost of the route is still in place.

Harvington to the Valley. Harvington PC have formed a working group to concentrate on the section from Harvington to the Valley. We have had several meetings with Wychavon DC, Management of Eagle One who own the Valley land, Worcester CC officers and National Highways. All are in agreement that this is a beneficial route and they are happy for it to be created. We are currently seeking legal permissions from National Highways to allow us to do survey in order to start the project.

Progress: Salford Priors to Wixford – Alan Green

Alan Green previously the chair of Salford Priors PC and has worked with land owners since the beginning of the project. He has now stepped down as chair but continued his involvement as a consultant working with the Salford Priors Parish Council Leisure Trails working group. Legal agreements have been sent to all landowners involved and work has already started on clearing the paths ready for the creation of a cycle path. All the landowners along the route have been very supportive of the project. This has enabled Salford Priors PC to use section 30 of the highways act to establish a bridleway. Once the route is established Salford Priors PC will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance. Current estimates are the route should be completed by the end of 2025.

Progress: Wixford to Alcester – Joe Harvey

Once the Salford Priors to Wixford route has been created we currently have a route into Alcester. It goes over the bridge at Wixford to the Three Horseshoes Pub along the lane to Exhall, up the bridleway into Oversley Wood, along their internal road and out the other side to cross the A46 at the bridge which leads down into Oversley Green and Alcester Town. This route does use sections of public road and we will continue to work on a more direct route based on the old railway line which is our preferred route.

Progress: Broom to Bidford Health Centre – Joe Harvey

This is an important part of the route and will be of great benefit to people wishing to access the health centre on foot. We are in contact with Dr Tim Shackley from Bidford Health Centre, however the work to be done by Oculus development seems to be on hold at the present time.

Business Plan – Graeme Reeves

The business plan, like the greenway route has been broken down into sections. This has enabled a more detailed business plan to be written that reflects more local issues.

This will be circulated later but it must be emphasised it is a working document that will be adapted as needs and circumstances change. If you know of any local information that can be used in the business plan like benefits to local businesses, access to schools etc. please let us know.

A.O.B.

Sue Juned asked if a response had been made about the South Warwickshire local plan and offered to check this.

Jill Smith stated that the route from Evesham had been removed from the latest Worcestershire LCWIP. Robert Hale is going to attend the Active Travel Forum and will raise this issue for us.

Erick Wilson - Alcester Town Council raised the issue of scale and cost when raising awareness of the project. Joe Harvey gave an approximate figure of £20 million but said that this would be looked at in more detail. He stated that this funding did not have to be raised immediately.

Michael Clifford – Film maker is hoping to make a short film about Active Travel in the Stratford district and is keen to include the birth of a new greenway. He has currently made a film about the Lias Line recently created by Sustrans.

Michael needs your help.

Hi there, I was at the 2 Shires Greenway AGM on 24.1.24 and said it wouldn't make a very good film. I should say that whilst meetings dont generally make very good films, a Greenway will make an absolutely brilliant film!! So, as part of my film about the Greenways I am keen to hear from people who use the Stratford greenway for active travel purposes. This could be for work, shopping, doing the school run etc. It could be by bike or on foot. Please email or call me, Michael Clifford if you do use it or know someone who does. Thank you very much 07711 007989. michael.grandunion@gmail.com

Meeting ended 8.30pm with thanks from the Chair to all those present.

Gillian Smith (Hon. Secretary) 25th January 2024