

THE RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN ASSOCIATION

(A Civic Society affiliated to the Civic Trust for Wales)

Minutes of the meeting held in the Old Church Rooms on Monday 26th January 2004

- In Attendance:** Nick Hawkins (Chair) Ken Williams (Vice Chair), Bob Roberts (Treasurer), Julie Williams (Secretary), Dave Cargill, Cllr Marion Drake, Cllr's Steve Jones, Sue Philpott and David Suthers, Derek Bateman (RDS), Jerry Bray, Bob Pearce (Radyr Chain), Caroline Noall (Library) Karen Whitecross (RMCC), Val Allen (Ty Gwyn Pony Club), Maggie Roberts (Twinning Fellowship/MVH), Rod McKerlich, Julie Davies, Barbara Willis and 5 other residents.
- Apologies for Absence:** Ron Eccles, Chris Willis, Lorna Clark, Joan Thorley, Maureen Morgan, Ann Smith, Geoff Saunders, Hilary Borrow.
- Minutes of the last Meeting (17th Nov)** the minutes were approved.
- Matters Arising:** Nick thanked Ken for chairing the last meeting in his absence. **Constitution:** What is hope will prove to be a final draft has been sent to the Charity Commission. The Civic Trust for Wales has already accepted the changes. All other matters covered by the agenda.
- Treasurer's Report:** The Association had made a successful application on behalf of the OCR Hall Management Committee for a grant to have a CCTV system protecting the premises. The Association had then purchased the equipment and the Management Committee would shortly be refunding the money. This meant the application would be cost neutral to the Association. All accounts were up to date and retained funds stood at: Reserve £229.21, COIF £3628.74, Events £117.37 Current £168.79, Total: £4144.11. This was within the retained reserves policy of £5000. The Treasurer noted that there was a charge of £433.76 for the Christmas trees last year but, as this included the installation of the wiring which can be used every year, the cost was within acceptable boundaries. He expressed the Association's thanks to Mike Young for supplying the electricity for free.
- Community Council Report:** Vice Chairman Cllr Steve Jones gave the Community Council report and the Chairman thanked him for attending. Steve congratulated the Association on the Christmas tree display in the shopping precinct. He believed it added to the Christmas spirit for residents. The Community Council had greatly enjoyed the support and enjoyment shown by residents who attended the Christmas tree lighting ceremonies in Radyr and Morganstown and who had also come back to the OCR for refreshments afterwards. Steve then referred to the meeting on **youth annoyance** held at Bryn Deri School about the problems residents in Pentwyn and the surrounding streets had been facing. He said a number of good ideas had been raised at the meeting, which the Council had taken away for action. Progress would be reported at follow up meetings. He hoped that one of the follow up meetings would be co-ordinated with the outreach workers and the local youths as a youth forum. He emphasised that, although the Community was talking about the youth problems, the youths were not talking to the Community. This needed to be amended. Residents must understand that there is only a small group of youths (around 20/30) causing the problems. The rest cause no problems and the Community must be willing to listen to what they say. There is concern about drug and alcohol abuse, but this is not a cause and effect situation. The youths involved however do seem to take pleasure in targeting individuals who have objected to their behaviour. If residents are targeted and want to tackle the offenders, they should **not** go out as individuals but phone around neighbours and go out in a group. The police should also be informed. Steve was asked about the cost of the outreach workers (£4,300) and reminded residents that this was a long term project. The CC had received the petition raised by the Association regarding a **conservation area** and would be proceeding with the next stage. **The Village plan** survey which was organised via the questionnaire had been completed and would be published later. **Radyr.Org.uk:** The new website was under development and was funded by the CC. It was hoped it would be an open forum for all local organisations with everyone being able to enter their own information. The switch from the old to the new website was scheduled for the beginning of April. **Planning:** There were a number of large housing estates now scheduled to be built in the area and, although developers had been instructed that houses may not be occupied until the main trunk sewer is upgraded, they are trying to find a way around this. Residents must remain vigilant to any changes.
- Police: Youth Annoyance:** At the last Community Council meeting concern had been raised about the more violent crimes occurring within the village. There had been an increasing number of assaults upon individuals which were discussed at the recent meeting held by the CC at Bryn Deri School (see above). A report on that meeting was available for those who wish to read it after the meeting. The suggestion was made that mobile CCTV cameras should be deployed to record the guilty youths in action. Youths had also been seen leaving the closed-up Radyr Arms with lighting fixtures; the concern being that this had not been investigated or reported by the present owners. It was emphasised that the Police are dependent upon residents reporting incidents. If they are not reported, the police will not acknowledge that Radyr has a problem. It is considered very important to

get the message out to residents that they must report any incidences as they are occurring. The Bryn Deri meeting showed that the residents around Pentwyn Park had a definite problem with youth annoyance. Rhodri Morgan, Kevin Brennin and Cllr Marion Drake were aware and concerned about the problem. Residents believed a show of force was needed now from the Police to demonstrate to the youths involved that residents will not accept their behaviour and to stop it developing any further. A white van was sometimes seen around the village in the early hours which, it is believed, is selling illegal alcohol and drugs. **If it is seen, it must be reported.** Reference was made again to a dedicated phone which residents could ring and it was felt that this was something the Neighbourhood Watch group could co-ordinate. Concern was raised about the lack of resources available to the youths despite the fact that the village has more than doubled in size. It was felt this may be one of the reasons for our problems. The meeting was informed that the police had acknowledged that taking photographs of the youths in action was acceptable as proof of culpability.

8. **Planning: Radyr Arms:** *The Chairman declared 'an interest' in line with the constitution as he was 'local' to the Arms.* He was, however, able to give factual report. Since the last meeting the County Council had issued an Article 4 direction on the owners, Noble Inns. This meant that demolition could only proceed after full planning permission is granted. A few days' later workmen were seen working on the property supposedly removing part of the roof that had asbestos in it 'for safety'. A few days later a sign appeared stating a 'Tapas bar' was going to be opened on the site with late night cabaret. Noble Inns had also sent a letter to the County Council challenging the Council's decision regarding the Article 4 direction, which had been referred to their legal department. Cllr Drake said she would inform residents when she had further information but it was believed the 'Tapas' sign was just a 'red flag' to local residents. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Association's agreed policy was to support the future of the Radyr Arms but, if it could not be saved, to support Retirement Housing on the site. **New Health Centre:** New plans had been drawn up for the Centre, which looked good, but no formal planning application had been submitted. The current proposal was for the planning application to include the conversion of the existing rectory into four flats and the building of a new rectory. Cllr Drake mentioned that there was an earlier proposal to install lay-by parking for the Church. **Café:** A planning application had been submitted for a new café in Station Road. This would be open 8am-5pm and include a patio out the back for tables. **Sidings 2/ Radyr Garden's:** Cllr Drake stated that neither of the sites are to be occupied until the drainage systems have been updated (see CC report, above). According to Welsh Water this would not be until 2007. The developers for the sidings want to occupy their houses by 2005 and are suggesting alternative sewage proposals, possibly a new works. Something would have to be done shortly because there had already been sewage overflows into the fields surrounding the Cricket Club. **Parking:** Displacement parking problems were occurring around Station Rd/Kings Road and surrounding areas because of problems with Station parking. Chevron Parking in Station Road had been discussed.
9. **Messages/Ideas:** Members present were referred to the on-line diary on the R&M website for information.
10. **Radyr and Morganstown Community Sports Trust:** Ken Williams reported that Brian Duddridge and David Parry Jones were working with Cadw to develop the Motte and Bailey down on the Mound Field. Future work depended on money coming available from the agreed 'Planning Gain' arising from major development elsewhere (particularly Sidings 2). Cllr Drake said that the planning gain would be phased so not all gain was dependent on completion. SportsLot were looking at new criteria for giving grants and this took time - the longer the Sports Trust waited to put in an application the less money would be available. She recommended an outline proposal should be put in as soon as possible. Ken reminded the meeting that the Trust was still awaiting information from County as to whether they could lease the Mound Field and, until this was known, there was no point in even considering putting in a bid.
11. **Halls: OCR.** The WI Bench had been replaced, following the installation of the CCTV system. An additional fridge (with proper ventilation) had been provided. Thanks were offered to Geoff Saunders, Bob Roberts and Douglas Hogg who had helped with the work. The Chairman reported that the OCR now had a digital projector which is available to use at a cost of £5 per session. Residents were asked to keep an eye on the car park because it was believed to be used by some as a 'park and ride'. This was causing problems for OCR users. The Hall Management Committee would be grateful any culprits could be reported to them. **MVH:** Maggie Roberts reported that, due to its financial problems, the hall was having a feasibility study done on its future. The Trustees would consider the hall's situation when the feasibility study is completed.
12. **Future Themes: Community Web Site:** The re-launch of the new site was planned for 1st April. It was hoped all organisation within the village would have a 'presence' on the site. **Cleanliness.** The MVH Committee had been in touch with the Young offenders unit who deal with youngsters who have to do Community Service. They are at present helping them with the weeds in the grounds. As they also collect litter they could be of use to the 'litter pickers'. Robin Jones or Julie had the contact details. **Conservation:** The Association's petition included 45 signatures. This had been passed to the Community Council at the last meeting and the CC would now take the next necessary action. **Arts:** Allan Cook had had a meeting of the Arts Group to further the Arts content of the R&M Festival. He hoped that this year there would be another 'special event' supported by the Arts Council

of Wales. It was felt it was necessary to consolidate the advertising posters for the Festival as many commented on last year's posters often overlaying each other. At the suggestion of Caroline Noall (Radyr Library) the Arts Brochure was to be updated and reproduced in a smaller format to be included in a welcome package for new residents. **Festival Week:** The first meeting of the Festival Committee would take place on February 3rd in the OCR at 8pm. The chosen charity for the year was Noah's Ark. Last year around £800 was donated to George Thomas Hospice.

13. **Any Other Business: Broadband:** An appeal had gone out for local residents to contact BT to get the local exchange 'switched on' for Broadband. To do this, 500 people needed to declare an interest whereas only 436 had done so to date. Interest could be registered via the R&M website. It was noted that, even when the target was reached, it would still take BT a while to do the necessary work. **Cardiff Centenary:** Marion informed the meeting that 2005 was the Centenary of Cardiff being a Capital City. A vote was taken and it was agreed that R&M via the Association would take part in this event. **Radyr Chain:** Nick offered the Community's thanks to the 'Chain Gang' for their 25 years of service to the community.
14. **Date of next meeting: The AGM on Monday 19th April 2004, 8pm in the Old Church Rooms.** Future meetings 24/5, 19/7 (MVH), 27/9, 16/11, 17/01/05.