



Mill Road Winter Fair

Minutes of AGM 10/03/09

St Barnabas Church. 7pm

An attendance sheet was passed around and shall be held by the MRWF Association as a record of attendance

1. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Abdul-Kayum Arain welcomed all those attending the meeting. He had thoroughly enjoyed being Chair and working with all those who helped organise the Fair. Mill Road was a melting pot of all the world in the middle of Cambridge. In a city like London you had separate districts like Brick Lane or Chinatown, but in Cambridge all you need to do is to go to Mill Road where the best thing is that people from different backgrounds and traditions work in harmony for the good of the community. The Fair is about breaking barriers and building bridges; it brings together those who live there and work there whether as traders or in other professions. He had travelled widely but nowhere did he feel as at home as in Mill Road.

He paid specific tribute to the 2008 committee members, to Andrew Bush for his generous sponsorship of the 2008 Fair, to the City Council for their grant, to Aiysha Malik for her work on the programme, to the Mayor and Michelle Spring for their participation, and to all traders, performers, stall holders and stewards for their invaluable contribution.

He also thanked St Barnabas Church for hosting the meeting and to the Salvation Army Centre for their hospitality to the committee throughout the year.

He apologised for any shortcomings there might have been and stated that though he was stepping down from the Chair he was certainly not stepping away from the Fair which he would continue to support in any way he could.

2. Apologies and Minutes

Apologies had been received from Anne Prince, Claire Hedges, Alison McTaggart, Kevin Blencowe, Becky Scrambler, Ruth Hanley, Emma Mawdesley, Eryl Griffiths, Richard Wilson

The Minutes of the 2008 AGM were officially adopted as true record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Reports from Officers.

a) Treasurer

David Hollingsbee had been involved with the committee in 2008 and presented the accounts for the AGM. He highlighted some of the changes this year.

A significant change in income had been the sponsorship by Andrew Bush and the income derived from the new initiative Friends of the Mill Road Winter Fair. The Council grant had

been awarded again and advertising revenue had increased. The collection boxes in local shops were a good way of publicising the Fair, and the committee were very grateful for each and every donation.

The biggest change in expenditure had been the three marquees and the consequent higher insurance. More programmes were printed this year and the income they had brought in surpassed the printing costs.

The first job of the new committee would be to set the budget for the 2009 Fair, They would consider the sponsorship of the Fair and apply again for the Council Grant.

The surplus £600 from 2008 added to the £1200 from the previous year was a good start towards festive lighting for Mill Road. There was a strong desire on the part of the committee to take this further though more funds would need to be raised.

b) Safety Officer.

Jonathan Goodacre introduced himself and explained that his job entailed working with the Safety Advisory Group to make the Fair a safe event. He thanked in particular Claire Hedges, his deputy and to Richard Allen for all his hard work. He paid tribute to all members of the Safety Advisory Group, especially to Alan Pilsworth of the Fire Service, Shane Fasey of the Police and Ian Crowson, the Contingency Planning Officer. He thanked the City Council for allowing the Depot to be used for Safety HQ, Hervey Levison for the services of the St John's Ambulances, and the 35 stewards who worked so hard throughout the day and without whom the Fair could not take place.

There were no significant episodes to report from the 2008 Fair but they were aware of the danger spots and of the problems the potential growth of the Fair might bring. Another ten stewards would be very welcome and he urged those attending to try to help raise the numbers. He and Claire were grateful for all the feedback that had been given about the possible closure of the road and had raised this at the recent meeting of the Safety Advisory Group who had been helpful about the possible next steps which was to raise it with Cambridge County Council.

c) Petersfield Co-ordinator Suzy Oakes

Recent calculations showed that there were about 600 people who were in one way or another involved in putting on the Fair, which had this year attracted about 20,000 visitors and had had a happy atmosphere partly thanks to the very good weather.

In 2009 thought would need to be given about how to advertise the various venues; some people still expected more activity in the road itself which was sadly not yet possible; such people need more encouragement to explore the various venues; perhaps the idea of flags needs to be revived.

Collection boxes should be out in the shops throughout the year; it advertised the date, and helped give 'ownership' of the Fair to all who contributed.

The programmes had been well received but attention would be given this year to making them more environmentally friendly. There was also a plan to include some untold stories, as in the magazine of that name.

The Food Fair venue had been muddy but the marquees on Donkey Common and Ditchburn Gardens had been successful.

There were already new groups with exciting art projects or ideas for charity fundraising but she stressed that there would always be room for very small scale community or individual initiatives; that was a crucial part of the ethos of the Fair.

She concluded her report by paying special tribute to Adeline Douard for taking charge of the marquee, to Mark Copestake for his work at Ditchburn Gardens, for Lifecraft for the work they had put in to their Fashion Show, to Mike Tabrett at the Argyll Co-operative, to Romsey Mill and to John Rees at the Labour Club.

d) Romsey Co-ordinator Sonia Cooter

A new initiative this year had been to have one specific venue for grown up music in The Labour Club. This was well worth repeating but needed sharper organisation and more publicity. The same was true about putting most of the activities for children in the Ross St Centre; this had worked well, but again more publicity was needed.

The activities at Romsey Mill had all worked really well but visitors still needed encouragement to go 'that little bit further' down Mill Road.

She paid special tribute to Avis Cars for ferrying elderly residents from Lichfield Road to and from the Fair, and also thanked all those volunteers and participants who had given the committee so much useful feedback; it was really good that so many people now had 'ownership' of the Fair

e) Secretary Caro Wilson

Caro Wilson paid tribute to her predecessor John West who had laid down very useful structures and precedents for the work of the committee. This year's committee had been very easy to work with and there had been no difficulties with her role.

4 Questions to Officers.

a) John West from the floor congratulated the committee on this year's successful event. It had been a wonderful day and the marquees had been especially successful. He asked if Friends of the Fair forms would be available on mill-road.com and Suzy Oakes confirmed this could happen. He also asked if it was envisaged that the elected representatives would be lobbied about the closure of the road. Abdul Arain answered that the new committee would choose a spokesperson about this issue and would debate all aspects of its strategy. Jonathan Goodacre added that they wished to go through the necessary particular procedure in the correct way before going down that route, but nothing was ruled out and all strategies would be considered.

b) Margaret Starkie from the floor asked if the Mill Road Winter Fair bank account incurred bank charges Abdul Arain explained that we had a Community Account where if the budget was under £100,00 all bank charges were waived. He accepted that given the current economic climate this might change.

c) Mustapha from the floor asked about the timing and procedure for booking stalls, Suzy Oakes informed everyone that enquiries should be made to info@mill-road.com She stressed that the Fair did want to avoid commercial traders but all local stallholders would be welcomed.

5 Election of Officers

A nomination was received from the floor for the post of PR Officer.

Andrea Perseu was nominated by Anna Upward and seconded by Jonathan Goodacre.

The secretary read out the other received nominations for Executive positions and the Chair asked the candidates to introduce themselves. Suzy Oakes and Sonia Cooter spoke briefly about Anne Prince and Alison Mc Taggart who were standing as Romsey and Petersfield Co-ordinators but were unable to attend the meeting. As all the positions were uncontested there was an affirmation that all the candidates be accepted by show of hands one-by-one into their roles. The following candidates were duly elected:

<u>Chair</u>	Suzy Oakes	Nominated by Abdul Arain Seconded by Sonia Cooter
<u>Safety Officer</u>	Jonathan Goodacre	Nominated by Abdul Arain Seconded by Caro Wilson
<u>Treasurer</u>	David Hollingsbee	Nominated by Mahmoud Al-Kilani Seconded by Abdul Arain
<u>Romsey Co-ordinator</u>	Anne Prince	Nominated by Sonia Cooter Seconded by Abdul Arain
<u>Petersfield Co-ordinator</u>	Alison Mc Taggart	Nominated by Suzy Oakes Seconded by Jonathan Goodacre
<u>Fund Raiser</u>	Kath Austen	Nominated by Abdul Arain Seconded by Suzy Oakes
<u>PR Officer</u>	Andrea Perseu	Nominated by Anna Upward Seconded by Jonathan Goodacre
<u>Secretary</u>	Caro Wilson	Nominated by Suzy Oakes Seconded by Abdul Arain.

Abdul Arain thanked all the candidates for standing and wished them all well with their work for the year.

At this point Suzy Oakes made a presentation to Abdul Arain on behalf of all the committee. It was great sorrow to say goodbye to him as Chair; his contribution had been incalculable; he had led the Fair through the last two years with wisdom and enthusiasm. It was very good to know that he would stay closely in touch.

6 Co-opted roles.

Suzy Oakes asked that people should consider whether they could volunteer for some of the many jobs essential for the smooth running of the Fair. A huge enterprise was made possible by breaking it down into smaller roles. It was hoped people might come on board to act as

Stalls Co-ordinator, Children's Co-ordinator, Volunteers co-ordinator and volunteers were always needed with IT skills

Suresh Patel of ICCA affirmed that he would have more time to offer the Fair this year, and that was welcomed by all.

7 AOB

a) Street Decorations.

Suzy Oakes repeated that the committee was really keen to see progress made towards getting festive lighting along the whole street. In some cities Health and Safety issues had forced streets to forego their lighting and there might be second hand lights available. The monies raised so far would be a useful start but more specific fundraising would be necessary with trader involvement essential. There were possible grant applications to be made. A working group would be essential and people were asked to consider volunteering. From the floor Daisy Zoll sought clarification that such lighting could be multi-cultural in nature and this was confirmed.

b) From the floor Mrs Gee asked the date of the next fair and whether there was a Guest Speaker already chosen.

Suzy Oakes confirmed that the date of the 2009 Fair was **Saturday 5th December** and that the incoming Mayor had already been asked to attend. A second Guest Speaker was under consideration

There being no other business Abdul Arain closed the meeting by again thanking all those who had attended. He thanked the new committee for agreeing to stand and wished them very well for their future work.