

**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)
Liam Maunde – TSG Exec (Zoom)
Cllr Charlie Homer – Evesham North
Cllr Robert Hale - Evesham Town Council
Cllr Craig Reeves – Harvington
Alan Green – Consultant Salford Priors Parish Council
Cllr Ian Graham - Offenham Parish Council (Zoom)
Cllr Mark Funnell – Norton PC (Zoom)
Claudine Pearson – Climate Officer WALC (Zoom)
Cllr Jean Langdon – Kinwarton Parish Council
Chris Hill - Resident
Trevor Homer – Bidford on Avon Walking and Cycling
John Cashmore - Bidford on Avon Walking and Cycling
Cllr Bill Fleming – Stratford DC
Pete Havard (Zoom) – Heart of England Forest
Cllr Andy Hibbit (Zoom) – Luddington Parish Council
Cllr Steve Albon (Zoom) – Stratford Town Council

Apologies:

Cllr Susan Juned – Stratford DC
Manuela Perteguella MP– Stratford Upon Avon
Cllr Chris Day – Evesham DC
Cllr Mary Tasker – Wychavon DC
John James - Bidford Health Centre Patient Participation Group
Cllr Piers Daniell – Warwickshire CC
Wendy Bannerman – British Horse Society
Cllr Stuart Keighley – Stratford DC
Andy Parsons – CEO Heart of England Forest
Gillian Pawson Chair Evesham Civic Society
Cllr Simon Carter – Chair Welford Parish Council
Ian Kelly – Cleeve Prior Parish Council
Cllr Julie Tucker – Evesham Town Council
Cllr David Curtis – Stratford DC
Vic Alison – Wychavon DC Chief Executive
Cllr Andrew Dyke – Wychavon DC
Cllr Justin Kerridge – Warwickshire CC
Malcom Hughes – Farmer
Will Debenham – Ex Ragley Estates
John Grimshaw – Greenways and Cycleroutes Ltd

1. Introduction and Chairman's Report – Joe Harvey

Joe Harvey welcomed the audience to the Two Shires Greenway AGM both those in the hall and those on the Zoom link. He started by introducing the Two Shires Executive of Colin, Jill, Liam, Daryl and himself and noted the resignation of Graeme Reeves. Graeme has done a brilliant job for the project especially in formatting our excellent Business Plan. However, he has a demanding job and a young family and cannot now spare the time – we thank him for all his hard work.

2. Approval of AGM minutes 25th Jan 2024.

Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Matters arising

There were none.

4. Chairman's Report.

Joe reflected on the annual report that had been circulated to members and said he would not be repeating all of that report but selecting key areas to comment and update everyone on. He also asked for questions to be held to the end of the meeting under AOB.

He first asked Jill Smith to bring the meeting the latest news on the Evesham to Harvington section of the spine route and in particular the work she is doing with Harvington PC itself

Jill reported 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, Worcestershire 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 Worcester CC to allow us to do surveys in order to start the project.

Joe then noted that sadly the grant application we had partnered up with Stratford District Council for a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund had been unsuccessful but the work putting it together had been useful and showed how much interest there is in pushing for improvements in local amenities in the district.

However, he made it clear that the best chance we have of getting significant funding for our two target areas over the next eighteen months or so is as a potential result of the government reorganisation of unitary authorities. We will be working with both Stratford DC and Wychavon DC to argue our case for funding while these councils still exist, to help them improve their legacy for walking and cycling for their citizens. These two target areas are:

1. Evesham to the Valley and on to Salford Priors where we believe there is both funding and political support for this to be delivered.

2. Broom to Bidford Health Centre where there is passionate Parish Council support and a relatively straight forward land ownership situation

We will be constructing draft bids to both leaders of the District Councils, Sue Juned Stratford DC and Chris Day Wychavon DC, outlining the massive benefits for funding these projects and stressing the need to act quickly and work in partnership with us to deliver them while we have the chance.

All the help you can offer formally or informally to us during this time will be invaluable and much appreciated. This really is the 'Last Chance Saloon' and we will throw everything at it.

5. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts. – Daryl Bailey (Treasurer)

We currently have reserves of £4,400 in the accounts.

The TSG have not received any donations this year.

The main expenditure this year was a payment of £2,400 to Sustrans for the feasibility study from Broom to Stratford. We have also paid £600 in website fees.

The meeting approved the accounts unanimously

6. Election of Chair

Joe passed the chair to Daryl who asked for nominations. There being only one, Joe Harvey was duly re-elected to Chair of the Two Shires Greenway project

7. Election of Executive Committee.

Joe resumed the chair and asked for nominations. There being no nominations other than the existing executive members Jill Smith, Daryl Bailey, Liam Maude and Colin Tether were duly elected with a big thank you of appreciation for work past and to come from the meeting.

8. A.O.B.

Liam Maunde Salford Priors PC – Informed us that information on the Salford Priors section of the TSG route can be seen on <https://salfordpriors.gov.uk/news/greenway-leisure-route-update-4>

Cllr Bill Fleming (Broom) – Requested inclusion in emails regarding the link from Broom to Bidford Health Centre.

Cllr Andy Hibbit Luddington PC – They have applied to Stratford DC Climate Fund for £7,500 to appoint a land agent. This is to approach all the landowners along the Welford to Stratford (spine 2) route to discuss how the greenway could proceed across their land.

Colin Tether TSG Exec - Any volunteers to join the executive group should be made to Joe Harvey.

Claudine Pearson WALC Climate Officer – There will be £2 million available in funding to County Councils. Details to follow.

Stephen Rumble Transport Planning – There is a change from urban to more rural funding in planning cycle routes. Funding from Active Travel England will be available but is subject to strict criteria and will have to go through an assurance process to ensure a level of quality similar to the Lias Line. Officers will make recommendations and the TSG is part of a long list. The delivery timescale is approximately 2 years and Community engagement will have to be shown.

Cllr Robert Hale Evesham Town Council – Concerns about the Evesham LCWIP and the lack of connectivity outside Evesham. There is to be a meeting of the Active Travel Forum in Early March where he will raise this matter.

Colin Tether has responded to the Evesham LCWIP on behalf of the TSC and despite repeated attempts we have not received an acknowledgement of this document.

Cllr Charlie Homer (North Evesham) – Pointed out that the Hampton Bridge formed an important part of the route out of Evesham. He was also keen to see legacy projects completed before district councils were amalgamated into unitary authorities.

Joe thanked the meeting for all these insights and updates and closed with a big thank you to all for their continuing and vital support for the Two Shires Greenway project.

Meeting ended 8pm.

Gillian Smith (Hon. Secretary) 25th February 2025