

## **Maidenhead Neighbourhood Forum**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 1930 on 29 June 2021

The AGM for the year 2020/21 was held by Zoom, due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions preventing a physical meeting taking place.

### **Quorum**

On 29 June 2021, Maidenhead Neighbourhood Forum had 61 full members who were eligible to attend the meeting. Of those, 19 participated in the zoom meeting and a further 10 non-member supporters joined the on-line meeting.

A turnout of 19 out of a membership of 61 members (31.1%), means that the meeting was quorate.

Apologies were received from Adam Bermange, Cllr Andrew Johnson and Cllr Bhangra.

### **AGM**

In line with our Constitution, the AGM is required to be held within 3 months of the end of the financial year on 31 March each year.

The agenda for the AGM contained the following resolutions:

1. To approve the Minutes of the previous AGM (2019/20)
2. To approve the Chair's Annual Report
3. To approve the Annual Financial Report
4. To appoint the Forum officers (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) and members of the Management Committee, which is required to have a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 members.

Prior to voting taking place, each of the items 1-3 above was presented to the meeting by the co-Chairs with an opportunity for participants to make comments or ask questions.

#### **1) Minutes of the previous AGM**

No comments or questions were raised.

#### **2) Chair's Annual Report**

The key item highlighted in the presentation, was the issue that MNF has had engaging with RBWM during the last year, partly caused by the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, partly the pre-occupation within the RBWM planning team with the Borough Local Plan (BLP) Inspection and lastly the non-availability of the Head of Planning due to ongoing sickness. Despite these issues several meetings have taken place with the Head of Planning (Adrien Waite) and the Lead Member for Planning (Cllr David Coppinger), to discuss how to move the process of designating the Forum forward. MNF has been assisted by Locality (the Government appointed body to support the development of Neighbourhood Planning) in this process and a further meeting is planned with RBWM on 08 July.

Although the Forum has operated on a Management Committee only basis for the past 15 months, our supporter base continues to grow: we have c.450 followers/supporters we communicate with by email and around 700 followers on social media (Facebook). During the year 29 postings on Facebook were made, the most popular (a short video about the Nicholson's development) reaching over 8000 Facebook members of which 1760 reacted to the posting.

To provide a greater understanding of the RBWM plans for the development of additional infrastructure to support the growth of the town's population, a series of summary leaflets will be published this year using information contained in the RBWM Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). Initially leaflets on Schools Provision and Transport have been prepared.

#### Discussion:

Concern was expressed in the Q+A session that the Forum has not been meeting as a wider group of members on Zoom. The co-Chairs explained that part of the reason is that until we find a way to agree an area with RBWM there is little to discuss with members. It is hoped that with the resumption of discussions with RBWM there will be sufficient material to discuss at a Forum meeting.

Suggested that consideration should be given to making a formal complaint to RBWM over the lack of engagement in progressing the development of MNF. Several members suggesting that greater political pressure may need to be applied either via the Maidenhead Councillors and/or our MP Theresa May.

It was noted by an observer from Windsor Neighbourhood Plan Forum, that it has taken their Forum 9 years from being established to submitting the draft neighbourhood plan for referendum.

### **3) Annual Financial Report**

No comments or questions were raised.

### **4) Officers and Management Committee**

#### **Voting**

All four resolutions were overwhelmingly approved by the 19 members present.

Arising from the resignation of Andy Woodcock as Secretary, Sue Ingram has agreed to take on the role.

#### **Officers**

Chair – Ian Rose/Andrew Ingram (as co-chairs)

Treasurer – Bob Beauchamp

Secretary – Sue Ingram

#### **Management Committee**

Mark Fessey

Martin McNamee

Richard Davenport

Andy Woodcock

Deborah Mason

The co-Chairs thanked the outgoing members of the Management Committee and welcomed new members.

### **Neighbourhood planning presentation**

Following the formal part of the AGM, a presentation on the role of neighbourhood planning was given by Ian Rose. This was based on the presentation given to RBWM's Maidenhead Town Forum in May 2021.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2040.

**Andy Woodcock**

Secretary

29 June 2021