

# Mawsley Village Association (MVA) Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October

**Venue:** TCAM

**Attendees:** Martin Bentley  
Jenny Clucas  
Christine Hamilton  
John Holton  
Paul Howells  
Rebecca Johnson  
George King  
Alan Moore  
Chris Waine  
Nicola Wisdom  
Simon Wisdom

**Apologies:** Adrienne Nixon

## NOTES

### 1. Actions from July Meeting

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>UPDATE</b>
<b>Fireworks</b> Approach Parish Council for funding Explore the use of card readers for 2025 e.g. SumUp	John: Grant submitted – see below Jenny: see below
<b>Skate Mawsley</b> Progress use of School assigned TCAM Noticeboard	Nicki Clode: Planning to put up poster in space allocated
<b>Newsletter</b> Include list of User Groups in Sept issue	John: Completed
<b>Litter Pick</b> Discuss village litter pick with Christine Hamilton	Jenny: Completed – see below

### 2. MVA Finances update

John as MVA treasurer gave a brief summary of MVA finances. Under its Articles, the MVA must hold a minimum of £4,000 reserves. The MVA currently has £8,257 in its bank account after paying for various 2024 Fireworks costs (fireworks, insurance, torches, etc) – the MVA will re-coop all/most of this money from ticket sales. This should bring the bank account back to ~£15k, its normal level.

In addition to Fireworks night, the MVA pays the rates for the Centre, £183/month, and the printing of the Village Newsletter, which is offset by advertising sales.

### 3. Fireworks Night - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Update on progress for the 2024 Fireworks Night:

- All planning is in place and on track.
- The decision, as agreed at July Meeting, is to retain the same entrance fee as previous years: £5 for adults, accompanying children free.
- Paul asked if TCAM's mobile payment devices could be available for use, in case the cash machine is faulty on the night.
- The Fireworks and other ancillary services and equipment have been ordered and paid for. The cost is similar to 2023.
- John has submitted a grant application to the Parish Council for £1,000 to cover the cost of the ancillary services and equipment. This will go to the PC Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct for a

decision. The Parish Council supported the 2023 Fireworks, but at the time said there would be no further funding.

- To achieve breakeven on the costs we need at least 1200 paying adults to attend the event.
- Advertising the event and that tickets are available to buy in advance was proposed as useful.
- The Fireworks Team have the marshalls required, but need volunteers on the gate. John and Jenny volunteered to help.
- A single rocket will be launched at the start of the event in memory of Vic Cope. The Fireworks Team agreed to provide Jenny with wording for the MVA website.
- Nicola has ordered the cardboard for protecting the TCAM floors and arranged that it can be laid on the preceding Thursday (Quiz Night moved into the Hall).
- The Scouts will have a stall just outside the Small Meeting Room as per last year.
- Coffee at No 9 and the Chip Van have agreed to provide food and will make a donation to the MVA. Nicola has suggested £40. John suggested they pay their donation to Nicola on behalf of the MVA.
- Chris reminded everyone that a litter pick is needed early on the Sunday morning before football starts and all volunteers are welcome.
- Jenny thanked Chris, Martin and all the Fireworks Group for their amazing efforts.
- Chris asked everyone to pray for dry weather!

#### **Future Fireworks Night**

- Chris said that there are long-standing volunteers who plan to stand down after 2025, so it is uncertain if Fireworks will be able to continue. The thinking is to propose to the Parish Council that they take on the management, organising and liability of Fireworks Night, working with those volunteers who wish to remain involved. Other local Parish Councils already take on this role, so there is a precedent for this.
- The entrance fee would need to increase if the event was to continue to ensure costs are covered.
- The facility for cashless payment was thought to be essential in future. Jenny had looked at the costs involved in SumUp devices:
  - SumUp - Air: simplest device connect via Bluetooth to free SumUp App on smartphone. Cost £39 + 1.69% per transaction.
  - SumUp - Solo; touchscreen, with charging station, and built in SIM card (no smartphone connection required). Cost £79 + 1.69% per transaction.Simon calculated that the cost to MVA would be ~£100 + cost of device for Fireworks Night. However, another option may be to borrow TCAM's device, if feasible.
- Another suggestion for 2025 from the July meeting was to have differential pricing for advance tickets versus those bought on the night, to encourage advance buying.
- There will be a review meeting after the 2024 Fireworks to decide on the way forward.

#### **4. Skate Mawsley Project**

MVA hold the funds raised by the Skate Mawsley project, via Good Hub on behalf of the Project. The total held currently is £1535 with a further £50 to come from gift aid.

Brief update from Skate Mawsley meeting held after MVA Meeting (background in July Notes). The Group had planned to submit a grant application to FCC for the majority of the funding for a new concrete ramp in conjunction with NNC, with match funding from the fund raising activities and the Parish Council. Sadly, FCC have announced recently that they are no longer funding projects in the Northamptonshire area as they have closed one landfill site and are closing the other. The Group now plan to seek funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, which is a two stage process; an Expression of Interest and if successful a bid. They will continue with fund raising either as match for the National Lottery or in case this bid is unsuccessful and there is a decision to replace like for like.

#### **5. Village Newsletter**

John, as Editor, gave an update. The next Newsletter will be issued the first week in December in time to promote Christmas activities. The deadline for articles will be mid-November; John will contact all contributors, User Groups and advertisers with the date.

Expected contributors:

- Article in memory of Vic Cope
- Football
- Scouts
- Skate Mawsley Project
- Fireworks Night
- Reading Club
- Yoga club
- Alan was asked if he would continue to provide an article after his move

Other ideas:

- John said that his approach for the Newsletter was to focus on local advertising, but with more articles than adverts. Ideally, the Newsletter would run at break even, with adverts
- Could seek to have more advertorials
- Alan agreed to approach Potbelly Brewery for an advert
- Publicise the Newsletter and providing articles and adverts on the two Mawsley Facebook pages

John said that going forward he planned to continue with 3 newsletters per year.

6. **Regular village litter picks**

It was agreed at the July Meeting to reinstate regular litter picks within the Village. Jenny met with Christine Hamilton to discuss the proposal. Subsequent to this, Rebecca Johnson organised a successful litter pick on 7<sup>th</sup> September, with 14 volunteers and 16 bags collected.

Going forward the plan is to organise two litter picks a year in April and September (after the Easter and Summer school holidays). Alan reminded everyone that individuals would need to be fully aware that they are volunteers and are litter picking under their own responsibility with no liability on the MVA. Nicola agreed that TCAM could act as the hub for the activity.

Jenny will contact Rebecca in early March to start planning for the April litter pick.

4. **Other ideas?**

Nothing raised.

5. **Date of Next Meeting - 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7.15pm, at TCAM (prior to TCAM Meeting).**

**Actions:**

<b>Fireworks</b> Volunteers needed on the gate & for litter picking morning after Pursue grant funding from Parish Council	All John
<b>Newsletter</b> Approach Potbelly Brewery for an advert Publicise the Newsletter re providing articles and adverts on the two Mawsley Facebook pages	Alan John/Jenny
<b>Litter Pick</b> Contact Rebecca early March to organise April litter pick	Jenny