

Mawsley Village Association (MVA) Meeting

Date: Tuesday 16th July

Venue: TCAM

Attendees: Martin Bentley
Nicki Clode
Jenny Clucas
John Holton
Paul Howells
George King
Alan Moore
Adrienne Nixon
Nicola Wisdom

Apologies: Laura Cross

NOTES

1. **MVA & TCAM CIC Agreement**

The Village Centre is owned by the Parish Council and leased to the MVA; a new lease was agreed and signed earlier this year. The Centre is run by a Community Interest Company (CIC) - The Centre at Mawsley (TCAM). Following on from the new lease, a new Agreement between MVA and TCAM on the running of the Centre was drawn up and signed by Jenny on behalf of MVA and Paul on behalf of TCAM.

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 £9,843 in its bank account after paying for the 2024 Fireworks – the MVA will re-coop this money from ticket sales. The MVA pays the rates for the Centre, £183/month, and the printing of the Village Newsletter. The printing cost is offset by the sale of advertising in the Newsletter.

In the past year, financial assistance was provided to the Toddlers Group to help them through a difficult period.

MVA provided a letter of support for a local resident's grant application for additional wheel chair equipment to increase his mobility. John was pleased to report that this application was successful and the resident has their equipment.

3. **Fireworks Night - planning update**

Martin gave an update on progress for the 2024 Fireworks Night:

- The Fireworks have been ordered and paid for. The cost is similar to 2023.
- The event will be held on Saturday 2nd November.
- Steve Thorpe is arranging for the necessary insurance and assistance from the Police Cadets has been requested. The extras for the event, including insurance and H&S, cost ~£1,000.
- The decision is to retain the same entrance fee as previous years: £5 for adults, accompanying children free. The reasons for this are to maintain affordability for all, that it is a village event, and ease of payment (given it is cash payments, mainly on the night, £5 is easy to handle especially when people arrive en masse near the start time).

In 2023, the Parish Council provided a one-off grant for Fireworks Night. John said he would ask if they were willing to provide any support this year, but he thought it was unlikely. Alan added that the Parish Council's view was that the entrance fee should be increased if additional funding was required.

Paul asked how many tickets we needed to sell to breakeven. Martin said it was ~1,100 and that normally at least ~1,000 people attend, more if the weather is dry. Nicola added that additional income comes from pitch fees. In previous years, this has been paid to TCAM, but it was agreed that this should come to MVA as a donation. It may be possible for donors to claim gift aid. Nicola agreed to contact the stalls requesting donations, rather than issuing invoices.

Nicky suggested saying that the entrance fee was a minimum donation of £5 per adult, but making clear that this does not cover the full cost of the event and people are welcome to make an additional donation.

Paul proposed that we investigate cashless payment for the 2025 event, which would allow for an entrance fee increase. It may be possible to buy/borrow SumUp devices for the evening. Jenny agreed to obtain further information. The other suggestion for 2025 was to have differential pricing for advance tickets versus on the night.

Jenny thanked Martin and all the Fireworks Group for their efforts.

4. **Skate Mawsley Project**

Nicki provided an outline of the project and progress to date.

This project arose from a proposal to the Parish Council to replace the large skate ramp with a concrete one by a group of young enthusiasts from Mawsley School. The Parish Council agreed to support this proposal; a Working Group, chaired by Nicky, has been set up to drive the project forward. The cost will be approximately £100k, requiring a grant application and match fund raising.

The focus for the grant application is FCC Community Action Fund, which has funded similar projects. Mawsley meets the criteria to apply to FCC. The plan is for the Parish Council to be the primary applicant for the grant, with NNC, who own the land, as the secondary applicant and signatory if successful. NNC would take on financial responsibility and oversee the procurement and installation of the facility. The Skate Ramp would belong to NNC and they would be responsible for it.

Skate Mawsley identified the GoodHub Fundraising Platform as a preferred Platform for fund raising (Good Hub is a fundraising platform, akin to Just Giving). They approached the MVA as registration on this site has to be via a charity and they wished to be able to claim gift aid. The MVA is now registered on the GoodHub, with Skate Mawsley having a fund raising site under the MVA banner. Skate Mawsley have set a target to raise £15km and have raised ~£500 to date.

A local contractor, who has built skate ramps of a comparable size, has surveyed the site and given his initial thoughts on what is possible for the budget and a generic diagram. He has confirmed that the skate ramp could be built on the field in the area of the current skate ramp and pump track, away from the football pitches.

The outline timescale is to submit a grant application in February, with a decision after 3 months, and if successful, the build period would be summer 2025.

Nicky asked about the possibility of notice board space within TCAM. Nicola said that the school have part of noticeboard that they are not using, so this could be taken over by Skate Mawsley. Nicky thought that maybe displaying a poster designed by the school pupils would be ideal.

5. **Village Newsletter**

John, as Editor, gave an update. The deadlines for articles for the next edition is 21st August, with the Newsletter being issued mid-September. The following one would be published at the end of November in advance of Christmas events.

Suggested articles:

- Football – contacts Ben Kingham and Adam Knight.
- FOMS – Nicky thought they would provide an article, she will ask them.
- Skate Mawsley Project
- Fireworks Night
- Precise of Tom Sander’s review of last 10 years in the village
- List of all the User Groups in the village and how to contact each.

6. **Regular village litter picks?**

Jenny asked if there was support to reinstate litter picks within the Village. Paul Richards used to organise these and last year one was organised as part of Coronation Volunteer Day. Jenny added that, if agreed, individuals would need to do it under their own responsibility with no liability on the MVA. The suggestion was to do this in second half of September - after the holiday period and when children were back at school.

The idea was accepted and Jenny agreed to discuss it further with Christine Hamilton, a local ‘womble’. Nicola agreed that TCAM could act as the hub for the activity.

4. **Other ideas?**

Nothing raised.

5. **Date of Next Meeting - 15th October at 7.15pm.**

Jenny proposed holding short MVA meetings quarterly, this was agreed. Continuing to hold them to coincide with TCAM Meetings was the preferred timing. Therefore, the next meeting will be 15th October at 7.15pm.

Actions:

Fireworks Approach Parish Council for funding Explore the use of card readers for 2025 e.g. SumUp	John Jenny
Skate Mawsley Progress use of School assigned TCAM Noticeboard	Nicki
Newsletter Include list of User Groups in Sept issue	John
Litter Pick Discuss village litter pick with Christine Hamilton	Jenny