**Visit New Mills - Tuesday 2nd September 2025 - Rock Mill Centre**

**Present:** Stephen Wilson (STW), John Reed (JR), Trevor Zoppi (TZ), Jane Fletcher (JF), Ann Mummery (AM)

**Apologies:** Linda Arrandale (LA) & Sean Whewell (SW)

**Review of minutes from 27 February 2025 meeting/matters arising:** Minutes accepted. AM asked about the flags as she had received an enquiry about them. JR explained that VNM had no intention of erecting the flags again due to loose brackets which are dangerous, flags themselves being old and needing replacing but there is no budget to purchase any and not enough manpower.

JR said he would send an email explaining this to the relevant parties.

**Treasurers report:** SW supplied carnival accounts which everyone agreed were very good and showed that it was a successful event again this year. SW has also updated quick file. Monthly storage cost is now £150, an improvement as it was previously £237.50 per month.

**Carnival Summary:** Another successful event despite the weather. Everyone was pleased with how it all went. There were more stalls this year which was good. The parade ran smoothly. The Dinosaur couldn’t attend the event as their vehicle broke down so a deposit refund of £200 was received. Collections & competitions were managed very well. The program and stalls etc brought in a good income.

A few points for next year as follows:

STW now has the storage container keys which moving forward is much better for access.

JF to ask Caroline, Julian, Mark & Sam to lead the parade again.

The program needs to be managed better so there isn’t as much confusion, suggested one person to oversee.

£1000 Donation from the carnival to be distributed to four groups as follows:

Sett Valley Explorers, New Mills Scouts, New Mills Juniors FC and Rock Mill Centre.

Next year’s carnival date is Saturday 6th June 2026, theme Heroes & Villains

**Quizit summary - JR:** Quizits are going very well and still very popular. However, Quizmasters are a challenge, there is a shortage of people willing to do this and it is an ongoing struggle.

**Website – AM:** Revamp is working well. Not as much content has been submitted as in previous years probably due to numerous social media sites. Still receiving spam, not quite as much though.

**Fundraising/Hanging Baskets:**

There will be no grant next year for hanging baskets so will need to raise £4.5K. TZ asked if businesses could contribute but it was felt that they contributed enough with the two annual event programmes, quizits etc could ask for small donations possibly.

JF to explore possible grants from HPBC, Mayoral fund, HPBC councillor funding, High Peak Comps and possibly set up a ‘go fund me’ page.

AM suggested selling branded merchandise to raise funds, i.e keyrings, tea towels, mugs and possibly to hold workshops to make beaded bracelets etc, we could sell these items at the LSO and Carnival.

AM to contact Sean re branding copyrights, marketing and suppliers etc and explore possible merchandise.

**VNM Glasses:** The group felt that these are now outdated. The bars are reluctant to use them due to health and safety/hygiene requirements and we are not clearing a significant profit to warrant ordering them. Storage is difficult too as the boxes get damp.

**LSO:**

STW to speak to SNS trees again, if no joy JF will order a tree as last year

JF to speak to Youth Matters re grotto and Darren at the Market re electric etc

JF to speak to Crabtree’s re stage

JF to book stalls, bar and hot food, SW to invoice

JF and SW to arrange bands and entertainment

TZ to test tree lights are working before installation

JR to submit road closures

JF to submit HPBC event street trading consent and TEN for the stage, alcohol vendors to submit their own TEN’s

STW to liaise with businesses for programme adverts

Times of the event were agreed as 2pm until 8pm (Light Switch On at 6.30pm), road closures from 1pm until 10pm. It was felt that it is very important to liaise with businesses regarding timings etc for the event LA has agreed to arrange this

JR said that there would be a Christmas event at the town hall on the same date, details to be confirmed

Signage needed to Torr Top Car Park stating it is open

**AGM:** Wednesday 8th October 2025, 7pm at the Rock Mill Centre

**AOB:**

SW received a grant for a LPG generator, this has now been ordered

JR felt that the 3rd digital screen at the Market hall was now not a possibility