

If it were just about money, this role would be very small indeed!

Let's look at money matters first. It is up to you, for example, whether you (say) put on a barbecue and supply all the food and charge £1 a head for those who come, or whether you charge nothing and get everyone to bring their own food, or have a 'bring and share' style of meal. Each Association will have to feel their own way about how to handle money issues.

But if money is collected, it is obviously down to you to make sure it's looked after and spent on the things it was meant to be spent on. No doubt you have been chosen for this role because you are known to be 100% trustworthy.

We are talking about small amounts and so you may not want to get bogged down with opening a special bank account and that sort of thing. You may decide that a little cash box will do just as well, with a note of what is there, where it came from and what is spent on (keeping receipts). This is an informal grouping, but everything still needs to be above board and records kept, to make sure that everything is managed properly *and seen to be managed properly*.

But the treasurer's role should also be about any kind of administration, because the same kinds of skills that are used for money management need to be used more widely. It is probably you that should keep a simple note of committee meetings (not who said what, but what was decided and who was supposed to do what).

If an event is a bit more complex than most (e.g. a street party, perhaps involving a street closure or public liability insurance or council permission), you are asked to take charge of such matters and to make sure that everything is done properly. But that doesn't stop one being a bit creative and finding ways around problems. For example, one Street Association that recently had a firework display for Guy Fawkes night in their cul-de-sac was told by the council that fireworks could not be set off from the highway, but only from a private garden. The gardens were too small – but one bright spark (!) suggested letting them off from someone's front garden, with the crowd standing on the highway to watch it! That couldn't be faulted.

Yours may be an unromantic role, but you get to be the 'unsung hero', on whom much depends!