

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the Committee Meeting at 27 Roman Way

Wednesday 1st August 2018 – 7.00pm

Present:

Paul Sparks (Chair)	
Peter Griggs (Secretary)	Andy Clews
Sally Major (Treasurer)	Jerry Miller
Julia Brown	Belinda Da Silva

1. Apologies

Dorothy Sparks, Jane Shepherd, Ric Mears

2. Minutes of the last meeting on 31st May 2018 and matters arising

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the last meeting. All matters arising were included on the agenda.

3. Treasurer's Report

Sally circulated her report and advised that the Association has a current bank balance of £1600 of which £378 remains of the Walk and Talk campaign. £300 has been received from AiRS for the Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) and we have received £19.59 from Easy Fund Raising.

The Big Lunch expenses amounted to £384 which was largely offset by the £350 grant from Awards for All.

Peter asked that spending and income for the GNS be identified in a separate pot.

ACTION: Sally

4. Secretary's Report

Peter reported as follows:

- Membership – the Association has approximately 140 members.
- Social media activity remains high, we now have 518 Likes
- Correspondence – KSS Air Ambulance thanked us for the £52.30 raised at the AGM and Royal Mail have once again raised concerns about the state of the footpaths on The Dene. Peter has replied to the Royal Mail advising that a solution is not in sight.

Paul mentioned the meeting with ESCC Highways and the County Councillor about remedial works to the damaged verges in Downsview Crescent.

Various options had been discussed with ESCC Highways seeming to favour back filling and tarmacking the affected verges. ESCC were encouraged to consult with the occupiers of the properties concerned. Paul suggested that we add a further option – installing 'grasscrete' which will provide a durable surface but retain a green verge. **ACTION: Peter to contact ESCC Highways** (this has been actioned, reply awaited)

Julia spoke about the poor state of the Twitten close to where she lives.

5. Surgery Car Service (SCS)

Sally advised that bookings have picked up considerably over the past couple of months with 12 trips in June and 16 in July, bringing the annual total so far this year to 69.

As reported at the AGM we had a surplus of £52 for the financial year ending 5 April 2018, since then we have received £17 in Income plus a £10 donation. Expenditure so far this financial year is £14.40, the quarterly cost of the phone service.

6. Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS)

Peter advised the committee about the meeting with the GNS volunteers on 18th July and that we are moving towards launching on 1st October.

At the last committee meeting Kate had said she could provide contact details of local support services and relevant agencies. **ACTION: Peter to remind Kate**

Belinda asked for a copy of the volunteer form. **ACTION: Peter**

7. AGM

Matters raised at the AGM included a question about progress with providing a handrail at Tesco Express – no response from landowner following a resident's offer to install one free of charge, despite reminders.

Also a request was made for the Association to resolve the confusing street numbering that exists for Jeffreys Way. Peter advised that he had since met with an officer from Wealden Council and a number of additional signs are to be installed, without charge, in the Autumn. These will include signs on the green where Jeffreys Way meets Tower Ride and Views Wood Path.

There was concern that only very few residents had attended the AGM and talk which may have been due to the hot weather, the venue or a reluctance to attend a formal meeting.

Several solutions were put forward:

- Hold the AGM earlier or later in the year (subject to the constitution's requirements)
- AGM to not include a talk
- Hold the AGM at Manor Primary again

ACTION: Paul to advise Peter of the name of his contact at Ashdown AV so that Peter can obtain quote for cost of providing a good sound system at Manor Primary

8. URC Founding Fathers' Funding

Paul advised that he had been approached by the URC with an offer of some funding to support a community project. Initially it was thought that the street signs for Jeffreys Way would require funding but it now seems that WDC will bear all the costs. Consequently we now need to identify another project. Peter suggested that maybe an additional Planter somewhere (although this would need maintaining) or maybe an area that would benefit from a tree or shrubs **ACTION: all** - to come up with ideas please

9. Forthcoming Events

- **Remembrance** – Peter continues working with the Sussex Horse Rescue Trust to support a remembrance event on Sunday 12th August – 'WW1 War Horses'. Peter asked if any committee members could help on the day.
- **Question Time** – it was agreed that it would be useful to have another Question Time event early in October with representatives from Uckfield College, the District Council, the Town Council and Sussex Police on the panel. **ACTION: someone to organise this please**

- **Big Lunch** – Peter asked for ideas to refresh or replace the Big Lunch. Julia felt that the format should remain the same or similar as it was a really good community event. During the discussion it was suggested:
 - We drop Punch and Judy
 - We drop the Dog Show
 - Invite Jimmy the Juggling Jester – he interacts well with kids
 - Invite Debs Dancers
 - Include live music – ideas for suitable performers please (Paul mentioned a trio that played at the Big Day)
 - Invite Manor Primary’s choir

ACTION: Peter to pursue these ideas and apply for grant funding and sponsorship in due course

10. Any Other Business

- Paul suggested we approach Manor Primary to see if we could be invited to talk about the Walk and Talk initiative at a new parents evening **ACTION: Peter**

11. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

To be decided

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 12th August (from 11am) - WW1 War Horse event at Sussex Horse Rescue