

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the **Committee Meeting** at 27 Roman Way
Wednesday 6th April 2016 – 7.30pm

Present:

Paul Sparks (Chair)
Peter Griggs (Secretary)
Tom Crellin
Belinda Da Silva

Anna Elliot
Dorothy Sparks
Ric Mears

1. Apologies

Paul welcomed Belinda as a new (ad hoc) member of the committee.

Apologies for absence were received from Jane, Sally (Treasurer) and Jerry.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The notes were agreed as a true record of the last meeting.

Matters arising: Dorothy advised that the rockery in Browns Lane, near the bottom junction with Downsview Crescent, has been prepared and that the Town Council will soon be planting it up.

3. Treasurer's Report

The meeting received a written report from Sally, which she had circulated in advance. It shows that the Association has a bank balance of £1363. Details of income and expenditure were also provided.

Two invoices for newsletter advertising have not been paid, one from last year. Sally will be pursuing these upon her return.

Significant expenditure since the report was prepared includes £72 for the DBS checks and £69 for printing flyers for the Surgery Car Service.

4. Secretary's Report

- Membership: currently stands at 147 paid up members. Paul suggested that we should draw up a welcome pack for people moving onto MP and HF.

ACTION: Peter and Paul to put together a draft

- Correspondence received: all included on the agenda

5. Surgery Car Service (SCS)

Tom reported that all the drivers bar three had fully completed the process and that the system showed that two of the three outstanding comply. The third driver has not responded and Peter has asked him to return his badge, dashboard sign etc. To-date these have not been returned and it was agreed that Peter should write again before taking any further action.

ACTION: Peter to contact the driver concerned.

Tom was thanked for the time and effort he has put into actioning the DBS procedures.

Peter advised that the SCS posters and leaflets have now been revised and refreshed and members volunteered to circulate supplies to the GP surgeries, the Volunteer Centre and the local supermarkets.

Peter said that Meads had agreed to include a SCS powerpoint slide on their waiting room TV display – replies awaited from Bird in Eye and Buxted.

Paul provided an update on the recent SCS drivers and coordinators meeting.

Dorothy has met with Barry Marlow regarding the 'Wealden Bus Alliance – access to healthcare' scheme. It seems that ESCC are providing funding for a second year. The scheme is operating with just two drivers.

6. Easy Fund Raising Website

Peter advised that the Association is now registered with this organisation which operates a free to use website which can be used to raise money for the Association without any additional cost to the Association or to the members.

The Easy Fund Raising website includes most of the big online retailers which make a donation (e.g. 1 or 2%) each time a purchase is made from them via the [Easy Fund Raising Website](#).

Ric suggested that this could be mentioned at the AGM with maybe a competition for whoever raises the most money for the Association.

ACTION: Peter to promote the scheme further and include on AGM agenda with perhaps someone there to demonstrate how simple it is to operate.

7. The Dene

Dorothy confirmed that the application to make The Dene a community asset is in hand.

8. Grit Bins

Peter referred to correspondence from Cllr Anderson about the need for a grit bin to facilitate dealing with icy footpaths around Manor Primary School and could the Association sponsor this?

These are quite costly to install (£275) and there is an on going cost to refill them and spread the grit.

It was agreed that Peter would contact the Head Teacher to discuss this and another solution suggested by Ric.

ACTION: Peter

9. Good Neighbour Schemes

Paul told the meeting about this scheme which is being explored by the Church Coombe Community Association.

Some concerns were expressed about introducing 'strangers' to vulnerable people and the checks and safeguards that might complicate the scheme. Paul agreed to investigate further and talk to the volunteer bureau about any advice they might issue. This might also be an issue that could be aired at the AGM.

ACTION: Paul

10. Park and Stride Scheme – Park then Walk, Walk Safely, Park Considerately

Peter outlined the action taken so far to promote this idea which has included a meeting with the head teachers at UCTC and Twiglets. All three schools have expressed interest and support for the initiative. The next step will be to identify the level of funding required and make a bid for a grant.

11. Twittens – repair to an adoptable standard

A working group comprising Ric, Tom and Paul was set up to investigate and determine the (2 or 3) key routes that should be tackled (some have already been suggested by residents in response to the newsletter article), the specification required to bring them up to adoption standard, the approximate costs and the best way to identify and engage with the relevant residents and obtain their consent.

ACTION: Ric, Tom and Paul

Ric was thanked for the extensive time and effort he was putting in to resolve the subsidence problem between Pine Walk and Montacute Way.

12. The Sussex Flow Initiative

A letter had been received from Sandra Manning Jones advising that x50 free or low-cost trees might be available for the Association / residents to plant on MP and HF. Peter is seeking further details.

ACTION: Peter

13. Social Media

Peter informed the Committee that since the last meeting that the Facebook page had received another 10 likes – making a total of 367, with 210 Twitter followers, an increase of 2.

14. Events and Activities

- **Wine Tasting** – (arranged with the Uckfield Wine Society for April 30th at the Luxford Centre) take up is a little slow despite widespread advertising.

ACTION Peter to continue publicising

ACTION Paul to check with Wine Society re minimum number

ACTION All – to encourage neighbours, friends, relatives to buy tickets

- **Big Lunch 2016, 12th June** – Peter listed the activities booked and being organised, the programme for the day and the various costs. We are still short of a sporting activity although it is possible that Peter's son will run 'kick a conversion' event again.

Anna volunteered to organise a Tombola stall, subject to any necessary lottery permits being required (we have since determined that the scale of our event and the absence of selling tickets in advance means a permit is not required).

Church Coombe Community Assoc. have indicated they will run a stall(s).

Volunteers on the day – Belinda (subject to leave being granted), Anna, Dorothy, Paul, Jerry and Sam? Sally? Jane? Peter and Gabbi.

- **AGM** – 21st July, Mick Harker has agreed to be the guest speaker and will talk about Bridge Cottage

ACTION Peter to finalise the venue

15. Any Other Business

- Tree Group – work in progress

ACTION Paul, Dorothy and Sally to complete their surveys

ACTION Peter to send Dorothy a copy of the map

- Walking Group – Tom is no longer free to lead the group (although thankfully will continue as Secretary). Tom will enlist one of the regular walkers to take over his role on the walks

16. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11th May 2016, 7.30pm at 27 Roman Way (please note start time)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Saturday 30th April Wine tasting evening
- Wednesday 11th May Next Committee Meeting
- Sunday 12th June 2016 The Big Lunch
- Thursday 21st July 2016 AGM