

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the **Committee Meeting** at 27 Roman Way
29th October 2013

1 Introductions and apologies

Present:

Paul Sparks (Chair)

Peter Griggs (Secretary)

Sally Majors (Treasurer)

Dorothy Sparks

Emma Luck

Glenda Derby

Wendy Tagg

Esteban Amirante

Apologies: Ric Mears

2 Agree the notes of the last meeting

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

3 Matters arising from the notes

Peter advised that the Uckfield Town Council had approved the Association's grant application for £200 to fund promoting the Surgery Car Service and that they had expressed great interest and enthusiasm for the project. The grant is for the year 2014-15.

Peter also drew attention to the Association's new display banner which had been purchased from Rare Displays of Hailsham.

4 Treasurers Report

Sally presented her report and a balance sheet which shows a current balance of £163.31. Roy Thompson has now examined the 2012/13 accounts and 26 of the 36 standing order accounts had been transferred to the new Bank (Lloyds). The Bank's statements now show the required detail.

Peter will hold the cheque book and paying in books whilst Sally is away.

Membership renewal reminders will be sent out at the end of January by post, email or by 'phone, as appropriate. Members will be asked to encourage neighbours to join.

ACTION: Sally and Peter

5 Surgery Car Service Update

Glenda advised the meeting that she and Jane had met with Tom Crellin and that the VOIP talk software is now up and ready to be put into operation. This will provide a separate number (01825 578006) that can be diverted to Glenda or Jane as and when required or put to voicemail. The meeting expressed their thanks to Tom for his help and for meeting the on-going costs.

A pre-printed receipt book is required. **ACTION Peter**

A Driver registration form has been devised and this now needs to be sent to each driver for completion. **ACTION Glenda and Jane**

Drivers will also need to provide a passport sized photo for their badge **ACTIONS Glenda and Jane to advise drivers of this requirement and Peter to produce the badges in due course.**

Paul advised that Tennyson have advised that our current Public Liability Insurance will provide sufficient cover for the car service.

Peter advised that the Practice Manager at Bird In Eye Surgery was very supportive and that a GP from the surgery may attend the AGM.

Paul suggested that Ron Hill be asked to take a photo of the first passenger to use the service. A news release will be issued following the AGM. **ACTION Peter**
It was agreed that new drivers should be recruited via member recommendation and that our existing drivers should be asked if they knew of any suitable likely candidates. **ACTION Glenda and Jane**

6 Village Green

Wendy updated the meeting on progress so far. Wendy has collated the names of people who can provide evidence of past use and has received an information pack from the Open Space organisation, which Dorothy offered to read and digest. **ACTION Dorothy**
We will need to define and produce a map of the Dene's 'catchment area'.
Paul told the meeting about the Neighbourhood Plan that the Town Council was starting to prepare, the Association will be consulted formally on this in due course.

7 AGM (7th November at Manor School)

Peter advised that all the committee members had accepted nomination for another term. The proposed amendments to the Constitution will be emailed to Association members and placed on the website prior to the AGM. Hard copies will be available at the meeting too.

ACTION Peter

The Surgery Car Service to be launched at the meeting by the Chairman. **ACTION Paul**
Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided at the conclusion of business. **ACTION Glenda**

8 Future Events and Projects

- *Question Time* (23rd January 8pm) – Police, Fire Service and Wealden have confirmed attendance. ESCC not replied – letter to be sent. **ACTION Peter**
- *Quiz Night* – Esteban to propose to Rugby club that Quiz is held there on 21st February, or 7th February as second choice, and to find out how many the club can accommodate. **ACTION Esteban** Need to look for a sponsor to provide the prize(s). Probably charge £5 per table of 6.
- *St Georges Day (Weds 23rd April)* – Paul proposed an English Wine and Cheese tasting evening. Maybe ask Nobles Wine Cellar and Hartfield's Shop to sponsor. Admission by ticket only. Possible venue Luxford Centre but not sure about capacity **ACTION Dorothy**
- *Post-Christmas Meal* – Paul proposed the Committee members have an evening meal in January (probable dates 17th, 18th or 20th). Maybe Ringles Cross, need to know availability and prices. **ACTION Emma**
- *Discount Card Scheme* – Peter outlined some thoughts he had on such a scheme, the idea was well received and will be actioned in the New Year possibly to coincide with the Wine and Cheese event **ACTION Peter**
- *Supporting A Local Charity* – this was also supported and it was agreed that this need not just mean financial support although we could raise money at raffles held at our events. We need to know which local charities our members would like to support **ACTION Peter**

9 Litter etc

Dorothy advised that the BUC cleared litter from around the Dene periodically and will blitz an area upon request. BUC have written to the College about litter and Head Teacher advised that students are reminded of need to avoid dropping litter and that students do collect litter. Focus of the problem seems to be Tesco Express and it seems that the shop does not have a litter reduction policy unlike some national chains e.g. MacDonald's. Agreed we should write to Tesco's 'community officer' **ACTION Peter and Emma**

Paul advised of correspondence from Town Council regarding an elderly resident that had problems with an overgrown verge adjoining his property. Paul agreed to call and see the gentleman and agree a way forward before we ask for a volunteer gardener **ACTION Paul**

10 Social Media

Wendy advised about activity on the Twitter account and submitted a report (copy available) showing that our statistics are gradually increasing e.g. in January we had 20 accounts following our account and now we have 101.

Peter advised that we now have 210 'likes' on Facebook page and that a post re refuse collection after the storm had reached over 1700 people.

11 Any Other Business

Esteban suggested that we have a competition for best front garden. Dorothy mentioned that BUC also have a garden competition at Festival time. Wendy suggested we promote the BUC scheme. Paul said he had noticed how many magnificent trees we have on the states and is looking into working Manor School to compile a register of them.

Esteban also suggested that members should use Facebook to advise neighbours of surplus garden fruit.

Emma advised of a violent incident she had witnessed outside Tesco Express and vandalism in the area, she questioned the adequacy of Police presence. (maybe this is an issue to raise at the Question Time event- Secy)

Peter spoke about Richard's resignation and everyone agreed we should thank him for his contribution and continuing interest.

Paul mentioned possible changes to the 54 bus service (09.05 may be removed or substituted by another company).

Peter suggested we thank Uckfield FM for their coverage during the storm

16 Date and venue of next meeting

Tuesday, 21st January 2014. 7pm at 27 Roman Way.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- 7th November – AGM at Manor Primary School, Lower Hall
- 21st January - next Committee Meeting
- 23rd January – Question Time at Manor Primary School, Lower Hall