

# Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

## Notes of the Committee Meeting at Uckfield Rugby Club

Thursday 2nd February 2023 – 7.30 to 8.45pm

- 1. Present:** Paul Sparks (Chair), Peter Griggs (Secretary), Gabriella Paterson Griggs (Treasurer), Dorothy Sparks, Belinda Da Silva, Sally Major.
- 2. Apologies:** Phil Paton, Jane Shepherd, Ric Mears, Julia Brown, Jerry Miller, Sue Fenwick.
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 and matters arising.** The minutes were agreed as a true record of the last meeting.

Peter and Paul updated the meeting on the following actions arising from that meeting:

- iPad – this has been purchased and is available for use
- The Dene – negotiations between the Town Council and Buxted Parish continue but the outcome looks promising with The Dene remaining a green space. It was agreed that the Association would renew The Dene's designation as an Asset of Community Value as a safeguard against any future changes of use or ownership.
- Linden Court is now part of the Association and the first surgery car run for a resident there has been undertaken.
- The grant application to help fund the late Queens memorial bench is being considered by the Town Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

All other matters arising were included on the agenda.

### 4. Treasurer's Report

Gabbi presented the accounts (copy at the end of the minutes). In summary the current balance is £983.86 after monies allocated have been deducted.

Gabbi will send Paul a link to the online account in order that he can also monitor spending.

**ACTION: Gabbi**

### 5. Secretary's Report Peter

reported:

- Membership – we already have 131 paid up members with renewals still being received.
- Social media - we have 914 people following our Facebook page.
- DBS checks – all the SCS drivers and GNS volunteers now have current DBS certificates. The new Warm Space volunteers are now undergoing their checks.

### 6. Tuesday Warm Space project

Dorothy and Peter updated the meeting on the progress being made with this project. The number of visitors is increasing with over a dozen at the last session. Most of those attending fall within the target group. The project's success is largely due to the excellent group of volunteers that we have.

## 7. Volunteers' Supper

Peter advised the meeting that a fish supper at Bridge Cottage has been arranged as a thank you to the volunteers. Committee member Phil Paton has kindly agreed to provide musical entertainment.

## 8. Southview Drive and Downview Crescent

The committee expressed its concern that these roads still suffered extensive disrepair and that repairs to potholes were not long lasting.

Paul advised that ESCC Highways are considering the developer's proposals arising from the planning condition attached to the College redevelopment which required that the roads be restored to the condition they were in at the start of the work. **ACTION Peter**

## 9. Streatfeild House Redevelopment

In response to an enquiry prompted by Dorothy, Wealden's Housing Service have confirmed that both the grassy bank facing the High Street and the hedge at the top of the bank will be retained. However, there will be two flights of steps serving the new housing. Wealden has promised to keep the Association informed and to arrange an early meeting with the developer's Project Manager.

Dorothy requested that the Project Manager be asked to ensure that fox dens in the bank be undisturbed and that we take photos of the road surface ourselves before work starts.

**ACTION: Paul and Peter**

## 10. The Big Picnic Coronation Lunch

It was agreed that the Association would hold a Big Picnic Lunch again in June but with fewer activities. First thoughts are:

- Apply to Awards for All for a grant of £970 to cover the cost (application submitted)\*
- Hold it on the Rugby Pitch as usual\*
- Name it the 'Big Picnic Coronation Lunch'
- On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June
- 12 noon to 3pm
- Focus this year on live entertainment:
  - Live musician(s)\*
  - Ukulele band (Jerry to lead?)
  - Juggler\*
  - Dog Show (Dorothy to lead)
  - TEN application\*
- Face painter\* - customers pay
- Bouncy Castle\* for toddlers - free of charge
- Manor Primary arts or crafts competition – years 5 and 6 (Sally to lead)
- Ice Cream van\*
- Hot food and Bar provided by URFC\*
- An MPH display to promote the sale of lottery tickets

(Items marked with a star\* will be organised by Peter as he has existing contacts)

Peter to organise an early meeting with the Rugby Club to confirm they are willing to host us again.

**ACTIONS Jerry, Dorothy, Sally Peter**

## **11. Any other business**

Planters - Dorothy advised that the planter at Tesco Express was in poor condition and will soon need to be replaced and that the Men's Shed had previously offered to install a new one. A notional cost for its replacement will be included in a grant application.

Community Lottery – Peter reported that the previous day he had attended the launch of the Wealden Community Lottery and that he had registered the Association's interest.

Purchasers of lottery tickets can nominate a local good cause and every ticket purchased results in 50p being donated to that good cause. This could result in a useful source of income to supplement the income from members subscriptions

## **12. Date, time, and venue of next meeting**

Next meeting will be on 5<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm and provisionally at the Rugby Club again.