

# Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

## Notes of the Committee Meeting at Uckfield Rugby Club

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023

1. **Present:** Paul Sparks (Chair), Peter Griggs (Secretary), Gabriella Paterson-Griggs (Treasurer), Belinda Da Silva, Sue Fenwick, Phil Paton.
2. **Apologies:** Dorothy Sparks, Jane Shepherd, Ric Mears, Julia Brown, Sally Major, Jerry Miller.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 and matters arising**

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

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

- Banking - Paul now has access to the Association's online bank account and he can now monitor all transactions in the account
- Streatfeild House redevelopment – Paul and Peter have not yet met with the project manager, Peter to contact Wealden Housing **ACTION Peter**
- Big Picnic Coronation Lunch – the Rugby Club have given permission for the Association to use the field again this June (11<sup>th</sup>)
- All other matters arising were included on the agenda.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

Gabbi reported as follows:

##### ***End of Year 2022/23***

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 the Residents' Committee account has a balance of £977.36 (excluding committed funds)

##### ***Budget 2022/23***

The original budget had an estimated deficit of £468.64. The actual figure as at 31 March 2023 was a deficit of £310.85. This was lower than estimated due to an underspend on newsletters.

##### ***Grants Awarded and Received***

- Awards for All - £945 for Coronation Big Lunch in June 2023. This was the total amount applied for.
- AiRS - £1565 for continuation of the Warm Space initiative into the Spring/Summer.

##### ***Grants Awarded still to be Received***

Uckfield Town Council - £250 match funding for commemoration bench for the late Queen. Due to be paid in May 2023.

##### ***Allocated Funds as at 31 March 2023***

- Wealden DC - £37.27 for Good Neighbour Scheme

- Various - £758.13 for Warm Space. These funds will be carried over into 2023/24 to be spent on the continuation of the Warm Space project.
- AiRS - £1565 for the continuing Warm Space project.
- Awards for All - £831 for Coronation Big Lunch 2023.

### ***Income since last meeting***

Subscriptions have continued to come in including new standing orders. Other than subscriptions and grants the main income has been from the car service.

### ***Payments since the last meeting***

The majority of the spend since the last meeting has been on the Warm Space project and the Big Lunch both of which are covered by grants so do not affect the Residents' Association funds.

The website hosting was renewed for another year at a cost of £164.10 which came out of the general fund as did £10 for the volunteers fair.

### ***Projects for 2023/24***

- Warm Space is continuing but all costs will be covered by grant funding
- Coronation Big Lunch on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – all costs to be covered by grant funding.
- Commemorative Bench for the late Queen – 63% of cost covered by grant funding.

MPHFRA to find £150.

### ***Budget 2023/24***

The proposed budget for 2023/24 (attached) is estimating a surplus of £30 due to the total cost of the Coronation Big Lunch being met by grant funding.

Note: the Warm Space funding is not included in this budget as spend is completely covered by various grants and reported on separately to the grant awarding bodies.

The committee thanked Gabbi for her comprehensive report.

## **5. Secretary's Report**

Peter reported:

- Membership – there are 145 paid up members with renewals still being received. It was agreed that there will be a new membership drive highlighting the shopper discount scheme which is particularly relevant during the cost of living crisis **ACTION Peter**
- Social media - 920 people following our Facebook page, up from 914 in February.
- Correspondence – messages from two members and the Town Council, all dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

## **6. Tuesday Warm Space project and next steps**

Peter advised the meeting that the Warm Space project concluded on 31st March but that a successful funding bid to AiRS (£1565) means that the project can continue in another guise until October. It is being renamed 'Warm Welcome'.

Most of the volunteers that so ably supported the Warm Space during the winter are transferring to the Warm Welcome. This will continue to be held at the Luxford Centre but with the opening time limited from 11am to 2pm.

## **7. Hempstead Farm Planning application WD/2023/0145**

The committee having taken into consideration a verbal summary of the proposal and the items of correspondence received from two Association members it decided that the Association will raise objections to the proposal on the following grounds:

- Access
- Road safety
- Environment
- Further development

**ACTION Peter**

## **8. Uckfield Leisure Centre – consultation concerning its future**

Gabbi and Paul acquainted the committee with the history of the Leisure Centre including its ownership (ESCC) and Wealden DC's contract with ESCC and Freedom Leisure.

The committee felt that the loss of the Centre will be a considerable disadvantage to the residents of Uckfield and also the primary schools that use it, the nearest alternative public pools being in Ringmer, Hailsham and Crowborough.

It was decided that the Association should use its social media and newsletter to encourage individual residents who use the Centre to complete the consultation document. This is available online and in hard copy form from the Leisure Centre.

**ACTION Peter**

## **9. Southview Drive and Downsview Crescent**

Paul and Peter updated the committee regarding its communications with Wealden DC and that there is a lack of any real progress regarding getting WDC to enforce condition 22 which was attached to the planning permission for the redevelopment of the Uckfield College. Condition 22 requires the developer to reinstate the roads to the condition they were in before the work commenced.

The committee took into account the message and data provided by a resident.

Given the lack of any substantive progress and the worsening and unsafe condition of the roads it was decided to request a meeting with the Cabinet member for Planning and Development, Cllr Ann Newton. Cllr Newton is also the Leader of Wealden District Council.

**ACTION Peter**

## **10. The Lions Club Health Initiative**

Having heard from Belinda about this excellent initiative it was agreed that the Association will encourage its members to attend these events. Belinda to alert Peter when future events are due to be held

**ACTION Belinda and Peter**

## **11. The Big Coronation Picnic Lunch (Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June)**

Peter advised the committee on the progress being made with organising this event which will include live music acts, a juggler and a dog show. Unfortunately, Manor Primary has declined our offer for it to participate in an arts/craft competition.

## **12. Cars parking opposite the schools**

Phil described the inconsiderate and often dangerous parking of cars at the entrance of Oak Tree Court during term times. Gabbi drew the meeting's attention to Sussex Police's

Operation Crackdown. This is an online system for reporting road safety incidents which could be used to report dangerous parking etc. <http://www.operationcrackdown.org>

### **13. Queen Elizabeth II memorial bench**

Peter reported that the Town Council awarded the Association a grant of £250 towards the cost of the provision and installation of the bench. This will be contracted to a nearby supplier using locally sourced timber.

### **14. The Community Lottery**

The committee heard that sixteen people have subscribed to the Association's lottery page, purchasing 34 tickets each week. The income from these ticket sales, a proportion of which is paid to the Association, will augment the Association's funds.

### **15. The date and time of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> May at the Rugby Club but this time starting at 7pm.