

# Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

## Notes of the Committee Meeting at Uckfield Rugby Club

Thursday 29th February 2024 – 7.45 to 8.45pm

### 1. Present

Paul Sparks (Chair), Peter Griggs (Secretary), Gabriella Paterson-Griggs (Treasurer), Dorothy Sparks, Sue Fenwick, Jane Shepherd and Jerry Miller

### 2. Apologies

Belinda Da Silva, Phil Paton and Julia Brown

### 3. Minutes of the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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

Matters arising:

- 1) Item 11 – Carbon Reduction Policy, Peter reported that a draft policy will be circulated in due course
- 2) Item 12 – Rural England Property Fund, Peter reported that the Town Council were applying to the fund for other purposes and therefore were not able to support tree planting on The Dene.
- 3) Item 13 – Recruiting Volunteers, the Association had a stand at the Ageing Well day but the numbers of visitors attending was low and no additional volunteers were recruited.

### 4. Treasurer's report

Gabriella presented her report:

#### ***Grants Awarded and Received since last meeting***

- The Awards for All Grant in order to continue the Warm Welcome Project for another year was successful and a grant of £3749 was received on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.
- Although not a grant a donation of £500 was given to the Residents' Association by the Uckfield Mid-Summer Festival Cttee as the festival did not receive enough funding to go ahead. The donation is to be spent on the 2024 Big Lunch in June.

#### ***Allocated Funds as at 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024***

- Wealden DC - £37.27 for Good Neighbour Scheme
- National Lottery Community Fund - £2953.04 for the continuing Warm Welcome project.
- Awards for All - £45.45 for Big Lunch (underspend from 2023 Big Lunch Lottery grant)
- Uckfield Mid Summer Festival - £500 for Big Lunch 2024

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

Income from the following sources has been received since the last meeting:

- Subscriptions - £770 (£805 for 2023/24)
- Surgery Car Service - £28 (£90 for 2023/24)
- Warm Welcome collection tin - £226 (£491.25 to date)
- Wealden Community Lottery - £403 (£805.50 for 2023/24)
- Easy Fund Raising - £0 (£62.46 for 2023/24)
- National Lottery Community Grant - £3739
- Uckfield Mid-Summer Festival Donation - £500

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

The majority of the spend since the last meeting has been on the Warm Welcome project which is covered by the grant funding. Other annual payments have been made for the website hosting and the insurance premium. The planter outside Tesco Express was

replaced by the Men's Shed (£60) and a donation of £50 was made to the Rugby Club towards the Christmas Lunches scheme.

### **General MPHFRA Funds**

The amount of funds available to the Association that are not allocated elsewhere stands at £2279.32 as at 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Note: £491.25 is from the Warm Welcome donations.

### **Projects for 2024/25**

- Warm Welcome is on-going, but all costs will be covered by grant funding (until end of October 2024)
- Big Lunch on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024

### **Budget 2023/24 – Q3 update**

- Projected outcome for 2023/24 is +£840.52.
- We have kept within the budget for the year and the projected surplus is higher than the original budget showed. This is mainly due to the income from the community lottery fund.

## **5. Secretary's report**

Peter reported as follows:

*Correspondence* – our MP, Nusrat Ghani, responded to an invitation to visit the Association's Warm Welcome project saying that whilst she was not able to visit due to Parliamentary business on Tuesday's she did thank the Association for what it and its volunteers are doing to support vulnerable residents.

*Social media presence* – there has been an upsurge in people following the Association's Facebook page, it now has 985 followers.

*Membership* – at the time of the meeting the membership totalled 154 fully paid-up members, this compares to 153 at the end of the last membership year in December. The most members we have had was in 2020 when we had a total of 160 members.

There was some discussion about recruiting more members and it was agreed that posters would be displayed in the Fish and Chip shop, the Launderette and the Hairdresser in Browns Lane.

### **ACTION Peter**

Peter pointed out that whilst about one in ten households are paid-up members we have nearly 1000 people who follow the Facebook page which when added together demonstrates a significant engagement with our community.

## **6. Coronation Place**

Paul said that this development on the Streatfeild House site is due to recommence shortly now that a new contractor, Trinity Homes, had been appointed.

## **7. Southview Drive**

The committee were pleased to see that Southview Drive has now been resurfaced.

## **8. Pavement parking**

Peter said that there had been a useful response to the request in the last e-newsletter asking for members views on pavement parking. Several useful examples of instances where mobility scooter users etc had problems were recorded. Peter advised that he hoped to be meeting with Sussex Police about this issue and that he would also be contacting ESCC Highways regarding the absence of sufficient dropped kerbs.

### **ACTION Peter**

## **9. Big Lunch**

Peter outlined the programme and activities that are being planned and the committee agreed that the Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance would be the chosen charity.

The Midsummer Festival committee were thanked for their generous donation (£500) from its unspent funds.

Dorothy offered to organise the Fun Dog Show

**ACTION Dorothy**

## **10. Road names**

Peter told the committee that he was arranging to meet an officer from Wealden DC to request that the road signage for various locations be improved. This would include the service roads off Nevill Road.

## **11. Matters arising from the AGM**

The committee considered the various matters discussed at the meeting all of which have also been covered by the agenda items in this meeting.

It was noted that Sally, who is a founder member of the Association and held the position of Treasurer for over ten years, had decided not to stand for re-election to the committee. The committee thanks Sally for her long-standing commitment, hard work and devotion to supporting the Association's.

Sally continues as a volunteer for the Good Neighbour Scheme and as a call-handler for the Surgery Car Service.

## **12. Any other business**

*National Dementia Week* - Paul advised that it is National Dementia Week in May (13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>), this aims to improve the lives of people affected by dementia. Gabbi suggested that the Association look into organising a Woodland Walk specifically for people living with dementia and their carers, possibly in the West Park Nature Reserve.

**ACTION Peter.**

*Warm Welcome* - Peter suggested that it might be good to organise an afternoon trip out for the visitors that regularly attend the Warm Welcome. It was agreed that this be explored further.

**ACTION Peter.**

*Question Time* - an evening when representatives from the Sussex Police, ESCC Highways, the College, Manor Primary and town, district and county council councillors would be invited to sit on a panel to respond to questions from the membership had been discussed at the last meeting. It was agreed that this should now be actioned (see diary date below).

**ACTION Peter.**

### **Diary dates:**

- Litter picking (Great British Spring Clean) 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March
- National Dementia Week 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May
- Big Lunch Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June noon to 4pm on Uckfield Rugby Club field
- Question Time Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 6.30 to 9pm at Uckfield College

## **13. Date, time and venue of the next meeting**

It was agreed that a meeting in early May 2024 would be useful, date and venue to be confirmed