

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the Committee Meeting at Uckfield Rugby Club

Thursday 5th October 2023

1. Present:

Paul Sparks (Chair), Peter Griggs (Secretary), Sue Fenwick, Phil Paton, Jane Shepherd, Sally Major, Jerry Miller

2. Apologies:

Ric Mears, Julia Brown, Gabriella Paterson- Griggs (Treasurer), Belinda Da Silva, Dorothy Sparks

3. Minutes of the last meeting 31st May 2023 and matters arising

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting

Item 7 - The new wooden bench on The Rockery has been installed together with a plaque

Item 10 - The Dene, the purchase of the Dene by the Town Council is now complete

Item 12 – The Big Lunch, donations amounting to £160 was collected for the charity Bowel Cancer UK.

4. Treasurer's Report

In Gabbi's absence Peter presented her report:

Grants Awarded and Received since last meeting

- There have been no further grants awarded since the last meeting on 31st May 2023
- An Awards for All Grant has been applied for in order to continue the Warm Welcome Project for another year. The outcome is expected in November 2023.

Allocated Funds as at 30 September 2023

- Wealden DC - £37.27 for Good Neighbour Scheme
- AiRS and 3VA carry forward from Warm Space - £770.10 for the continuing Warm Welcome project.
- Awards for All - £45.45 for Big Lunch (underspend from 2023 Big Lunch Lottery grant)

Income since last meeting

There have been three new subscriptions since the last meeting and two payments received

from the Surgery Car Service Scheme. There have also been donations from the Warm Welcome collection tin – to date £265.25 has been collected in donations.

The Wealden Community Lottery payments are received monthly. To date £401.50 has been received.

We have also received another payment from Easy Fund Raising which covers October 2022 to

January 2023. To date £62.46 has been raised in 2023/24.

Payments since the last meeting

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

General MPHFRA Funds

The amount of funds available to the Association that are not allocated elsewhere stands at £1,248.57 as at 30 September 2023.

Projects for 2023/24

- Warm Welcome is ongoing, but all costs will be covered by grant funding (until end of November 2023)
- Coronation Big Lunch on Sunday 11th June 2023 – completed
- Commemorative Bench for the late Queen – completed

Budget 2023/24 – Q2 update

- See sheet for full details.
- Projected outcome for 2023/24 is +£298.50.
- The main areas of overspend (against agreed budget) to date are newsletter/publicity and the planters. These are covered by the additional income received through donations and the Wealden Community Lottery.

An update on the budget will be given at quarterly intervals.

The committee thanked Gabbi for her comprehensive report.

5. Secretary's Report

- Membership - there are now 152 paid up members with renewals still being received.
- Social media - 942 people following our Facebook page, up from 931 in April.
- Correspondence - included in other agenda items

6. Streatfeild House Redevelopment

The original contractor has filed for administration. Paul has checked that the proper financial checks were undertaken and ascertained that the company had £6m profit in their last audited accounts.

It is understood that Wealden are fast tracking the appointment of a substitute contractor. Paul has suggested to Wealden that the new development be named Coronation Court (Wealden have since confirmed that it will in fact be called Coronation Place).

ACTION: Paul and Peter to continue to keep the situation under review and to maintain regular communication with Wealden.

7. Southview Drive/Downsview Crescent repairs

Extensive repairs to Downsview Crescent will start soon with the work undertaken in two phases, phase one outside of the schools to commence during the school half term holiday. Southview Drive is on hold as Highways wish to do this work after Streatfeild House redevelopment is completed. This is very disappointing and the Secretary is in ongoing correspondence with Cllr Claire Dowling who is the ESCC Cabinet member for Transport and Environment.

ACTION: Peter to maintain communications with Cllr Dowling and report any developments.

8. Planter at Tesco Express

The men's shed have offered to repair the planter outside of Tesco Express and just charge for materials (note: the Association will also make a donation).

9. Road name signs

Committee members were asked to advise Peter of any damaged road signs and the locations where additional signs are required.

ACTION: all members

10. Discussion items for meeting with the College Principal

The following were suggested:

- Participation in the Association's activities and events
- Litter issues on the routes to and from Tesco Express
- Inconsiderate parking my students and staff
- Design work for promotional material

11. Carbon Reduction

Consideration is being given to devising a carbon reduction policy for the Association and its members.

ACTION: Peter to present a draft policy to the next meeting

12. Rural England Property Fund

A suggestion to be made to the Town Council that they include planting a row (x4-5) of carbon hungry trees along the path on The Dene that serves the Browns Lane tunnel.

ACTION: Peter

13. Recruiting Volunteers

Five potential volunteers put their names forward at the UVC's Volunteer Fair.

14. AGM

Agreed that this will be held next February – note the constitution allows for this.

ACTION: Peter

15. Any other business

Ageing Well Information Day on 7th November. Agreed that the Association will have a stand.

ACTION: Paul, Peter and Gabbi

16. Date and time of next meeting

To be held after Christmas and before the February AGM (note: avoid AGM falling on a Monday, a Wednesday, or a Thursday)

ACTION: Peter