

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the Committee Meeting at 27 Roman Way

Wednesday 15th January 2020 – 7.30pm to 9.15pm

- 1. Present:** Paul Sparks (Chair), Peter Griggs (Secretary), Belinda Da Silva, Julia Brown, Jerry Miller, Dominic Tarn.

Apologies: Dorothy Sparks, Jane Shepherd, Ric Mears, Andy Clews, Sally Major (Treasurer)

- 2. Minutes of the last meeting on 17th August 2019 and matters arising**

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

Peter updated the meeting on the actions arising from that meeting. The action regarding an initiative to encourage tree planting is to be held in abeyance awaiting the outcome of an Uckfield wide project that is underway.

All other matters arising were included on the agenda.

- 3. Treasurer's Report**

Sally's report to follow **ACTION Sally**

- 4. Secretary's Report**

Peter reported as follows:

- Membership – at the end of 2019 we had 150 member-households. Reminder emails and social media posts have been issued to remind members to renew. A poster will also be placed on the Tesco Express noticeboard and letters posted to those without email accounts. **ACTIONS Paul and Peter**. The Winter newsletter includes an item on the benefits of membership and a tear out application form.
- Correspondence – all included in agenda items
- Social media – we now have 630 people following our Facebook page.

- 5. Good Neighbour Scheme update**

Peter said that the 'relaunch' of the scheme is underway including the use of two new pull-up banners at key locations e.g. the Civic Centre, GP surgeries etc; an article in the newsletter (together with a postcard inserted in each one), social media, emails to members etc. Further suggestions from the committee included:

- Displaying the banner and offering the postcards at U3A meetings (first Friday of each month) and at the Belmont Centre – contact Lynne Ireland
- Offering Uckfield FM an interview
- Volunteer drivers to be issued with the postcards
- A new supply of postcards needs to be ordered

ACTIONS Paul and Peter

- 6. Surgery Car Service (SCS) update**

Sally to provide statistics in due course **ACTION Sally**

Peter advised that Grants Hill Court is now included in the scheme, the volunteer drivers having supported this proposal.

7. Commemoration benches

Peter said that a location had been found for the second bench beside the footpath on the brow of Browns Lane. We have permission from a householder to use land beside her property. A plaque will be placed on the bench recognising the late husband of the householder (ex RAF) and the organisations which have donated money towards the project.

It was suggested that Peter contact the Royal British Legion to see if they are aware of any WW2 veteran that might be willing to be present at the ceremony. **ACTION Peter**

The existing commemoration bench outside Streatfeild House requires a hard surface in front of it. It was suggested that the contractor undertaking the College redevelopment be approached about this work. **ACTION Paul**

It is hoped to unveil the benches on May 8th VE Day and that a Battle of Britain flyover will be available – Peter is awaiting confirmation about this.

8. Uckfield College - parking

Paul advised that car parking for evening events in the College playgrounds is no longer possible due to the building work and also that it will not be available once the work is completed. The college have provided a calendar of forthcoming evening events which had been sent to members and posted on our social media.

Peter said that the Facebook post had generated various comments and suggestions and that he would refer these to the College to gain its response **ACTION Peter**

9. Winter Newsletter

Paul advised that deliveries are well underway. The committee thanked Paul for his work organising this task.

10. Planters update

The committee asked Paul to pass on its thanks to Dorothy for the excellent displays the planters always provide **ACTION Paul**

11. Big Lunch 2020 - organisation

Members agreed which tasks they would undertake in order to deliver the next big Lunch – a copy of the task list will be circulated to committee members in due course.

12. Get together for volunteers

It was agreed that the GNS and SCS volunteers be invited to an afternoon tea on Sunday April 5th – a possible venue is the Luxford Centre or the Osbourne

ACTION Peter

13. Verges

Peter gave an update on the reinstatement of the damaged verges in Downsview Crescent which unfortunately were churned up and rutted almost immediately after the County Council's work.

Note: the Association had pressed for bollards, a hard surface or a grasscrete solution but these were not progressed by ESCC.

14. Response to UTC consultation on its key strategies

Peter summarised the Association's response which requests the TC to repair two or three of the key twittens that traverse Manor Park to the schools and to increase its community grant pot.

15. Any other business

Paul acquainted the meeting with the Inspector's decision on Wealden's Local Plan and the possible consequences which could see additional infill housing being permitted on Manor Park and Hempstead Fields.

16. Date, time and venue of next meeting

Thursday 16th April, 7.30pm at Paul's home. (Note can Sally please check if Thursday evenings are more convenient for Jane please **ACTION Sally**)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Volunteers' afternoon tea	Sunday 5th April, 3pm (venue tbc)
Next committee meeting:	Thursday 16th April, 7.30pm (date tbc)
Commemoration bench ceremony	Friday 8th May – (date and time tbc)
Big Lunch 2020	Sunday 14th June 2020 noon to 2pm (Volunteers from 11am please)