

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the Committee Meeting (held using Zoom)

Tuesday 7th December 2021 – 7.15 to approx. 8.30pm

Present: Paul Sparks (Chair), Peter Griggs (Secretary), Sally Major (Treasurer), Dorothy Sparks, Julia Brown, Sue Fenwick, Jerry Miller, Dominic Tarn

1. Welcome

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Sue as it was her first meeting

2. Apologies

Ric Mears, Andy Clews, Belinda Da Silva, Jane Shepherd

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th October 2021 and matters arising

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

Item 5 - Julia and Sally confirmed that they together with Jane are identifying past clients of the GNS and SCS and that they are being contacted.

Item 11 – Peter advised that so far it had not been possible to purchase an iPad as the model required has not been in stock due to a worldwide shortage of microchips.

Item 14 – Peter advised that WDC had informed him that a final road condition survey is due to be undertaken in December.

All other matters arising were included on the agenda.

4. Treasurer's Report

Sally's report showed a breakdown of spending and grants.

The Association currently enjoys a bank balance of £1,708. It was noted that £704 of this is from grants received, with this spending ring fenced for the purchase of an iPad and supporting the Good Neighbour Scheme.

Donations amounting to £580 has been received in donations for the cherry tree key worker tribute. To date costs have amounted to £515.

The Public Liability Insurance renewal premium cost £157 and a donation of £25 was made to The Poppy Appeal, this included the purchase of a poppy wreath which was laid at the War Memorial after the remembrance service at Holy Cross.

There is a net deficit of £107 for the Surgery Car Service (SCS) and £120 for the Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS). This is largely due to the continuing quarterly cost of the call handling software whilst income had been negligible due to the suspension of the SCS during lockdown. The GNS always runs at a deficit as no income arises from this service.

5. Secretary's Report

Peter reported as follows:

- Membership – at the end of November 2021 there were 154 member-households.
- Correspondence – the Town Council has issued the licence to plant trees on the green space known as The Rockery. The licence lasts for five years. A letter from Wealden Planners has been received, as reported above.

6. AGM at Uckfield College

Peter outlined the matters reported at the AGM and the feedback received from members. In particular Dorothy was thanked for planting and maintaining the planters on Manor Park.

Hugh Hennebry, the College Principal, led a very interesting tour of the new college building before the meeting which was greatly appreciated by all those present. Peter advised that an item had been omitted for the AGM minutes, this was the amendments agreed to the constitution.

ACTION: Peter to amend the AGM minutes and publish the revised minutes on the Association's website.

7. Key Worker Tribute – Cherry Trees

Dorothy advised that three trees had now been planted and staked and were protected by robust tree guards to protect against deer or rabbit attack.

Peter advised that CPJ Field were waiting for a second quote for the granite plaque to be placed in front of the trees. CPJ Field are providing this free of charge (at quite some cost).

Once the plaque has been received arrangements will be put in place to hold a simple ceremony to unveil the plaque.

There was some discussion about what the ceremony might include, Jerry agreed to provide contact details for a local acapella group.

ACTIONS: Jerry and Peter

8. Thursday lunches at the Luxford Centre

Paul proposed that the Association look into how it might provide free transport for those attending these lunches. Peter will include an item about this in the hard copy newsletter which is due to be published in January.

ACTION: Peter

9. Uckfield College's invitation to host a summer meeting

Hugh Hennebry, College Principal, has invited the Association to return to the College in the summer for a tour of its sports facilities.

This could include a speaker who could present after the tour.

ACTIONS:

All – suggestions for a speaker please, ideally with a sporting connection

Peter - to look at a potential date

10. The Queen's Big Diamond Jubilee Lunch 2022

It was decided to postpone detailed discussion about this event until the New Year when the future of social gatherings is clearer. Jerry did confirm that the Rugby Club are happy to host the event again, for which they are thanked.

ACTION: Peter to draw up a shortlist of potential activities at the Big Lunch, for discussion at the next meeting.

11. Uckfield Green Partnership

Paul said that an Expo is being planned for 30th April 2022. This will showcase energy saving solutions and provide residents with advice and guidance. He said that the partnership is examining the idea of negotiating home insulation schemes with one of the commercial providers.

12. Uckfield Dementia Forum

Paul advised that a Christmas Party has been organised at the Luxford Centre for those living with Dementia. This includes afternoon tea and a film show (an Andre Rieu concert). It is due to be held on Wednesday 15th December, from 12 noon.

13. Invitation from Brooklands Motor Museum

Peter said that Brooklands Motor Museum have offered to give a tour to two representatives of the Association in anticipation that we might then organise a group trip to the museum.

ACTION: Peter to determine the level of interest amongst members

14. Updates to Shoppers Discount and Local Traders lists

Sue and Julia kindly volunteered to contact all those businesses on these lists to update the content.

ACTION: Sue and Julia

15. Any Other Business

Grit bin - Paul has been contacted by a resident who is asking that the Association action the provision of a grit bin on the verge at the corner of Downsview Crescent and Browns Lane, near to Tesco Express. This would deter vehicles cutting across the grass verge when getting to the layby. It was decided that this not be progressed as it could result in a costly precedent but that alternative solutions be investigated.

Verges in Downsview Crescent – Sue was pleased to report a marked reduction in the numbers of cars using the verge near the primary school for parking since the verge upgrade work had been completed.

Covid precautions – Peter advised that he is investigating the provision of FFP3 masks for those volunteers that come into face-to-face contact with clients. There are also discussions about whether we should be requesting clients to undertake a lateral flow test the day before they meet a volunteer.

16. Date time and venue of next meeting

To be decided.