

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the Committee Meeting (held using Zoom)

Tuesday 8th March – 7.15 to approx. 8.45pm

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

1. Welcome

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Ric Mears, Belinda Da Silva, Dominic Tarn.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2021 and matters arising

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

Item 9 – Paul asked Peter to progress the arrangements for a summer meeting (early July) at the Uckfield College preferably with a sports related speaker **ACTION: Peter**

Item 14 – Peter thanked Sue and Julia who since the last meeting have updated the Shoppers Discount and Local Traders lists.

All other matters arising were included on the agenda.

4. Treasurer's Report

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

As at 7th March the Association enjoyed a bank balance of £1,964.32 with available funds of £1,121.00.

There is a net deficit of £201.00 for the Surgery Car Service (SCS) and £205.00 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.

£695.00 has been received in subscriptions since the last meeting.

5. Secretary's Report

Peter reported as follows:

- Membership – at the end of February there were approximately 140 member-households, but subscriptions are still coming in and some Standing Orders do not become payable until part way through the year. The projection is that we will have around 150 member households by the time of the next meeting.
- Correspondence received – on the agenda (items 7 and 8)

6. The Queen's Big Platinum Jubilee Lunch 2022 (Sunday 12th June 12 noon to 2pm)

Peter listed the activities being proposed and committee members identified where and when they can help with the organisation and running of the event (see separate email to committee members).

7. Streatfeild House Redevelopment

Peter advised that Jazz Jeff, Wealden's Housing Development Officer, has offered a Zoom meeting with the Project team tasked with designing and delivering the redevelopment of the Streatfeild House site. This will give the Association the opportunity to have some input into the project. Several alternative meeting dates (all early evening) have been offered and these will be circulated to the committee to identify the best date for the majority **ACTION: Peter**

8. Southview Drive – disrepair

All committee members expressed their concern and frustration over the numerous potholes and extensive patching of both Southview Drive and the stretch of Downsvieview Crescent that runs alongside the College.

Peter updated the committee on the correspondence he had been undertaking on this topic.

- (1) Wealden DC – a condition attached to the planning permission for the redevelopment of the college requires the developer to reinstate the condition of the roads used by construction traffic to the condition they were before the work started. The developer took a series of photos of the road to register their original condition, and these are included on the planning consent file on the planning website (WD/2018/1650/MAJ). The developer was due to undertake a survey of the roads during December but when Peter made enquiries it transpires that this did not take place. A survey is now due to be undertaken in May/June when the work on the Rugby pitch should be completed and no further HGVs should be visiting the site.

The results of the survey will be submitted to WDC planners who will refer the findings to County Highways for consideration. In the meantime, East Sussex Highways will refer any 'significant items of disrepair requiring immediate attention' to the developer.

Note – the above information is drawn from correspondence with WDC planners and County Councillor Claire Dowling.

- (2) East Sussex Highways – in parallel to chasing WDC planners Peter has been corresponding with ESCC Highways pressing them to consider large scale works to resurface the whole or most of Southview Drive which is now dotted with numerous patched repairs and minor potholes.

East Sussex Highways advise that their Highway Steward undertakes periodic inspections of the road and that two potholes were repaired in October 2021. The next inspection will take place in April. Frustratingly, we are advised that Highways '.....do not have any larger scale works planned for Southview Drive at this time'.

Committee members were exasperated and drew attention to the extensive resurfacing work undertaken to Nevill Road last year and were puzzled why Southview Drive was not be treated in the same way.

It was agreed that if no substantive solution resulted from the developer survey in May/June then Paul and Peter would lobby the County Council to achieve a comprehensive outcome

ACTION: Paul and Peter in due course

In the meantime, Peter encouraged committee members to use the Report a Pothole online service to ensure that all road defects of concern are being logged with East Sussex Highways (simply search ESCC potholes to be directed to the correct page).

9. The Great British Spring Clean

It was agreed that the Association would support this initiative again this year and that Peter would publicise it and make available sacks (courtesy of WDC) and loan out the small supply of litter picking devices we keep in store **ACTION: Peter**

10. Day Trips

Peter said that there had been some interest in the day out ideas that had been included in the Winter newsletter and that he will now come up with a firm suggestion and date. Julia mentioned that the ongoing covid situation will be a deterrent for some and it was agreed that delaying a trip until the summer months might be more acceptable **ACTION: Peter**

11. Drainage problem affecting certain properties on The Dene

Peter advised that the Association has been asked to facilitate encouraging the occupiers of eight properties affected by a surface water and sink-hole problem in The Dene to agree a solution. The Association is to offer to hire a room at the Civic Centre for a meeting of those concerned and will also offer to chair the meeting **ACTION: Paul and Peter**

12. Key Worker tribute

Peter informed the committee that we are waiting for the granite plaque to be made and engraved and that once it has been delivered and fitted a simple ceremony will be arranged to unveil it **ACTION: Peter**

13. Any other business

Julia said that a prayer vigil for the Ukraine was being held at Holy Cross the coming Sunday and that all were welcome.

14. Date time and venue of the next meeting

To be decided.