

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the Committee Meeting (held using Zoom)

Wednesday 28th October 2021 – 7.15 to approx. 8.45pm

1. **Present:** Paul Sparks (Chair), Peter Griggs (Secretary), Sally Major (Treasurer), Dorothy Sparks, Julia Brown, Jerry Miller, Dominic Tarn, Jane Shepherd
Apologies: Ric Mears, Andy Clews, Belinda Da Silva.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 20th May 2021 and matters arising**

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

Paul advised that the Town Council are due to repair the handrail to the steps serving the Browns Lane shops but have not yet done so due to a heavy workload.

All other matters arising were included on the agenda.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

Sally's report showing a breakdown of spending and grants received is attached. The Association currently enjoys a bank balance of £1,845 although it was noted that £704 of this is from grants received, with this spending ring fenced for the purchase of an iPad and promoting the Good Neighbour Scheme.

4. **Secretary's Report**

Peter reported as follows:

- Membership – at the end of October 2021 there were 152 member-households.
- Correspondence – the Town Council has invited the Secretary to attend the Remembrance Parade on 14th November.
- Social Media - the number of people following the Facebook page has risen from 630 to 787 at the time of the last meeting with 702 Likes, 687 at the time of the last meeting.
- Uckfield Dementia Forum – the Association is now an active member of this Forum which is also chaired by Paul Sparks. Paul is in discussion with WDC re the inclusion of a sensory garden as part of the development of the Streatfield House site. Julia advised that her daughter has won an award for the design of a sensory garden.

5. **Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) and Surgery Car Service (SCS) update**

These schemes have been relaunched recently with the GNS continuing to be free of charge but the fee for the SCS being increased from £3.50 to £5.00.

Following a review of the current call-handling arrangements the two systems have now been combined.

(Jane, Julia and Neil are thanked for their past work handling calls for these schemes)

Julia agreed to assist with contacting past clients of the schemes in order to tell them that they are now up and running again.

ACTION Julia, Sally and Paul

6. **Key Worker Tribute – Cherry Trees**

This project is being actioned by Dorothy and Peter. The necessary materials are being purchased – trees (x3), guards, stakes, straps, root treatment etc. It appears that a local funeral director firm will be supplying the engraved stone plaque that will be sited in front of the trees which will be a significant cost saving.

Donations towards the cost are also being received from Association members, local firms are also being approached.

ACTION Dorothy and Peter

7. Winter Newsletter

It was agreed that the next hard copy newsletter would be published after the Christmas break and that there be a new call for volunteers to deliver it.

ACTION Peter

8. Green Issues

It was noted that the Association is now a member of the Uckfield Green Partnership, and it was suggested that green issues be included as a topic in the next newsletter.

ACTION Peter

9. Organised Walks

Two Woodland Walks and one Photography Walk have been held since the last meeting. All were successful and are proving to be not only very informative but useful social events.

More walks will be organised in 2022

ACTION Peter

10. Get together for volunteers

Given the continuing concern about covid infection it was decided to postpone this event.

11. iPad for GNS

It was agreed that a Wi-Fi enabled iPad be purchased together with an annual data-only contract.

ACTION Peter

12. AGM arrangements

It was agreed that Peter would propose at the AGM that the constitution be amended to allow for nine committee members (plus Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary).

ACTION Peter

13. Queens Jubilee event 2022

To be decided but consideration to include installing a wooden bench near the cherry trees and a Big Jubilee Lunch.

14. Any Other Business

Disrepair of Southview Drive and a stretch of Downsview Crescent caused by contractors vehicles – it had not been possible to contact the Project Manager as he had been unavailable for some time and as the project has virtually come to an end it was agreed that Peter would again contact WDC Planners asking them to pursue the proper discharge of the relevant planning condition

ACTION Peter

15. Date time and venue of next meeting

To be decided.