

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

Notes of the **Committee Meeting** at 27 Roman Way
Friday 5th August 2016 – 7.30pm

Present:

Paul Sparks (Chair)
Peter Griggs (Secretary)
Jerry Miller
Belinda Da Silva

Sally Major (Treasurer)
Dorothy Sparks
Ric Mears
Tom Crellin

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Jane.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

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

Matters arising: all included on the agenda

3. Treasurer's Report

Sally reported that the Association has a bank balance of £1060. Currently the car service is approximately £100 in debit due to outlay on printing a supply of receipt books etc.

4. Secretary's Report

Peter reported that membership currently stands at 150 paid up members.

Wealden DC have written confirming that following the Association's application The Dene has been added to the Register of Community Assets.

Demelza had written thanking the Association for including its raffle at the Big Lunch and confirming that a total of £111 had been raised.

5. Surgery Car Service (SCS)

Sally reported that the service continues to be quiet with a low volume of calls and that Alan Baisden was handling most of the calls. The Committee expressed its thanks to Alan for his sterling work.

Peter confirmed that he had reminded drivers that they need to ensure that if they change their insurance company they will need to remember to advise the new company of their voluntary driving work.

6. The AGM

Paul said that the AGM had been a success and that those present had added some useful comments to the maps of the twittens provided and that Mick Harker's talk on the Bridge Cottage project had been very well received.

7. Vacancy

Peter advised that he had been in touch with a previous committee member but that he advised that he had too many work and personal commitments to rejoin the committee.

Sally will approach a neighbour who might be interested.

8. Good Neighbour Scheme

Paul told the meeting about a meeting that he had attended when AiRS had given a presentation to Churchcoombe Community Association about Good Neighbour Schemes. It seems that these schemes work on a similar basis to the SCS i.e. responsive, with calls being fielded and distributed by a 'call centre' arrangement. Churchcoombe are not going ahead with the scheme and it was agreed that the Association will not enter into a formal arrangement but will continue to deal with request for assistance on an informal basis.

9. Park and Stride Scheme – Park Considerately, Park then Walk, Walk Safely,

Peter updated the meeting on progress being made with this project. An application for funding has been submitted to the Safer Wealden Partnership, but this will not be considered until September. Accordingly it is proposed to launch the scheme at the beginning of the school term following Easter 2017.

10. Twittens working group

Ric said that Paul has undertaken a condition survey and that the results will aid prioritisation of the twittens to be repaired. Feedback from the AGM (see above) will also be taken into account when finalising the extent of the scheme.

Ric will now be undertaking a feasibility study with a selection of contractors in order to obtain some illustrative costs. If the twittens are to be brought up to adoption standards it may be necessary to include street lighting which will add significantly to the cost. It was also noted that it may be necessary to build in a period of 12 months after installation to demonstrate a fully functioning asset before ESCC will adopt.

Ric went on to give the meeting an update on the sinkhole incident, he advised that the foul sewer has been repaired and the broken surface water sewer has also been repaired. Now waiting for the excavation to be backfilled with concrete before final reinstatement work. He added that there is a possibility that further damage has been caused by the contractor's vehicles!

11. Walking group

Tom advised that there are now only three regular walkers and wondered whether the initiative should be wound up. After some discussion it was agreed that the group could continue but the Association's involvement would be limited to providing support when requested.

12. No Cold Calling Zones

Peter suggested that this might be a project for 2017. It was agreed that Peter would gather more information about such initiatives including – their effectiveness, enforcement arrangements, application to charitable collections and to gain feedback from localities where they have been introduced.

ACTION: Peter

13. Social Media

Peter was pleased to inform the Committee that since the last meeting that the Facebook page had received another 19 likes – making a total of 388, with 233 Twitter followers, an increase of 16.

14. Events and Activities

Consideration was given to whether the Association should hold any social events between now and the Big Lunch 2017 e.g. a Christmas Quiz and/or an Easter egg hunt.

After some discussion it was decided to limit future social events to the well-supported annual Big Lunch.

15. Any Other Business

- **Grit bins at Manor Primary** – not progressed **ACTION: Peter in the Autumn term**
- **Defibrillator (AED)**– Paul advised that he has been in discussion with the Lions Club and the Town Council regarding funding and that he will report back when he has heard further from Chris Sherwood. If successful it is likely that the AED will be located close to the Browns Lane shops. **ACTION: Paul**
- **Tree Survey** – some outstanding feedback required
- **Handrail and park bench** – following enquiries and suggestions received from members Paul proposed that the Association look into providing a handrail to serve the sloping footpath that runs down to the front of Tesco Express and also to investigate the cost of providing a park bench on the green area in front of the parade shops, facing the views across the Dene towards Buxted.

In each case it is not certain who the landowner is for the land in question

ACTION: Paul and Peter to investigate ownership, costs of provision and installation and possible sponsorship from the local Tesco Community Champion etc.

- **Overgrown footpaths** – Ric suggested that the Association undertake a joint initiative with Brighter Uckfield to encourage residents to tackle local problem areas e.g. the footpath in Downsview Crescent adjoining the UCTC playing fields
ACTION: Dorothy to approach Brighter Uckfield

16. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Friday 28th October 2016, 7.30pm at 27 Roman Way

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Friday 28th October 2016

Next Committee Meeting