

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association



Notes of the Annual General Meeting

Manor Primary School 7th November 2013

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chairman, Paul Sparks opened the meeting and welcomed everyone (40 people were present).

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence from 6 residents had been received via letter, email and Facebook posts.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Association

Paul spoke about the success of the Association, highlighted certain of the events that had been held and projects it had progressed during the last 12 months and thanked the Committee for its dedication and hard work. He added that we are always keen to recruit new members.

4. Report from the Secretary

Peter spoke about the Association's officers and the work of the Committee and the importance of a proper and robust Constitution which is essential when applying for funding from grant awarding organisations. He also referred to the income generated from advertising placed in the newsletter and mentioned that copies of the minutes of meetings etc. can be found on the Association's website.

5. Report from the Treasurer

Sally presented her financial report and explained that it covered from the inception of the Association, last November, until April 2013 (a full copy of the Financial Report will be posted on the website in due course).

A resident suggested that the Association's financial year be adjusted to coincide with the AGM (allowing time for the accounts to be audited). The Chairman agreed to look into this suggestion.

6. Proposed changes to the Constitution

Paul outlined the proposed changes (which had been posted on the website) and explained that there were no fundamental changes to the Constitution.

The changes were put to the vote and agreed by a clear majority with no votes against.

7. Election of Officers

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were all voted in by a clear majority with no votes against.

8. Election of the Committee

The Committee members were all voted in by a clear majority with no votes against. Note, there is one vacancy on the Committee.

9. The launch of the Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Surgery Car Service

Paul said he was pleased to launch officially the Association's 'Surgery Car Service'.

This door to door service will be open to any resident living on Manor Park, Hempstead Fields or in Shaftesbury Court in London Road. It is intended to help those that find it difficult to travel across the town to attend the new Meads Medical Centre or the Bird In Eye Surgery.

The service will operate Monday to Friday 9.30 to 4.30 and will be manned entirely by volunteers with a fixed charge of just £3.50 for each return trip. It is hoped that this new service will meet the needs of those that do not own their own car or are now unable to drive themselves.

The phone will be manned by two volunteers, Glenda and Jane. The number to call is **01825 578006** lines open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00-10.30 and 4.00-5.30.

The Association is keen to recruit more volunteer drivers and anyone interested in supporting this initiative should contact the Association's Chairman - Paul Sparks (Tel 01825 764287) or its Secretary – Peter Griggs peter.griggs48@gmail.com

Note, two volunteers came forward at the meeting.

Mrs Tagg asked whether the service would also take residents to the Uckfield Hospital. Paul explained that initially, during the bedding in period, this would not be possible and that there might also be operational problems when dealing with lengthy hospital appointments. This was a valid request however which will be borne in mind when the service is reviewed.

10. Any other business.

A number of items of other business were raised:

- pathways and twittens – ideas were aired about volunteers undertaking repair work, sources of funding that might be available, the standard of work required by ESCC and revisiting the 'walking bus' project with Manor Primary and using this as a basis for winning funds for key footpaths and twittens. A strong case could be made based on environmental, health, safety and parking grounds. The experience of a group of residents that repaired a stretch of path after an accident was described.
- The Dene – an update on progressing village green status for the Green was given by two Committee members progressing this project. A request for evidence of historic use was made – information to Wendy Tagg please (via Secretary). Paul said that the open spaces and magnificent trees on Manor Park and Hempstead Fields should be celebrated and that he thinks we should create a register of the most important trees, maybe a joint project with Manor School?
- Fence adjoining the Hempstead Road Recreation Play Area – a resident advised that he had approached the Town Council about making a permanent access where the boundary fence is broken, and keeps getting broken down. Paul advised that the Town Council are in negotiation with the land owner about this idea with a view to installing a gated access.
- Senlac Green – a resident spoke about the danger of having no street lighting around the Green.

- Cold Callers – a resident described a door sign he had produced and which he is willing to share with others, he will email a copy to the Secretary so that it can be put on the website.
- Social Enterprise – a resident suggested that the Association could sell advertising to local firms via its email network.
- Question Time – the Secretary reminded everyone that a Question Time event with the Police, Wealden Council, Fire Service and possibly ESCC Highways present, is planned for 23rd January, same venue.
- The Secretary took the opportunity to thank those residents that had volunteered and helped deliver the Newsletter.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

(NOTE: other items mentioned during conversations after the meeting had closed included investigating whether the Association could negotiate advantageous collective purchase of gas and/or electricity, the law relating to aggressive dogs let off the lead, marketing our experience with setting up the Surgery Car Service project to other Association's and a parking problem in Woodlands Close)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- 21st January - next Committee Meeting
- 23rd January – Question Time at Manor Primary School, Lower Hall

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Treasurer's Report for Financial Year ended 5 April 2013

The annual accounts show that technically we were in deficit to the tune of £49.00 at the end of the financial year.

However, our finances have improved somewhat in the intervening months and our bank accounts now stand at £163.31.

Total income to date is £590.00 in subscriptions plus £140.00 advertising revenue.

Expenses total £566.69 and represent expenditure on Insurance, Newsletter production, Venue Hire, Web Hosting and purchase of a banner for use at events.

We also will be receiving a grant of £200.00 towards set up costs of the car service we are launching to enable residents without transport to attend GP appoints in the town.

We are looking forward with optimism to a busy year and increased membership in 2014

Sally Major
Treasurer

