



ABOYNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Committee & Street Reps Meeting
13 February 2018, 7.30pm, 3 Selby Avenue, St Albans

Present:

Fiona Couper (Chair)	Julia Duschenes (Sec)	Lucy Povoas
Barry Cropper (Vice-Chair)	Christine McLauchlan	
Nigel Gale (Treasurer)	Sue Noon	

1. Welcome

FC welcomed the committee and street reps

2. Apologies for Absence

Kate Green, Bashir Jirvani, Rita Waldron. It was noted that Mary and Ken Kenward have resigned due to illhealth.

3. Minutes of the Last Committee Meeting (Dec 2017)

These were agreed for accuracy.

4. Matters Arising

Nothing that was not already on Agenda

5. Treasurer's Report

£778.08 in the bank. £100 received from the Council.

6. Communications Report

The necessary AGM communications are in hand. The flier is written and will be printed and delivered to reps by Tuesday next week.

They will be distributed by the Street Reps **ASAP** after Tuesday 21st. **They must be through the doors by Thursday 23rd to comply with notifications for the AGM.**

Rita: Spencer St

Kate: Upton, Stapley and Russell Aves

Sue & Barry: Selby and Britton Aves

Bashir: Etna Rd

Nigel: Worley Rd (bottom end)

Lucy: Church Cresc

Christine: Gombards

Julia: Catherine St

Fiona: Worley Rd (top)

FC

A photograph of the committee and street reps was taken to update the front page of the website. The possibility of a twitter account to be investigated.

7. Planning

3Russell Avenue: the meeting to approve plans retrospectively has been postponed to 12 March. NG to attend, all other committee members and street reps encouraged to attend as representative numbers will matter. Councillor Edgar Hill recommended lobbying the councilors involved in that meeting. FC to meet with Rita Waldron and Simon Grover to plan this.

ALL

FC/RW

11 Britton Avenue: Still no action. FC to chase. FC

Club Veeda: Extended license granted. No further action.

Lattimore Surgery, Upton Avenue: The doctors have reached the end of their lease and must leave so the area loses a surgery. However, it transpires that most of their patients are not from the surrounding homes and many use their visits as an excuse to park and shop! Therefore, grounds for objection are limited. NG to write a formal ARA objection based on parking regulations: that the new owners should not also be allowed on-street parking permits since spaces for the proposed dwellings are provided on site. It was noted that windows in the proposed extension which overlook neighbours in Russell Ave be requested to be obscured glass. FC to alert councilors. NG

Verulam House Nursing Home: has applied for permission to build three single-story dwellings for elderly couples. NG sent in an objection about the loss of large trees and learned today that planning permission has been denied. FC

1 Selby Avenue: application for a second parking space requiring the removal of a Leylandii. Residents of No.3 to request replacement (with something more suitable) when the Tree Preservation Order permission is requested. SN

Market Depot: very little is known about this proposal. Not to be chased at present.

Local Plan: A very bland, poorly-worded document has been circulated to all residents for comment. It was agreed that it was worth putting in some comments, particularly about the use of the Radlett Aerodrome land for housing rather than rail freight interchange.

8. Parking and Parking Permits

FC and BC had accepted an invitation to a meeting with John Charlton and Gary Payne in December 2017 at which two topics had been discussed – the forthcoming Zone A consultation and SADC's draft Permit Parking Policy.

Zone A: The Parking Working Party had asked that the survey be accompanied by an explanatory document and, following the meeting, BC/NG had suggested some potential topics for inclusion, apparently without success. As the proposals included a number which FC/BC felt would be unlikely to achieve sufficiently clear consensus amongst residents to allow ARA to take a view as an organization – for example the proposal to restrict parking in some existing bays in Stapley Road to evenings only to ease congestion and allow easier access for emergency vehicles – it was agreed to encourage residents to respond to the consultation individually.

Draft Permit Parking Policy: pertains to the whole area including Harpenden. BC noted that it addressed areas about which ARA members had previously expressed concern such as parking permits being issued to properties where planning permissions did not allow this.

General Parking Consultation: Early in January ARA had been invited by Councillor Davis to bring this consultation to the attention of members and to send any comments which we might have to Freddie Mohammed. Given both that the online survey had already been running for two weeks and that FC/BC had felt that the construction of the survey was so fundamentally flawed that it would not be possible for SADC to draw any useful conclusions from the results ARA had not responded to the survey as such but had registered concerns regarding both the structure & wording of the survey and about how the information gathered was to be used. Subsequently ARA had been invited to participate in a Parking Focus Workshop on Tuesday 20th February and it was agreed that BC and NG would attend.

9. Albany Lodge

FC and Lucy Povoas had a dispiriting meeting with management from The Lodge where they felt that local concerns were not listened to. Councillor Chris White has had a meeting with management recently, but again with no significant outcome. Residents are not objecting to the unit per se, but to NHS policy which bans smoking on its site, thereby turning emotionally disturbed patients onto the

footpath to chain smoke with attendant rubbish (NHS wouldn't supply a bin) and awkwardness for the children in the area (n.b. children's facility next door!) It is hoped that it will not take a major incident to force change.

10. St Claire's

LP reported "So far, so good". Whilst she was saddened that it took such a battle to win, the rapport between managers and local residents is now good. The numbers taken in to the property requires monitoring as does parking, particularly over the summer. Watching brief.

LP

11. AGM, Subscriptions and updates for 2018

It was agreed that this time of year is not good for subscription collection. Collection will now happen after AGM. A Newsletter will go out after that meeting and that will be a good time to start.

ALL

AGM: JD has made an informal booking of the room, but to formalize with school office.

JD

Guest speaker still required: possibility of someone from the Council speaking about the Town Hall renovation, or about the Anti-Idling Campaign.

12. Meeting with local police

This is still to take place as PC Russo is a busy man. However, in view of several incidents of anti-social behaviour in the area recently, this is an important contact. In the meantime, residents should be encouraged to call 101 to log incidents or (quicker) to do so online. **[NEWSLETTER ITEM?]**

13. AOB

13.1. Pollution: It was felt that ARA cannot take on the pollution issue for the centre of town a) due to lack of human resources and b) as it doesn't come under the association's aegis; but individuals were very sympathetic with the cause and were happy to be kept informed of developments.

13.2. Jubilee Centre Meetings: It is understood that the formal arrangements for Friends of JC is in progress. The proposed January meeting did not appear to take place. NG to contact Patrick Hughes, Chair.

NG

13.3. Anti-Idling Policy enforcement: as with so many of council's good ideas, enforcement of them never seems to happen (c.f. planning policy etc) However, at a recent meeting of the Joint Residents' Associations, FC learned that the franchise for the multi-story car parks is up for renewal in October 2019 and there are therefore chances to force changes with the introduction of ANPR at the entrances which would considerably speed entrances, preventing queuing/idling in the surrounding streets and therefore, lessening pollution. FC to contact Chris Davies at the council.

FC

16. Future Meetings

AGM: Thursday 15 March 2018, Aboyne Lodge School

ALL

Committee and Street Reps Meeting: Monday 14 May, 7.30pm

The meeting ended at 9.30pm