

MINUTES OF ARA COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 3RD JULY 2013

Present – Mary Conneely, Cynthia Ireson, Andrew Dawes, Sue Noon and Brian Benson

Apologies – Fiona Couper

1) Minutes from the last meeting of the 16th May 2013 were agreed.

Matters Arising – None

2) Draft Constitution

a) The Chair Mary Conneely used NORA as a guide to draft a New Constitution.

The Committee considered the defined qualifying area and discussed whether the defined area should stay the same. All felt for now this was best. To be reviewed at AGM's.

Agreed to keep present Logo – check with Eddy Battersby to get the Logo so that we can use it and to get the ARA email address for our use.

ACTION – for MC and FC to contact Eddy Battersby.

Comments on the constitution covered 2 main areas:-

i) The Committee - Agreed that it needs the 4 core members and co-opted members. For any Special General Meetings it was agreed 10 members would be needed, excluding the Honorary Officers.

ii) It was agreed not to include Business membership as this could constitute a conflict of interest. Also decided not to approach the garage owners for now.

The wording of each section was discussed for clarity and to create straight forward text.

It was formally agreed, subject to amendments that we have a **New Constitution**.

Chair to reword the Constitution as agreed.

ACTION – MC - Special General Meeting to be called if this is legally required. Chair to check with Chris Debenham re next steps with Constitution.

3) Planning and Licensing

Discussed letter drafted by Chair re application by St Albans Cue Club for an extension to the license. Letter has been sent off. **ACTION - MC will let committee know of date for the hearing.**

4) Treasure's Report. – CI

a) Lloyds Bank – have lost all our paperwork so bank account not yet transferred to new committee yet. CI suggested that we consider changing to Barclays. After discussion the Committee agreed to close existing bank account at Lloyds and transfer account to Barclays.

Signatories to be Mary (Chair), Cynthia (Treasurer), and Sue (Secretary); any two to sign.

ACTION - CI to organise necessary signatures from previous and existing Officers.

b) CI - asked NORA for advice on subscription charges – awaiting replies from other Residents Associations for comparisons. After discussion we agreed Household Subscriptions are £5 per household except singly occupancy which will be £3.

Street Reps will be required to keep a record of payments. The structure of this to be discussed when we have street reps in place.

5) Street Reps

An **Action Plan** setting out next steps agreed:-

i) Need to engage with Street Reps

ii) Knock on doors and go directly to individuals

iii) CI to talk to Liz Semple – to discover how many street reps there were previously - it was also suggested that Worley Road would need 2 Reps.

iv) Develop a 1 page flyer – to update residents that we are up and running and the actions we are taking.

v) Plan how to best use the Street Reps:-

- To collect subs and using them to get electronic info to build up a data base of Residents for the ARA communications.

MC – has a volunteer to be a Street Rep for Upper Dagnal Street - (RW)

ACTION – MC to contact FC re Flyer.

6) Communication Update not covered as FC absent.

7) New Item – Planning Matters Update. (BB)

Brian Benson - New Planning Officer was welcomed to the Committee.

BB - Has been checking planning applications at the Council for anything relevant to our area. Today (3rd July) there is a new planning application for the area of the Drovers Way Car Park. **ACTION** - Brian to call planning department to find out more.

8) AOB

i) As a result of **MC's** letter re licencing Mary has been in touch with Jill Durham from Democratic Services Manager (St Albans District Council) who has asked if we want to be co-opted onto City Neighbourhood Committee - Mary has agreed to this. Further information came from **CI**. It is a new set up from the Localization Agenda - to be monitored on its links to City Centre development and ARA issues. It was agreed that ARA would defiantly be a part of this committee.

ii) **AD** - Raised the issue of the Christmas Markets and the impact on our area and the town centre – Do we have a view as a Committee? More information required.

NEXT MEETING – 2ND SEPTEMBER - 8PM

MEETING CLOSED – 10PM.