



**ABOYNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
Committee Meeting  
13 January 2016 8pm

Present:

Mary Conneely (Chair)                      Fiona Couper (joined 8.30)

Brian Benson (Vice-Chair)                Sue Noon

Julia Duschenes (Sec)

**1. Welcome**

MC welcomed the committee.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Christine McLauchlan and Barry Cropper

**3. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Were agreed for accuracy.

**4. Matters Arising**

Are already on this agenda.

4.1. Friends of Victoria Playing Field AGM will be on 20 January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Aboyne Lodge Room. All invited to attend. BC emailed to ask if ARA would be willing to make a modest pledge to their fundraising effort. It was agreed to pledge £50.00. MC to email and BC to contact BB for cheque. ALL  
MC/BC/  
BB

**5. Planning Issues**

BB reported very few planning applications in this area. Russell Ave extension plans have gone to appeal but there has apparently been no decision.

The Brickyard pub has had its outdoor license times shortened. James Hanning has abandoned an appeal on the smoking area. Ongoing watch.

5.1. Strategic Local Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> (online) consultation period has just opened until 19 Feb. BB starting to organize comment on legality and soundness of the plan (the only grounds for comment) with Nigel Gale, including Infrastructure aspirations, housing size, tenure mix, retail offering. NG has written initial response which will be circulated to committee and street reps and all are encouraged to make comments back to BB by 1 February. BB then to formulate ARA response. MC thanked BB and NG for their initial work. ALL

## 6. St Claire's Development

Elliott Bachmann (local pressure group) and Nigel Gale have both expressed concern that apparently nothing has been done since the Council's 21 September meeting. NG suggests reminding Council that ARA should be involved. MC to write letter to the Housing Department expressing ARA's concern at their silence.

MC

## 7. Communications Reports and Street Reps

Whilst collecting subscriptions, MC & FC discovered a long-empty house on Church Crescent which is causing neighbours concern and costs as its dereliction impacts on their houses. FC to write to local press encouraging it to start a campaign to find the German owners.

FC

Collection of Subscriptions proved to be more time-consuming and harder than most had imagined. Monies still to be returned to BB.

FC suggested an electronic Newsletter to come out before the end of this month, flagging up ARA AGM and that members should respond to the SLP. FVPF AGM mention if in time.

FC

Newsletter will also highlight the importance of subscription collection in terms of networking in the area and the raising of local concerns (see above). There is also an issue of a dangerously narrow footpath on Folly Lane which MC&BB will bring to Councillor Chris White's attention in a meeting shortly. Newsletter to celebrate the fact that Council did listen when ARA protested the inclusion of Aboyne Lodge School on proposed redevelopment site and got it removed.

## 8. Treasurer's Report

BB reported £453 in bank and this is before the addition of subscriptions.

Nigel Gale will review End of Year.

BB has not yet received a bank statement and will chase in case it is still going to Cynthia Ireson by mistake.

BB

JD is now registered as a cheque signatory.

Street Reps to do final collection as soon as possible, please!

Street  
reps

## 9. 2016 – Key Priorities and Issues

MC stated her intention to stand down as Chair at the AGM. New Chair required. Volunteers! MC to canvas Nigel Gale to become Treasurer.

ALL

Issues gleaned from Subscription Collection (see above): empty house in Church Cresc and footpath in Folly Lane.

MC asked if ARA should always be reactive or if, as above, it could sometimes be proactive and alert Council to issues.

BB suggested a local litter pick. ARA could organise this, it could make a difference and be empowering in the neighbourhood. BB to request binbags and pickers from Council and ask Alun Davies to be involved (as he is in the Verulam Park pick).

ALL

DATE: 28 Feb, 11.30-12.30am. Meet on green space behind Russell Ave carpark.

## 10. AGM

Thursday 21 April 2016 at 7.30pm in the Aboyne Lodge Room. (FC to book)

FC

Councillors to be asked to attend but not to speak!

Speaker required. All to think of suggestions and send to Mary?

FC to prepare A5 flier (to be printed by Council and circulated by street reps) to announce the AGM.

ALL  
ALL

This must go out 21 days in advance: i.e. 31 March.

### 11. Look St Albans

FC was an ARA rep on this body. She reported that there is little empathy between ARA and Look St Albans. JD be on emailing list and will scan for anything of relevance.

JD

### 12. AOB

#### Diary for the Year Ahead

Wednesday 16 March 8pm Full Committee

Thursday 21 April 7.30 AGM

Wednesday 18 May 8pm Street Reps

Wednesday 29 June 8pm Full Committee

Wednesday 21 September 8pm Full Committee with a mission to set out sub-collection in early October

Wednesday 5 October 8pm Street Reps pre-sub-collection meeting

December Social gathering

It was noted that the sub collection was too late in the year. The aim is to start it earlier in 2016.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm