



ABOYNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Committee Meeting
23 March 2017, 7.30pm

Present:

Fiona Couper (Chair)

Barry Cropper (Vice-Chair) Nigel Gale (Treasurer)

Julia Duschenes (Sec) Sue Noon

1. Welcome

FC welcomed the committee.

2. Apologies for Absence

Christine McLauchlan sent apologies.

3. Minutes of the Last Committee Meeting (12 January 2017)

Were agreed for accuracy.

4. Matters Arising (not already on Agenda)

4.1. Aboyne Lodge A watch is being kept on the deterioration of the fabric of the school. FC to contact the Head (Amanda Abley) offering lobbying support. NG to resupply ARA's submission to SLP & DLP to aid this conversation. FC
NG

5. Treasurer's Report

The role of Treasurer has transferred to NG, mandate forms signed at the bank and all paperwork transferred. NG reported that funds remain at £786.53.

6. Comms Report

FC and CM to produce Newsletter/update. A group photo of the committee to go on website later. It was agreed that the website be used as a repository for information, not a communications centre. There will continue to be 4 Newsletters/year with emails used for special events. FC/CM

7. Strategy

It was agreed that ARA continue to be a watchdog, keeping up with Planning in the area, parking problems and maintaining good relations with our local councilors. A possible scheme for clearance of Gombards Alley was discussed. Whilst it was felt to be an excellent idea, it is thought that it would be difficult to raise a team given the poor showing at the recent litter pick. There is always the possibility of link ups with other volunteer groups – to be watched. ALL

Who does what: In addition to Chair duties, FC monitors gmail account regularly, oversees Communications, attends the combined RAs meetings (with SN)
CNC is covered by NG
Parking by FC and BC
Planning by NG
How we communicate with each other should be discussed next meeting.

8. Planning

NG noted that St Claire's incomplete planning application has been withdrawn.

The Nail Bar/Massage Parlour in Etna Rd has been approved. There are concerns about parking. It was noted that 3 Russell Avenue has taken delivery of a huge quantity of building materials and scaffolding is going up. Apparently there is currently no Planning Application listed on the Council website. NG to alert Planning Office.

NG/FC

The dentist seeking planning permission for enlargement in Russell Ave has been dismissed. NG noted that the appeal hearing for the Strategic Local Plan (SLP) is in early June and that nothing will happen on that front until after that date.

Also, nothing on the District Local Plan (DLP) will be considered until the above is resolved, so overall planning for the area is at a standstill.

City Centre Opportunity Site: a planning application for only the southern half of the site has been submitted. It is presumed that with this partial application the developer is hoping to avoid an environmental impact study. However, the plan is for housing for 83, shops and offices. To be watched.

NG

9. Parking

In the recent AGM, John Charlton promised to send documents for consideration to FC. Not yet received.

10. St Claire's

Ongoing works on the roof and services. FC contacted Church Crescent residents via email about parking restrictions and access during these works.

11. Albany Lodge

Lucy Povoas has been given to understand that service users are to be encouraged to smoke in Victoria Playing Fields. LP is arranging another meeting with the Modern Matron at the facility.

12. City Neighbourhoods Committee

NG reported on attending a recent meeting. The purpose of this committee remains opaque. There is no proper definition of its remit. It appears to have responsibility for Verulam Park, the public toilets and Christmas lights. NG reported much sparring between the political parties and that most important decisions were deferred to the next meeting.

Discussion about the Unparished Levy (the levy that city centre dwellers pay) suggested it could rise by 10% but it was then concluded that it wasn't for CNC to decide anyway. No projects have been decided upon and no costings done.

13. Larks in the Parks

Will be on 2 July. ARA will share a stall with the Verulam RA. Leaflets to be produced for the event and all committee members and street reps are requested to help out on the day if possible.

ALL

14. AOB

14.1. NORA has requested that RAs write to the government about Houses of Multiple Occupancy's contributions to Council Tax which will alter in the next years. As there are none known in the area, it was decided to let slide.

14.2. Storage of Archive Brian Benson put all current projects/information onto a memory stick for reference. This is with JD.

14.3. Street Reps It was decided to split Street Rep duties into two for Worley Rd (instead of the current three).

St REPS

14.4. HGVs in the area FC to ask Chris White when the promised restriction on Britton Ave is to be imposed. No notices up yet.

FC

14.5. Mural on Waddington St It is understood that the current tenants have permission to paint out the hideous mural.

15. Future Meetings

15.1. Committee Meetings

Thursday 25 May 2017

Thursday 23 November 2017

ALL

15.2. Street Reps meeting

14 September 2017 at 4 Selby Avenue. Preparation for subscription collection.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm