



ABOYNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Committee Meeting
18 May 2016 8pm

Present:

Brian Benson (Chair)	Christine McLauchlan
Fiona Couper (Vice-Chair)	Nigel Gale
Julia Duschenes (Sec)	

1. Welcome

BB welcomed the committee.

2. Apologies for Absence

Barry Cropper and Sue Noon sent apologies.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Were agreed for accuracy.

4. Matters Arising

Were taken under the headings below.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

BB outlined the roles of the ARA as follows: keeping abreast of issues, monitoring local development, a repository of information as to how to do things vis-à-vis the council, a focal point for action. In the light of this, it is clear that the committee should cover a small number of key council meetings.

It was agreed that NG will monitor planning applications and licensing applications each week. He will sign up to be informed of these by the council.

NG

BB will attend City Neighbourhoods Committee meeting on 8 June.

BB

FC, now Vice-Chair, but continues as Communications Lead. She will attend the Joint Residents Meeting.

FC

Communications will also be shared with CM. FC to write communications, CM uploads to website and does membership spreadsheet. They will also share the running of the website and Street Reps. The latter may require guidance as to why there are there: they are the eyes and ears of the ARA.

FC/CM

JD to monitor email account.

JD

CM had welcomed a new, keen member in Catherine Street – this is really a Street Rep's job. To be discussed at next Street Reps meeting.

St reps

JD remains as secretary, preparing agendas and minutes and monitoring email account (as above).

BC is Treasurer. BB to sign him into the Bank account next week and will hand over all records.

CM remains in charge of membership. She noted that the spreadsheet requires contacts (e.g. printers, useful people, other Residents Associations). Members requested to supply.

SN remains street rep and in charge of all special projects.

All

6. Objectives

There was some discussion over whether the ARA should be pro- or reactive. It was agreed that it should be seen to be involved in ongoing planning activities, Victoria Playing Fields events etc. The Larks in the Parks event (26 June) is an occasion for the ARA to become more visible and there was talk of taking a stand there, having a banner printed, balloons and sweets to hand out, leaflets to distribute. Unfortunately, it transpired that very few of the committee are available that day, so initial plans would have to be scaled down. However, events to raise the profile and awareness of ARA were thought to be useful for engaging with our community. Street Reps to be called upon to ask their neighbours what is on their mind and could the ARA help them.

FC to write leaflet for the day (to be printed up by the council)

There was much discussion about how to make the ARA a more friendly, social club, but it was felt that with such a small committee and so little commitment from the membership, this was a non-starter for this RA and proved easier for the more outlying RAs who could organise walks, bat watching etc.

St Reps
FC

7. Treasurer's Report

After donations to FVPF, AGM and NORA membership, ARA has £676.53 in the bank. £275 collected in subscriptions.

8. Planning

Strategic Local Plan (SLP). There are now disputes about where the council may build on Green Belt (neighbouring councils are objecting to the latest plans and numbers of houses). The resolved SLP is supposed to go to the Inspector for assessment in October 2016.

District Local Plan (DLP). BB/NG reported that this remains very under-developed. It has still to go to consultation. ARA to watch for this. The Council is talking to its Parishes about the plan but the City centre has no parish (50,000 people) and the City Neighbourhoods Committee may have to take up this consultation role although it has yet to be asked to do so.

It was noted that the proposal to turn the old museum site into housing has been passed.

No further news to report on the St Claire's Development.

NG noted that the large site to the east of St Peter St (Police station, health unit etc) has had a proposal made with a very limited consultation. NG to take concern about this to the Joint Neighbourhoods Committee.

It was noted that a plan submitted to clear the workshops in Folly Lane for housing was called in by Councillor Campbell as overbearing and overlarge. However, housing was not opposed in principle.

NG

NG

9. Communications

FC reported from the previous Joint Residents Association meeting that the Civic Society was making progress on protection of the Roman wall. Letters were being submitted to the Council about the toxic state of Verulam park lake. ARA was asked to object to a barrier put on Verulam Rd outside the Romanesque church. NG agreed to submit an objection to the appearance of this barrier.

JRA was vexed about ongoing Council negotiations to sell land to Helioslough for the Rail Freight Terminal which remain unclear even after excellent letter in local press. BB to contact Chris White for information on this subject.

JRA have asked to be included in any future litter-picks organised by ARA.

NG

BB

10. Aboyne Lodge School

Concerns have been expressed about the shabby appearance of the school buildings. SN to find out what Governors thoughts are on this issue. It was noted that Councillor Alun Davies's children go to

SN

the school so FC to enquire what plans, if any, Council has for this listed building.

FC

11. **Future Meetings**

NEW START TIME trial

Wednesday 29 June 7.30pm Street Reps

Wednesday 28 September 7.30pm Full Committee with a mission to set out sub-collection in early October

Wednesday 5 October 7.30pm Street Reps pre-sub-collection meeting

Wednesday 16 November 7.30pm Full Committee

Thursday 8 December Social gathering for all.

Wednesday 25 January 2017 7.30pm Full Committee N.B. one week later than discussed

2017 AGM, either 9th or 16 March 2017 to be discussed.

All

12. **AOB**

CM noted that the front page of the website needs updating. FC has a plan before next newsletter.

FC/CM

They will meet next week.

BB announced that the Civic Society Lecture was on the following evening (19 May) with Tracey Harvey, Head of Planning speaking at the Cross St Centre.

The meeting ended at 9.50pm