

ABOYNE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the First meeting of the ARA residents association held at 8pm on Thursday 7th March 2013 at 7 Selby Avenue.

Attendance: Mary Conneely, Cynthia Ireson, Fiona Cooper and Sue Noon.

1 Welcome

Mary welcomed us to the first meeting of the rejuvenated ARA residents association.

2 Apologies for Absence

Andrew Dawes

3 Minutes from the AGM held on 15th February 2013.

Minutes were agreed with a few typing errors corrected.

4 Key priorities for the ARA going forward

The discussion was focussed around the following;

- i. How do we establish the priorities?
- ii. Mary suggested that we look into what information is available from NORA (National Organisation of Residents Associations) in terms of information and help. Fiona volunteered to do some fact finding regarding NORA to see how useful membership would be.
- iii. A need to discover where the other residence associations in St Albans are and finding a map to work out boundaries.
- iv. To be the voice for the area and to communicate to the residence what is going on.
- v. We felt that presently there is a knowledge gap, we need to understand the jargon and need clarity on how and where to get information to better inform ourselves for our role.
- vi. Cynthia voiced her concern about planning applications, lobbying - all agreed that this needs to be included in our fact finding.

5 Communication.

The following possibilities were discussed:

- i. Newsletter – to update residents as to who we are and why we are here. Mary suggested we should aim to do this in approx. 6 weeks' time giving us time to work on the content and style. After this the suggestion would be 2 newsletters per year. We felt there is a need to redesign the newsletter.
- ii. Street Reps – we discussed the importance of having street reps and the need to re-establish the role of street reps. It was suggested that we could approach people from the represented households at the AGM meeting as a potential initial contact.
- iii. Website – Discussed the possibility of having a ARA website.

6 Handover from previous post holders.

It was agreed that this would be divided as follows:

Jan/Marjorie - Sue and Mary
Neil - Cynthia
Eddie - Mary
Chris - Wine at next meeting.

7 Street Reps:

Overlaps with point 5 ii) above-

Role, engagement, Ask for volunteers, How do people put themselves forward?

Cynthia asked if the street reps need to attend meetings.

Mary pointed out the importance of getting the old constitution and agreeing a new constitution and examining the role of street reps as part of the process.

8 Finance.

Cynthia has received the accounts. She has not heard back from Neil Dury yet to have the hand-over of the cheque books. Cynthia to follow up. She is also interested in how many households previously paid membership. How much should the household fee be? This needs further discussion.

Cynthia raised the point that £200 has been paid to Look St Albans – she felt we need to know what this gives us as a residence association and is it money well spent.

9 Team discussion on new roles.

Mary laid out the importance of remembering that this is a learning curve for all involved and that we must all ask for support when we need it.

10 AOB

- i. Present for Marjorie - agreed to £50 book token, some dark chocolate and a card. Mary to arrange.
- ii. Old records – we agreed to get the old records from Marjorie and hold a meeting to establish what needs to be kept.

Date of next meeting – TBC – either the 17th or 18th of April 2013.

The meeting closed at 10pm.