



ABOYNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Committee Meeting
13 May 2015

Present:

Mary Conneely (Chair) Julia Duschenes (Sec)
Cynthia Ireson (Treasurer) Brian Benson (Vice-Chair)
Sue Noon Barry Cropper
Christine McLauchlan

1. Welcome

MC welcomed the committee, especially new members (BC, CM, JD)

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Fiona Couper.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

SN

Accuracy check: gaps in the coverage of street reps should read only Britton/Russell Aves, Church Cres, Folly La (delete Upper Worley Road), Catherine and Adelaide Sts.

4. Matters Arising

All actions have been completed.
Alun Davies has been re-elected District Councillor. ARA awaits his further action on parking survey.
The minutes were agreed.

5. Treasurer's Report

It was noted that with the change in officers (SN no longer secretary therefore cannot sign cheques), cheque signatories require change. CI nominated, MC seconded that BB be the new signatory. CI/BB Progressing.

CI reported that current balance on finances is £855.57 with liabilities of approx. £350 to come in, leaving £502.70. SN to chase hire charge for AGM room. Liabilities include domain name and webhosting plus future training. MC advised that future income will cover annual website costs (£120). SN

6. Communications Report

MC asked for views on recent launch of website. Committee gave excellent feedback on the site. FC will be trained to do edits/changes and Bashir Jirvani (Etna Road Street Rep) CM and MC are to be trained to do so as they volunteered, hopefully to take place next month. FC/MC/C M/BZ

CI expressed concern about how much can be updated by ARA. FC to clarify at next meeting. FC

Newsletter: going out in the next few days. MC to monitor gmail account until FC returns and a process for this is agreed in the future. MC

It was noted that the 3 District Councillors and the County Councillor who attended AGM all wished to be on the mailing list for the newsletter/web link. CI to add to mailing list. CI

7. Planning Report

BB reported on two local planning applications (no action required) and the Strategic Local Plan (see newsletter). Committee to spread the word about the SLP and to respond to any issues. A detailed local plan is not expected for 2-3 months. It is not clear what the Council's Action Group will do from its analysis of public's responses to the SLP. It was noted that public were 100% against building on the green belt "except in exceptional circumstances", but that these exceptional circumstances are yet to be ascertained. Next meeting of Planning Policy Committee discusses Infrastructure. The agenda and minutes are available at: ALL

<http://stalbans.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CIId=459&Year=0>

BB to attend June meeting (consolidation of responses) and will feedback that the SLP is not engaging the public. SN will attend 21/05 meeting. BB/SN

BB reported that The Brickyard is applying to the Licensing Committee to extend its outside smoking area hours license. Abbey Precincts RA is objecting. All agreed that there is more night noise since the venue opened. BB, MC to attend hearing. MC/BB

8. St Claire's

MC attended a Scrutiny Committee meeting. Nigel Gale spoke on behalf of the Action Group and demolished SADC/HP arguments on grounds of numbers of single people requiring homes, costs, selection criteria, risk assessments etc. No straight answers were able to be provided, so councillors asked for these to be available for: Next meeting 7 July. Agenda and minutes of this Committee are available at:

<http://stalbans.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CIId=391&Year=0>

ALL

It was noted that this does not bode well for the SLP in general, that Albany Lodge may well come up for redevelopment in the next five years and this must be watched.

BC raised concerns about the charity Hightown Praetorian (HP, who are due to run St Claire's for the Council) in respect of their capability, of the effective running of their current properties in Upton Avenue. HP does not inspire confidence in their choice of guardians for their properties. Council has cleaned up the area, but again a watch in place.

ALL

MC was more optimistic of a good outcome after the meeting.

9. AGM

MC disappointed with turn-out, but it was a positive meeting and speaker from Transition St Albans was excellent. MC to find out if she had any take-up in the area. It was agreed that it was good to have so many councillors present, all of whom responded well afterwards. It was agreed to promote the social side of the occasion in future.

MC

ALL

9.1. Minutes of the AGM Following a couple of minor amendments, the committee gave interim agreement to the minutes so that they can be used to claim council sponsorship. Logo required. MC to acquire from website builder (colour and mono) and send to JD. AGM minutes to be circulated to MC, CI and JD electronically.

MC

SN

10. Street Reps Meeting

There is a need for more Street Reps. CI will be stepping down from her temporary Membership Secretary role and discussed what was involved.

1. Membership details currently held in spreadsheet form. Contacts also in gmail account. These could be merged (Googledocs), CM said she would consider taking on this role? CM/MC

2. Leading the collection of subscriptions - this to be discussed at 10/06 Street Reps meeting.

3. Communicating with the Street Reps and how to improve/better facilitate this will also be part of 10/06 mtg.

It was agreed that it was a good idea to continue to collect subscriptions as this kept the ARA in the public eye. Amnesty might be declared next year. MC suggested collection in Sept/Oct which would give time to recruit more street reps. MC thanked CI for all her help on this issue.

11. AOB

11.1. CI also announced her intention to step down from the role of Treasurer in September. MC thanked her for all her help in this area, too. This will be an issue for the next committee meeting 21/07.

JD

11.2. BC reported on Friends of Victoria Playing Fields (FVPF):

FVPF have made an application to register the Fields as a community asset.

FVPF did a survey about priorities for changes to the Fields: top priority is play equipment for older children. One-off grant of £20K (which MC helped secure as part of City Neighbourhood Committee) from the council, it will go towards resurfacing and refurbishment of equipment later in 2015. FVPF then have to decide what else they might wish for and how to raise the money for it. It was noted that Victoria Playing Fields is the ARA's only official green space and hence why MC and their Chair believe a closer working relationship is in all our interest. The committee unanimously supported this.

12. Dates of Next Meetings

Street Reps: Wednesday 10 June, 8pm, 7 Selby Avenue

Full Committee Meeting: 21 July, 8pm, 7 Selby Avenue

16 Sept, 8pm, venue to be confirmed

JD

Meeting ended: 9.55pm