

# Leomansley Area Residents Association

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2014 at Martin Heath Hall, Christchurch Lane, Lichfield at 11.30am.**

**Present:** LARA Executive Committee :- G J Lusher (Chairman),  
P Ledbury (Vice-Chairman), D Hayward (Treasurer), B Lusher (Secretary)  
V Birkett, J Bryan, J Fry, P & G King, M Gallagher, D Mosson, A Morrison

**Members of Public:** 45 Residents were in attendance

**Guests:** Cllr Iain Eadie, Cllr Terry Finn PCSO Andy Lovatt assisted by PCSO Ed Ford, (Police) Chris Pattison (Save Sandfields Pumping Station) Andre Hefer (Beacon Street Residents Association)

**Apologies:** - Cllrs Andy Smith, Bob Awty, Ian Jackson.  
Roger Hartley and Tim Collins

The meeting was opened at 11.30hrs by Chairman Geoff Lusher who welcomed all those present and introduced the guests and present Committee.

## **1. Minutes of the 2013 AGM held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2013**

1.1 The minutes of the AGM for 2013 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

## **2. Financial Report**

2.1 Treasurer Dawn Hayward gave her report & presented the LARA accounts for the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and a financial analysis comparing this year with the previous years. LARA showed a small deficit of -£7.08 for the year.

	£
• Balance brought forward	192.05
• Income	216.87
• Expenditure	223.95
• Surplus (Deficit)	-7.08

### **Exceptional Items**

• Grant from LDC	2951.90
• Projector – Darwin Hall	2144.40
• Balance of grant	807.50

### **Reserves**

• General reserve	184.97
• Balance of LDC Grant	807.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>992.47</b>

Cash at bank 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014                      **£992.47**

2.2 Chairman asked for proposals that the accounts be adopted.  
Proposed    J Whittenbury                      Seconded    J Fry

All agreed and accounts were duly adopted.

2.3 DH went on to explain that the improvements at Darwin Hall were now completed and the speakers had now been installed and the projector were welcome additions to the facilities at Darwin Hall to be enjoyed by all residents and clubs, societies who use the hall on a regular basis.

### **3. Election of Officers**

3.1 The Chairman advised that the present Officers were prepared to stand for a further year. No one had notified the Secretary prior to the meeting that they wished to be considered for any of these roles and they were all proposed en bloc by John Thompson and seconded by J Whittenbury.

Accordingly the Officers for 2014/2015 would be Geoff Lusher (Chairman), Paul Ledbury (Vice Chairman), Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Barbara Lusher (Secretary)

3.2 The remainder of the Committee were also all prepared to stand for another year, those being, V Birkett, J Bryan, A Morrison, D Mosson, M Gallagher, P & G King and J Fry.

These too were all proposed, seconded and duly elected en bloc.

The Chairman asked all those present if there were any residents who would like to join the Committee they would be very welcome to join us, and to approach any member of the Committee after the meeting if this was the case.

3.3 The Chairman then informed those present that the Committee had decided that in order for LARA to be self-sufficient and be able to run smoothly, it was now proposed to bring in an Annual Subscription for each person of £3 for the year. Dawn Hayward explained that at present everything we do is done by relying on the generosity and goodwill of all members of the Committee who give their time by helping in , IT skills, website enquiries, refreshments for social events, print cartridges etc.etc all free of charge, but if we are to expand our social activities then money needs to be forthcoming from other sources and not be totally reliant on donations. Anyone who would like to renew their membership or indeed join LARA can do so today.

### **4. Home Security / Smart Water**

4.1 Paul Ledbury began by explaining to all present that they can also be involved and registered for OWL Alerts on their email. At present PL forwards all these alerts to LARA membership via the Police when in fact you can join & get them sent direct to your PC simply by going to the website [www.owl.co.uk](http://www.owl.co.uk)

4.2 PL then explained Smart Water which in fact is an invisible liquid which can be endorsed onto any valuable item that you own, within the home and indeed in your car. Simply mark them with the invisible liquid and if stolen and found then it can help identify that the item belongs to you and it is a real deterrent for thieves. The cost for this is as little as £20 for any person registered for OWL alerts or you can go straight to the Smart Water website and obtain it for £60. All instructions are included on how to apply and also comes with labels that you can put onto items or larger ones to display in your window which further acts as a deterrent to thieves.

4.3 PL then explained and demonstrated the difference between standard Door locks which are used in all new build houses and the advisable Anti Snap-Lock design which again makes it more difficult for burglars trying to enter your home. They were also endorsed by PCSO Ed Ford who informed those present that all houses which have had the new Anti Snap-Lock design fitted have had no burglaries. He recommended them and advised that the locks to use should be certified by Secured by Design.

## 5. Police Report

PCSO Andy Lovatt reported that our two main PCSO's were PCSO Nicola Flanagan and PCSO Elaine Sneyd, neither of whom were on duty today so could not attend. Their shifts are covered from 08.00hrs – 22.00 hrs daily. He confirmed that our area alone is covered by 5 PCSO's and 3 Police. Lichfield district itself is covered by 21 PCSO's.

In respect to Crime in our area he reported the following:-

Anti Social Behaviour	reduction of 4%
Burglaries	no change
Theft of Motor Vehicles	no change
Theft FROM Motor Vehicles	reduction of 29%
Crime overall was down by 9%	

Current issues are the stealing of high performance vehicles in the Leomansley area, in which several arrests have been made and all those arrested were from out of the area. PCSO Ed Ford reported that there is a designated team in place dealing with these kinds of crime and assured us that there are plain cars patrolling the area all the time to help fight this.

J Fry asked about noise related issues as he was told he could not make an anonymous call to the police to report loud noise from nearby neighbours. He would have to give his name which does not help with neighbourhood relations. Cllr Eadie agreed to investigate this.

PL asked about parking – willful obstruction and parking inconsiderately. Discussion followed and it appeared that the Police were unable to enforce any laws in relation to the parking issues mentioned.

VB asked if it was useful to have burglar alarms in the home as when one goes off no-one seems to take any notice. PCSO Ford confirmed that you can install a burglar alarm and have it connected to the Police so that if a burglary takes place then they would instantly attend, he was unsure of the cost for this service.

## 6. Fire & Rescue Report

In the absence of anyone from the Fire & Rescue Councillor Terry Finn who is a lead member on the County Fire Committee agreed to speak on their behalf.

6.1 Cllr Finn announced that the new Lichfield Fire Station would be opened in 2017 with the Fire Service taking control of the present building as of 19/12/2014.

- 6.2 He then reiterated the dangers of Bio-ethanol fires which contain invisible flames and he reported on 2 fatalities that had occurred during the re-filling of these fires.
- 6.3 Electric Cigarettes – he reported on 9 incidents due to the incorrect charging of these E Cigarettes and explained the dangers of them.
- 6.4 Another cause of fire in the home are Tumbledryers & dishwashers that have been left on during the night and catch fire – advised to keep all spring loaded doors closed at night to prevent the spread of fire.
- 6.5 He displayed some cards which were available to anyone wishing to have a smoke alarm check of their property – free of charge by the local fire officers.

## **7. Parking Issues**

- 7.1 Christchurch Lane – Sandra Booth reported that the one way system suggested was not favoured by the residents and she had contacted Cllr Finn and Richard Reason for other suggestions on how to improve the congestion. A no right turn onto Walsall Road at the bottom of Christchurch Lane had been dismissed by the LDC and more than a year on she was still awaiting a response from them.  
Cllr Finn said it was still ongoing.
- 7.2 P Rutherford resident of Christchurch Lane explained that people were leaving their cars from 8-8.30 in the morning, going to work all day in the City Centre and he suggested restricted parking between 10.00 – 14.00 and 14.00 and 16.00 which would prevent this problem.
- 7.3 S Whittenbury also of Christchurch Lane said that the law needs to be enforced in respect of parking within 10 meters of junctions, and parking tickets issued.  
Cllr Finn said that was the responsibility of the Traffic Wardens.
- 7.4 Another resident suggested an incentive was needed rather than Enforcement.
- 7.5 HGV limit on Walsall Road was mentioned and Cllr Finn said this was ongoing explaining that if they reduce the weight restrictions on vehicles travelling down Walsall Road it would prevent people from moving home as removal lorries would exceed that limit.  
Ongoing.
- 7.6 The obstructive parking of a vehicle on the cycle lane alongside the hedgerow by Rosemary Lodge was brought up as it meant pedestrians having to go into the road – PCSO Ed Ford said it was not an offence as the cycle lane was not legally enforceable, but he would speak to Elaine Sneyd in respect to the van which is parked on Walsall Road, obstructing view and again making it that pedestrians have to walk in the road.

### **Darwin Park Restrictions**

- 7.7 The Chairman reported that LARA had submitted a proposal for parking restrictions on Whitehouse Drive and Deykin Road to the County. Cllr Finn advised that all such restrictions would need the approval of residents whose houses would be affected. The Chairman responded that this was unlikely to be forthcoming in view of the selfish attitude of some residents parking on the spine road when off road parking was available. He felt that it should be a case of the common good prevailing over selfish individuals. Cllr Finn agreed to arrange a meeting with County Highways.
- 7.8 Questions were raised regarding the availability of Traffic Wardens being able to patrol Darwin Park – Cllr Eadie would look at the requirement to have their attendance on the estate.
- 7.9 John Thompson reported that half the problem was that the roads were deliberately narrowed when plans were drawn up for Darwin Park to restrict the speed of traffic.

### **8. Bus Passengers Shelters**

A meeting had been held with Cllr Finn and Chairman Geoff Lusher some time ago but it appeared that a stalemate situation had arisen. However Cllr Finn disagreed and said that the Highways had asked for another meeting between them all which would be arranged in the very near future.

### **9. Hallam Park Development**

Paul Ledbury spoke on the planning meeting held recently at which he attended along with Tim Collins and reported that despite the objections which LARA raised regarding the lack of school facilities, a health facility etc, the Councillors voted for the plans to go ahead. Cllr Awty expressed some of the concerns of LARA but when it came to the vote abstained, whilst all other Cllrs voted in favour of the development.

Cllr Eadie reported that there were still access issues which also included recreational space which needed to be resolved prior to start of the development.

- 9.1 Some good news in relation to the reeds in the pond nearest to Waitrose, Cllr Eadie confirmed that once adoption was complete which was due in the immediate approaching months, then all the reeds would be removed.

### **10. Darwin Hall**

Jeff Fry explained that the running of Darwin Hall by the Hall Committee was becoming increasingly difficult and asked for further volunteers. There was however a vacancy which needed to be filled for a facilities manager / caretaker which was a paid position. Cllr Bob Awty is now the new Chairman of the Committee but anyone interested in filling this position can contact or speak to Jeff Fry in the interim.

## **11. Open Forum**

The issue of wildlife was raised and that the open spaces should be maintained in a way whereby it does not detract from attracting wildlife to the area.

Chairman mentioned details of the Pipe Green Trust were available on leaflets at the back of the Hall. Andre Hefer was available to answer questions on this at the end of the meeting.

Chairman Geoff Lusher thanked everyone for their attendance and involvement and the meeting was closed at 13.29hrs.