

Leomansley Area Residents Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 19th November 2016 at

Darwin Hall, Stonneyland Drive, Lichfield at 14.30 hrs.

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

Members of Public: 26 Residents were in attendance

Guests: Cllr Terry Finn, Cllr Iain Eadie, Steven George (Darwin Walk), and
John Pickwell (Auditor)

Apologies: - **Councillors** Bob Awty and Andy Smith

Committee Members: Leon Jennings, Shaun Bowden,

LARA Members: R Appleby, Ann Morrison and C & J Whittaker

The meeting was opened at 14.30hrs by Chairman Geoff Lusher who welcomed all those present, introduced the guests and present Committee, and gave a short indication of LARA's objectives and plans for future Community projects.

1. Minutes of the 2015 AGM held on 7th November 2015

1.1 The minutes of the AGM for 2015 were agreed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed: P Ledbury Seconded : S Booth

2. Matters Arising

Cllr Terry Finn who is on the Fire Service Authority referred to the minutes of the AGM in 2015 with regard to fires caused by Tumble Dryers that had been left on overnight, or left on whilst the house was vacated and reported there had been a new spate of these in recent months. He also reported that there had been a number of fires caused by the charging of E-cigarettes. Some of these had been due to incorrect batteries being inserted into the chargers so he wanted to make people aware that the correct batteries must be used at all times to prevent any incidents of fire occurring.

3. Financial Report

3.1 Treasurer Dawn Hayward gave her report & presented the LARA accounts for the financial year ending 30th June 2016 and a financial analysis comparing this year with the previous years. Thanks were given to John Pickwell who audited the accounts for us and John responded by mentioning that his job had been made so much easier as the accounts were recorded in perfect order and praised Dawn for her work during the year.

	£
• Income	844.79
• Expenditure	602.36
• Surplus	242.43

Exceptional Items

•	0.00
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Reserves

• General reserve	1384.24
• Balance of LDC Grant	0.00
Total	1384.24

Cash at bank 30th June 2016 **£1384.24**

3.2 The Chairman asked for proposals that the accounts be adopted.

Proposed: P Ledbury Seconded: J Fry

All agreed and accounts were duly adopted. Thanks were expressed by the Chairman to Dawn for her diligence in keeping the financial affairs of LARA in such good order.

4. Appointment of Independent Auditor

Following on from the agreement of the Financial Accounts, it was with great pleasure that we were able to report that John Pickwell had volunteered his services as our Independent Auditor for the next 2 years. This was approved.

5. Election of Officers

5.1 The Chairman advised that there were a few changes to the Executive Committee this year. Firstly was the position of Vice Chairman which had been held by Paul Ledbury for many years, but Paul felt that he could no longer carry on accepting the title of Vice Chairman as if the time came where he would become Chairman then he would not be able to give the time and effort required for such a position. He would however be happy to continue on the Committee and continue to do the work he currently does so well, (that of the upkeep of the website, helping to produce leaflets etc etc). It was with regret that the Chairman accepted Paul's resignation as Vice Chairman and thanked him for all his hard work over the years and was pleased he would remain a valued member of the Committee. Dave Mosson had volunteered to become Vice Chairman in place of Paul with a view to take over as Chairman at the AGM in 2017 when Geoff Lusher would be standing down after 5 years in the role. As there were no other nominations Dave Mosson was proposed by Paul Ledbury and seconded by Peter King and duly elected as Vice Chairman. The Chairman was pleased to report that Dawn Hayward was happy to continue as Treasurer unless there were any nominations from the floor. As there were no other nominations Dawn was duly elected for a further year. Geoff Lusher then reported that the Secretary Barbara Lusher would be resigning her position as Secretary following 3 years in the role in accordance with the Constitution but would remain on the Committee, and thanks were given to Barbara for her services over the past 3 years. The Chairman then announced that Committee member Tracy Shepherd had agreed to take over

from Barbara and become Secretary. As there were no further nominations she was proposed by Dawn Hayward and seconded by Mike Gallagher and duly elected as Secretary.

Accordingly the Officers for 2016/2017 would be Geoff Lusher (Chairman), Dave Mosson (Vice Chairman), Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Tracy Shepherd (Secretary)

5.2 The remainder of the Committee were all prepared to stand for another year, those being, V Birkett, J Bryan, M Gallagher, P & G King, S Booth, J Fry, L Jennings, S Bowden, and retiring officers P.Ledbury and B.Lusher.

These were all proposed by S Whittenbury, seconded by J Whittenbury 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.

6. Parking Issues & Highways – Cllr Finn

6.1 Cllr Finn reported that the parking restrictions for Christchurch Lane were still ongoing and each time there is an objection by a resident, it puts the process back 6 months. However he did report that there would be yellow lines put on both sides of the road outside the school so there would be no parking allowed in front of the school at all. He confirmed that he was involved in talks with the school to address the problems of parking at busy times. Resident D Cousins reported that there had been a very close call only this week and that the necessary restrictions should be put in force immediately to avoid further accidents from happening. Mr A Morris asked if it would be possible to have an area to the rear of the school with access from the A51 which could alleviate the issue of cars parking so close to school along Christchurch Lane, to which Cllr Finn replied that this was not practical.

Residents of The Dell expressed their concerns that more restrictions outside the school would mean more vehicles entering and parking in The Dell and that there was insufficient parking in this area at is was.

6.2 **Pot Holes** – These were big concerns from many residents with deep pot holes on all three main roundabouts in the Leomansley Area those being Friary Roundabout (Bowling Green), the roundabout on Birmingham Road and the one that links Sandfield Meadow with Sainte Foy Avenue. All these had been reported and numbers allocated for work to be undertaken but Cllr Finn informed us that these were category 3 pot holes and there was a very long list waiting to be addressed and they will be completed in due course.

6.3 **Weight Restriction Walsall Road** - Cllr Finn gave an update on this by

informing members that there was a problem on signage for introduction of weight restrictions for HGV's which was out of his financial remit (£60,000) but it was still under discussion.

He went on to inform members that consideration was also being given to the alternative routes required for HGVs travelling around the City when the work begins for the construction of HS2, and reported that there could be up to 150 lorries per day removing soil and waste once the works had begun. They need to have direct routes out of the City with the least disruption possible to residents.

He also mentioned the construction of the Southern By-Pass joining Falkland Road at A5127 to Tamworth Road, eliminating the rat run via Shortbutts Lane, which was linked to the new housing developments. He mentioned the construction of a new school in Shortbutts Lane. He agreed to keep us informed on the progress of all of these.

7. Pools Project

Veronica Birkett gave a presentation as to the progress (albeit slow progress) on the LARA Pools Project. She reported that the ownership of the Pools was now with the Land Registry and as soon as these were under District Council ownership then they have agreed to stun and remove the Koi Carp, which have now bred and are in all 4 pools, and will remove the reeds from Pool 1 currently known as the Waitrose Pool.

Tracy Shepherd had undertaken a survey of Pool 1 by doing a water sample test to check the acidity in the water which was extremely high which would detract from wildlife entering and nesting in this area. There have been sightings of water voles, kingfishers and other unusual wildlife which we would like to continue to attract to enhance the educational aspect for the children of our community to enjoy.

Dave Mosson reported that we were looking at putting educational boards by each Pool explaining which insects, animals, plant life, fish etc are attracted to that particular pool. The cost for these boards was between £3,500 - £4,000 for the 4 boards required and that was money LARA was trying to raise through our social events, although grants may also be available.

8. Winter/Christmas Quiz – Saturday 3rd December

Sandra Booth informed members that LARA was going to hold a quiz night on 3rd December which would have a Christmas feel about it. She explained that teams are made of up to 6 people, charge was £5 per head or £4 if you are a LARA member. Mulled wine & mince pies would be available on arrival to get the party started.

9. Darwin Walk

Steven George of The Darwin Walk informed those present that Darwin Walk was open to anyone to attend, the next one being on Boxing Day which was a 10 mile round walk to help walk off those Christmas Festivities but you do not have to do the whole walk, you can do half if you wish. Starting point is Bunkers Hill car park in Beacon Park at 10.00am for anyone wishing to take part. He informed us that 2016 was the 30th year of the Darwin Walk which began on 8th July 1986 and has become very popular. They have 4 walks during the year, Dawn Walk which this year was held on 1st May at 04.30hrs, the Summer Walk was held on 17th July, the Autumn Walk known as Widdershins Walk was held on 2nd October and the walk on Boxing Day being the final one of the year. Next year's dates would be advised.

10. Future Events – Litter Pick

LARA held its first Litter Pick on 9th July this year which considering the awful weather (torrential rain), was a success to those who helped out on that day so it was decided that we repeat the exercise again in the New Year. A date has been set for Saturday 28th January, starting point Darwin Hall at 10.00am. Anyone who would like to help and support us will be very welcome. All Hi-Viz jackets and equipment will be supplied and we hope that the weather will be kinder to us than it was in July.

11. Open Forum

Resident Mrs Fisher asked if it could be possible for a cycling map be made available to help encourage fitness amongst the community.

A request was made to the committee to obtain via the freedom of information act a list from the Police as to how many parking tickets had been issued during 2016.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance today and announced that there would now be an opportunity for anyone who would like to speak with any member of the Committee privately after the meeting in relation to any concerns they may have but did not wish to raise in open meeting.

The meeting was closed at 16.30 hrs.

Chairman
Signed & Agreed a true record
Date...