

L A R A

Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 28th November 2013
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

Present: Geoff Lusher (Chairman), Paul Ledbury (Vice Chairman),
Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Barbara Lusher, Veronica Birkett, Jay Bryan.

Apologies: Jeff Fry, Ann Morrison, Ken Lawrence and Graham Edwards.

Geoff opened the meeting at 20.00hrs and welcomed everyone to the meeting the first in his position of Chairman having succeeded Jeff Fry at the AGM held on 3rd November at Martin Heath Hall. He wished to record appreciation of Jeff's excellent chairmanship, which would be a hard act to follow.

1) Appointment of Secretary:-

The position of Secretary was now vacant following the resignation of Ken Lawrence at the AGM. A proposition that Barbara should become Secretary was made by Paul, seconded by Veronica and agreed.

2) Minutes of the meetings held on 4th September and 25th September had been circulated to all members of the executive and would be agreed at the next meeting.

3) AGM Feedback Forms:-

The Committee reviewed the analysis of feedback forms issued at the AGM and a copy is attached to these minutes. Each specific area was then discussed as follows:-

i) **Bus Passengers Shelters** – it was agreed that the criteria for selection of sites should be passenger usage and level of exposure. Concern was expressed that shelters could be a gathering ground for local youths and we should ensure that the design of any shelters minimised the likelihood of misuse. Following discussion it was agreed to modify the proposed location (a) so that the agreed list for submission to Staffordshire County Council would be :

- (a) Sainte Foy Avenue between Deykin Road and Falkland Road (towards Cannock, service 60)
- (b) Limburg Avenue before Stonnyeland Drive (towards city centre, services 35B and 60)
- (c) Deykin Road, east of Blakeman Way (towards city centre, service 35B). The existing stop at Cathedral Walk is very badly sited on a 90 degree bend. Resite the stop 30 metres towards Blakeman Way, with shelter adjacent to the wall.

ii) **Development in front of Waitrose** – it was noted that 15 votes were against the proposed development known as Hallam Park, with 4 in favour and a

further 2 in favour if the school capacity issue was addressed. Jay reported on the meeting she and Jeff had attended with David Wilson Homes. As no formal application had yet been submitted it was agreed to await same. Paul considered that provision should be made for increased educational and medical facilities as part of the planning structure.

- iii) **Christchurch Lane One Way Proposal** – it was noted that 15 votes were in favour with a further 3 in favour if the junction with Walsall Road was controlled by traffic lights. Only 1 vote was against the proposal.
 - iv) **Parking Restriction on Darwin Park** – the Committee noted that inconvenience was being caused by inconsiderate parking at bends and roundabouts on the spine road (Deykin Road / Whitehouse Drive). A list was prepared of specific areas for 24-hour parking restrictions and input was requested from those members not present. It was agreed the list should be submitted to Councillor Finn for discussion with County Officers. The Committee was pleased to note that the majority of roads on Darwin Park had now been adopted.
 - v) **Suggestion for Events-** There were six offers of Committee help which Geoff would follow up. Suggestion from forms included: Christmas Toy & Book Sale, Quiz Night, Speaker Evenings, Book Sale. Jay agreed to explore the licensing issues in respect of Tombola and Raffles for fundraising.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn tabled the list of transactions for the period 1 July 2013 to date. This indicated that our current balance was £258.26, which included donations of £201.87 from the AGM, including profit from refreshments. There was general agreement among the Committee that LARA should have some form of regular income, rather than just relying on donations. A discussion followed and it was suggested that a membership subscription of £5 per person, per annum be charged. Paul would check the Constitution to see if this could be incorporated, with payments to be made either by Standing Order or through Paypal. By doing this we would then have a clearer indication of the committed membership of LARA. Dawn reported that the bank mandate would need to be changed to reflect the new officers. It was agreed that the new signatories would be Geoff as Chairman, Paul as Vice Chairman, Dawn as Treasurer and Barbara as Secretary. (any two from the four to sign). Dawn would arrange for a new mandate to be completed.
- 5) **Social Events** – It was disappointing that the Christmas Sale was unable to take place due to the level and cost of insurance that LARA would need to put in place. Veronica advised that a sum of £70 was required for a one off event which would have depleted our bank balance considerably. She advised that there was an annual insurance which would be a cheaper option and would cover all events organised throughout the year. Veronica would report back on the cost for this. Dawn suggested holding a Film Night which could be easily arranged now that the new equipment for Darwin Hall had been agreed. (see below).

- 6) **LARA Logo** – Various options were tabled and Veronica's daughter was to be thanked for all her efforts in designing these. One option was selected subject to Paul modifying the font to a clearer and sharper version.
- 7) **Website** – Paul agreed to update the website to incorporate the changes in the Executive and to include the Treasurer and Secretary's postal addresses.
- 8) **Section 106 Funding** – The Committee noted that Lichfield District Council has agreed to pay a grant not exceeding £8500 to LARA for the provision of the following amenities:-
- £4000 towards installing an electric screen, video projector and ceiling mounted speakers at Darwin Hall Community Facility in Darwin Park.
 - £4000 for gateway improvements and restoration of trees in the highway verge of the Friary.
 - £500 for landscaping improvements on land between public footpath 36 and the Kensington Oval boundary of Darwin Park.

The administration and monitoring of this project will be discussed further when Jeff was present.

- 9) **Contacts – Councillors and Officers** – Geoff would obtain a list of all contacts with Councils and other relevant bodies from Jeff.
- 10) **City Forum Meeting** – Geoff reported on the meeting of Lichfield City Forum, held on 20th November which he attended. This was chaired by Reverend Ian Hayter. A food bank was to be set up for Lichfield in March 2014. There was a general view expressed to oppose the Hallam Park Development, and to specifically object to the feeder roads exiting onto Limburg Avenue. It was noted that the Bus Station needed a tidy up and this was referred to the District Council. It was agreed that Paul and Geoff would attend the next meeting of the Forum to be held first week in February, date to be advised.
- 11) **Any Other Business** – Dawn and Paul reminded members that they were to host a Cheese and wine at their home on Saturday 30th November from 20.00 and all were welcome.
- 12) **Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 8th January at Darwin Hall at 19.45.