

L A R A

Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2014
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

Present: Geoff Lusher (Chairman), Paul Ledbury (Vice Chairman),
Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Barbara Lusher (Secretary) Veronica Birkett,
Jay Bryan, Ann Morrison, Peter King, Gaye King, Jeff Fry.

Apologies: Mike Gallagher

- 1) Paul Ledbury expressed concern that there were members of the executive who had not attended any meetings over the past year and asked if we could send an email to all those on the executive explaining that as a member of the executive each member was expected to attend at least 50% of all meetings held by LARA during the year. This was agreed.
- 2) **Minutes of Previous Meetings** - the minutes of meetings held on 4th September, 25th September as well as those from the last meeting on 28th November were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.
- 3) **Matters Arising** – None
- 4) **Christchurch Lane Traffic** -
A Meeting had been arranged by two local residents in Christchurch Lane, namely Jane Douthwaite and Sandra Booth, at Martin Heath Hall on Saturday 4th January to discuss the lack of consultation by the Council with local residents with regard to a proposal for a one way traffic system. Geoff, Mike and Paul had all attended this meeting to represent LARA as some residents were under the impression that this had been agreed by LARA with the Council at the AGM held in November. Geoff agreed to send a letter to Councillor Terry Finn regarding the lack of consultation with Christchurch Lane residents despite his assurance at the LARA AGM that a letter would be sent to each household affected by the proposed change.
Sandra Booth had requested that a letter be sent by LARA paper to the Lichfield Driving Centre asking if they would consider reducing the number of days on which they take learner drivers through Christchurch Lane. It was agreed at the meeting that Barbara send this.
Geoff spoke of the possibility of a “walking bus” , for those in Darwin Park with children at Christchurch School to help reduce the number of vehicles parking during morning and afternoon pickup and drop off times. Jeff advised that this used to happen but stopped about a year ago.
- 5) **Road Adoption, Darwin Park** – Geoff reported that he was going to arrange to meet with Councillor Terry Finn (on his suggestion at the AGM), with regard to how far he has got with the highways department in respect to road markings and parking restrictions now that the roads on Darwin Park are adopted.

- 6) **Hallam Park Development** – Nothing further to report at this stage. Peter King advised that he had written to Neil Cox with regard to the development but had not received a response. Jeff Fry agreed to check on how this was progressing.
- 7) **106 Funding** – Jeff Fry reported that the monies allocated for projector and speaker equipment for Darwin Hall, although authorised, fell short of being able to purchase a screen. He felt that the projector should be the first priority purchase which would then give more options for the hiring of the Hall. Discussion followed on who would be responsible for the maintenance of this equipment once it was installed, this was to be confirmed. Jeff advised that it was John Thompson who was the contact in relation to the Kensington Oval and Gateway elements of the grant. There would be no financial involvement of LARA, but it was agreed to monitor progress on all three schemes.
- 8) **Siting of Bus Shelters** – Geoff advised that the results of the feedback forms from the AGM had been forwarded to Staffordshire County Council (Sharon Daniels) with the details of proposed sitings for the bus shelters on Darwin Park, but he has not had a response.
- 9) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn tabled the list of transactions for the period 1 July 2013 to date. This indicated that our current balance was £247.76 after payment of £25.50 for the use of Martin Heath Hall for the LARA AGM . She also reported a donation from Ken Lawrence as he was unable to attend the AGM. Dawn advised that progress was being made in respect to the change of signatories on the bank mandate. Jeff Fry was asked to amend the details to Geoff Lusher for the Paypal account.
- 10) **Subscriptions** – The decision on whether to change the Constitution to incorporate an Annual Subscription was again discussed. The view was that we should include this in time for the forthcoming financial year on 1st July 2014 and get retrospective approval at the AGM. The proposal of £5 per person was suggested and generally agreed with those present. However Dawn agreed to contact Andre from Beacon Street Residents to ask what they charge and how they control it and would report back to the next meeting. Paul then explained that the membership list showed 196 members of which only 18 were at the AGM, with 120 of this number being residents of Darwin Park which equates to 61%. We have addresses for 124 of these (63%). With regard to the e mail list only 79 of the above have email addresses.

Fundraising and Social Events – With the disappointment of not being able to hold a table top sale for Christmas, Veronica and Jay were now firmly involved with trying to get a 'film night' underway. Veronica had done a lot of investigating regarding the possibility of a film night as a fundraiser and had spoken with someone from Film Bank. In order for this to take place a Public Video Screening Licence (PVSL) would need to be obtained and this can cost from as little as £89.17 excluding VAT per year. A £150 refundable set-up fee would be required which would be paid back to LARA if the decision was made to terminate the showing of films. Further information on how this works in on the website www.filmbank.co.uk , although Veronica would ask for details to be sent in the post.

11) **LARA Logo** – Paul informed members that he had not had time over the Christmas period to produce this as he had spent such a lot of time getting the member details up to date.

12) **Website** – Paul reported that the website had been updated to incorporate the changes in the Executive and to include the Treasurer and Secretary's postal addresses.

13) **Any Other Business** – Ann Morrison asked that thanks were given to Dawn & Paul for their cheese & wine evening which they hosted on 30th November with the idea of all the executive getting to know each other more. Sadly Ann had been unable to attend but a good time was had by all those who did and they too thanked them for their hospitality.

Ann then asked if there were any street lighting issues that needed addressing and Paul advised on one.

14) **Date of next meeting** – The dates of the forthcoming meetings were agreed as:-

Wednesday 5th February, Wednesday 19th March and Wednesday 30th April
All at 20.00hrs at Darwin Hall unless otherwise advised.

Please note that a response is required from all the executive and apologies must be sent if anyone is unable to attend a meeting.