

**L A R A**  
Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd October 2014  
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

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

Apologies: Cllrs Andy Smith, Terry Finn

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- 1) The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 20.00hrs
  
- 2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - the minutes of meeting held on 24th September were agreed and duly signed with one amendment to item 11, in which it was reported that Cllr Finn would be able to put notifications onto the website when it should have said Cllr Finn would be able to put notifications onto the Mailing List.
  
- 3) **Matters Arising** – Ann reported the date of the quiz had been confirmed as Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2015.
  
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn reported that the balance in the LARA account as at 21/10/14 stood at £1354.35 of which £803.41 was LARA's own funds to spend and the remaining £550.94 was the balance of 106 funds set aside for the speakers for Darwin Hall. Jeff reported that he had not had any luck in contacting the person who was originally going to source the speaker for Darwin Hall so Ann said she had a contact and once the specification had been emailed to her she would then try to get this arranged.  
Dawn reported that the flyers for the AGM cost £125.79. Having looked for Public Liability Insurance, the cheapest quote had been £137.24 which covered LARA for the AGM and 5 nominated events throughout the year, and this was agreed.  
Dawn had also looked into the option of having the Darwin Advertiser deliver our flyers in the future, the cost of which was £25 per 1000, £60 for 2000 or more.
  
- 5) **Membership applications and leaflet** – Paul had got the leaflet for the AGM printed and very professional they look too. Ann had ID Badges for all the Committee to wear at the AGM so they could be easily identified. Membership cards would be organised and ready to issue at the AGM for any new members and those current members paying the new annual subscription and renewing their membership. Paul advised that he would email all those on the current mailing informing them that from the AGM we would be charging a £3 per person annual membership fee to help with the running costs of LARA.
  
- 6) **Adoption of Roads on Darwin Park** - in respect of the white lines being put at road junctions on Darwin Park, Veronica pointed out that Poolfield Road was not

included on the map as an area where parking is a real problem. Geoff said he would amend the map to show this area and include in the letter a paragraph in relation to the need for consultation with residents. It was suggested that we contact the Police again to see if they would agree to putting leaflets on cars where inconsiderate parking is occurring near to junctions.

7) **Hallam Park Development** – Cllr Andy Smith had agreed to do some investigating into the fact that we have never received an acknowledgement to the objection we sent re the proposed new development. Geoff agreed to go and see the revised plans and will also circulate the email received from Iain Liston-Brown.

8) **Speakers** – This had already been covered in item 4.

9) **Bus Passenger Shelters** – Geoff advised that he had received an email from Sharon Daniels in relation to the proposed sites for the shelters as per the original plans by Taylor-Woodrow in 2005, which bore no resemblance to what had since been discussed by the Highways, LARA and Cllr Finn in January of this year. Geoff to progress with Sharon.

10) **AGM** – Thanks were given to Paul for arranging for the AGM leaflets to be printed. The agenda was to be confirmed. Letters had been sent out inviting the relevant authorities to our meeting, but we were dismayed to see that the Fire Service sent an email saying they would not be attending, when they have always been there in previous years. Barbara agreed to email Cllr Finn as he is on the Fire Committee to see if he had another contact we could approach. It was agreed that there would be a power point display for each subject to be discussed, simply a heading, and the wording Geoff would arrange to send to Ann. Jeff would provide the laptop and projector and it was hoped that we could display this onto a wall in Martin Heath Hall as the screen we normally use is located in the smaller hall. Failing that then a screen would need to be provided. Peter would check this out for us. Copies of last year's AGM Minutes would be produced and brought in by Barbara who would arrange this.

11) **Website** – Paul advised he would make the minor changes to the website to include the new subscription charges and where and how to make donations. He also confirmed that the PayPal account had been completed and is ready for use. He would also put the AGM flyer and agenda onto the website by 1<sup>st</sup> November to comply with the 21 days' notice required to advise residents of the AGM as per the Constitution.

12) **Any Other Business** –

**Veronica** gave details of the quiz held recently at Darwin Hall for a local children's football team, when they had a fish supper and sold achohol.

**Jeff** – Reported on the 'Alliance' which involves a number of residents associations in the Lichfield area getting together to give greater strength in relations with councillors and LDC & LCC, He felt it was something we should be involved with. Dawn advised that we had not subscribed to this since 2011/12.

**Jay** – raised the issue of the signage on the Saxon Penny. She felt as did some others that the new Pizza sign on the side of the building as well as on the stand alone vertical signage was a bit of an eyesore, more like something you would find on the front at Blackpool!

Barbara agreed to email the planning department to see when this was approved and why the residents had not been consulted.

Barbara also agreed to email the licensing department in relation to the licence having been approved for the Saxon Penny to be able to serve alcohol in the area adjacent to Darwin Hall. This area was agreed as being too close to the children's play area at the rear of Darwin Hall for smoking and alcohol to be approved at the original planning meeting. They now have a licence to serve alcohol UP TO 18.00hrs. rather than FROM 1800hrs. in this area permitting the public to smoke and drink in this area which is a danger to pre-school children during the day.

**Veronica** – the pathways either side of the ponds and the pathways connecting the two sides of the estate had been resurfaced and they are in an appalling state. They are now very uneven, have timber edges and have not been done to an acceptable standard.

When Veronica approached the people doing this work she was told they were from Chesterfield Road and were not employed by the Council, and when she asked why she was told they were given the job as they were the cheapest! It was agreed to refer this to Cllr Andy Smith as he deals with open spaces.

**Dawn** – reported that one of the swans had been seen in a distressed state and asked people to look out in case they found it. If so to ring the RSPB for assistance.

It was agreed that all the AGM leaflets were to be distributed by Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November thus complying with the notification period of 21 days as stated in our Constitution.

**Mike** – advised that if we wanted the quiz advertised in the Beacon magazine then this would need to be with him by middle of November for inclusion in the next edition.

Date of next Meeting – AGM at Martin Heath Hall on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 11.30 – 13.30 and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 20.00hrs at Darwin Hall unless advised otherwise.

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

**Copies sent to Councillors, Finn, Smith, Awty, Eadie and Jackson**

Signed.....

Chairman