

L A R A
Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 6th January 2015
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, Jeff Fry, Peter & Gaye King, Mike Gallagher,
Sandra Booth

Councillors: Cllr Ian Jackson, Cllr Iain Eadie and Cllr Terry Finn

Apologies: Jay Bryan, Cllr Andy Smith

- 1) The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 20.00hrs

- 2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - the minutes of meeting held on 2nd December were agreed and duly signed after some minor amendments:- Mike Gallagher had sent apologies for the December meeting but not recorded. The additional funds from LARA for the speaker for Darwin Hall were £31.06 and not £31.12 and the refund shown as £8.65 was supposed to read refreshment.

- 3) **Matters Arising** – None

- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn reported that the Bank balance in the LARA account stood at £664.84 an increase of £43.42 which was made up of new memberships and money from paypal.

At this point it was decided that as the Councillors were present it would be more beneficial to deal with the items in which they were involved prior to the quiz night item which would be dealt with after they had left.

- 5) **Adoption of Roads on Darwin Park** - Cllr Terry Finn reported that there were still minor issues to be completed prior to adoption which was mainly lighting. Cllr Finn agreed to arrange a meeting with County Highways re any parking restrictions. This was mentioned in the last set of minutes but they had only returned to work on 5th January following the break for the Festive Season so he had been unable to arrange it before this meeting.

Action Cllr Terry Finn

Cllr Finn had advised that Chairman of the Parking Board responsible for the deployment of Traffic Wardens was Cllr Ian Pritchard. Iain Eadie advised that any correspondence could be sent to him at the Lichfield District Council address or by email to ian.pritchard@lichfielddc.gov.

Geoff agreed to write to Ian Pritchard prior to the meeting with County Highways.

Action Geoff

- 6) **Hallam Park Development** – Cllr Finn confirmed that the roads on the new Hallam Park Development would be adopted in due course but the open space areas would be dealt with by the developer prior to being passed over to Lichfield District Council. He also reported that the upkeep of the Hallam Park Development as a whole would be contracted out to a Management Company.

Cllr Jackson asked what would happen with the upkeep of the Parking areas at the back of the properties, as with Darwin Park these were supposed to be maintained by the developer and this certainly did not happen.

Cllr Finn said that this would be the responsibility of the County Council and it would be discussed at the meeting with County Highways.

- 7) **Bus Passenger Shelters** – Ongoing discussions with County Council officers, concerning the site at Cathedral Walk.

- 8) **Website** – Nil report

- 9) **Lichfield Alliance Meeting** – Geoff reported that a meeting of the Lichfield Alliance had been held on 10th December, when it was agreed that a list of questions for the candidates in the May local elections would be drawn up. This would be co-ordinated by Bob Smith of Beacon Street Residents' Association, and Geoff asked members to submit ideas to him, covering both local and National issues. A subsequent list was sent to Bob Smith as follows:-

- (i) At which Primary School do you consider that the future children of Hallam Park will be educated?
- (ii) Do you support a reduction in the number of local Councillors?
- (iii) How sacrosanct do you consider the Green Belt to be?
- (iv) Should developers be producing detailed plans before the initial consultation with residents?
- (v) In order to avoid blurred responsibility between Councils and to improve the capability of Council officers, would you be in favour of Lichfield forming a Unitary Authority with some of its neighbouring authorities?

- 10) **Grants for small groups** – Veronica reported on the possibility of obtaining a grant of around £1000 which could be applied for from LDC towards a project LARA may provide for the Community. Cllr Finn informed the committee that he too had a Community Fund which we could apply to for funding. This would be considered after our next event which was the quiz night on 24th January.

- 11) **Blair House Pathway** – await to hear from Cllr Andrew Smith

Update by Cllr Andy Smith

- 12) **Noisy Neighbour issue** – Cllr Eadie had very kindly looked into this for us as Jeff was perturbed that the Police advised him that he could not remain anonymous when he complained about a noise issue from one of his neighbours. Cllr Eadie reported that when making a complaint to the Police or the Council in this regard then you have to give them all your details, however these details are NOT made public unless the issue gets to go to court, at which time the complaining neighbour would be informed of this.

13) **Walsall Road LGV Weight Restriction** – Cllr Finn reported that there would be a 7.5ton weight restriction for goods vehicles on Walsall Road. At present the details are with the County legal department awaiting confirmation – ongoing.

14) **Any Other Business** –

Cllr Finn reported that the demolition of the Ambulance Station in Lichfield had begun and shortly a new building will be built for the Fire Service. The Ambulance Service have now moved to larger premises on Eastern Avenue, although one ambulance may remain deployed at the new Fire Station.

Cllr Eadie re Friargate Development – this is still ongoing.

Sandra Booth asked why there were so many redundant traffic signs still displayed and

Paul reported that there were also posters on lamp-posts which should be taken down.

Cllr Finn agreed to speak with the Highways Department to get them taken down.

Cllr Jackson also reported that there were signs still being displayed in relation to road closures for the Lichfield Bower which was months ago – these too should be taken down.

Jeff asked if all the open space on Darwin Park was now adopted – Cllr Finn informed the committee that none of the open space was officially adopted and was still the responsibility of the developer.

Grass verges either side of the houses at the end of Cathedral Walk leading onto Walsall Road –

Cllr Smith is dealing with this issue, but this is to inform him that rubbish is now being dumped on these two areas, in fact there is an old front door lying there which is not a good sight for anyone to have to see.

It was understood from a telephone conversation with Barbara that Cllr Smith had indicated that these two areas were being purchased legally by the council so proper maintenance could be put in place.

Update by Cllr Andy Smith

The Pathways from one side of the estate to the other were another burning issue. These had been recently re-laid – and badly, by a contractor. This was established when Ann and subsequently Veronica asked why they were doing it and not the Council or developer, to which she was told they were cheaper!

These pathways are now a disgrace, they have wooden edges which will deteriorate in the winter weather conditions and the topping of stones are loose so each time someone travels along them with a bicycle, pushchair etc they are all dislodged. This should be addressed as a matter of urgency if we are to try and keep the estate as was originally intended. Surely the Council can speak with the developer and advise on a contractor best suited to do this type of work, if the developers don't know of one. Cheaper is not always best!!!

Update by Cllr Andy Smith

Veronica – reeds in the ponds, we were advised by Cllr Smith that these would be removed and although they have been cut back slightly, they really need removing as soon as possible.

Update by Cllr Andy Smith

Sandra Booth – asked Cllr Finn at what stage will the footpaths in Christchurch Lane be improved. They are all very uneven, cracked, and a danger for all. Is it necessary that we have to complain before anything is done with them.

Cllr Finn agreed to look into this.

Relaying of Market Square – Cllr Finn confirmed that this was going to be done but was unsure of the commencement date, which needed agreement between the City and the District. He will see if he can find out.

Ian Jackson – asked if his services were still required in relation to the auditing of our accounts this year, as it did not appear in the AGM minutes. We confirmed that his services were required this year. This was confirmed in the August minutes but it had been an oversight not to approve this at the AGM. Councillor Jackson was thanked for his services, and this year's AGM agenda will include this item.

Cllr Eadie advised that the Police have distributed leaflets to residents of Walsall Road in relation to inconsiderate parking on footpaths, as raised at LARA AGM.

Councillors left at this point and thanks were given for their attendance.

15) **Quiz Night** – Paul advised that the flyers were due to be delivered around 7/8th January. He hadn't realised that the Company has been shut all over the Festive Period. He would email everyone when he had them so we could collect from his house along with the maps which Jeff would supply to him.

Allocation of duties:-

It was felt that we stick to the same as last time which would mean

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| Barbara & Dawn | on door / ticket duties |
| Veronica & Geoff | greeters |
| Ann | to distribute badges / quizmaster |
| Barbara & Geoff | to get nibbles etc |
| Jay & Rob | raffle tickets |
| Peter & Gaye | kitchen – tea/coffee duties |

Discussion followed on how to sell the raffle tickets, £1 per strip. Ann suggested that they should be drawn in a strip and not as individual tickets. Some members disagreed with this as the chances of winning are the same if drawn in a strip or as individual tickets, and psychologically people may feel they have more chance if drawn as individual tickets. A vote was taken and it was agreed that they be sold in a strip and drawn in a strip.

Tickets bought in advance :- LARA members £4 all others £5

Anyone who buys tickets on the night will pay £5 irrespective of whether they join LARA that evening. (bought in advance means just that)

Ann informed the Committee that she had put out a Facebook page about the quiz which may attract more contestants.

LARA notice to put on the tables – **Geoff to update**

Jeff confirmed he had secured 100 beer glasses and 50 wine glasses from Waitrose – these would of course need to be washed prior to the evening start.

Date of next meetings :- Wednesday 11th February (please note change) and Tuesday 10th March at 2000 hours at Darwin Hall.

Meeting closed at 2200 hours.

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