

L A R A

Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2015
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

Present: Geoff Lusher (Chairman), Paul Ledbury (Vice Chairman),
Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Barbara Lusher (Secretary), Jeff Fry,
Dave Mosson, Veronica Birkett, Peter & Gaye King, Sandra Booth

Apologies: Mike Gallagher, Jay Bryan and
Cllrs Iain Eadie, Ian Jackson, Bob Awty, Andy Smith, Terry Finn

- 1) The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 20.00hrs who welcomed everyone.

- 2) **Darwin Park Lagoon Project** – Veronica had once again been very active and involved with getting this project under way and our thanks were expressed to her for all her hard work. Unfortunately John Smith of LDC who she had been in contact with was unable to make the meeting due to the late start time. It was agreed that a separate meeting would be arranged for an 18.00hrs start time on a date to be agreed by both parties in order that this could be discussed at length to decide the way forward. Asmita Coates at LDC had forwarded details of Funds who were able to help financially but it was felt that until the meeting with John Smith and his team had taken place, we would be unaware of the best Funds to approach with help in this regard, and they would require detailed costs.

- 3) **Minutes** - The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th February were agreed by all present as a true record and were duly signed.

- 4) **Matters Arising** – None

- 5) **Website** – Paul reported that he had done many updates to the website and had emailed all those on the emailing list to explain that we had now introduced a small subscription charge and that in future only those who had subscribed would be on the emailing list to be notified of any developments that LARA was involved with. He also confirmed he had forwarded the email regarding the Friarsgate development to Geoff. Paul had amended the front page and included a Twitter Feed featuring the Friarsgate development as there had been rumours that the development had been re-designed without any consultation with residents of Lichfield. The Civic Society and The Alliance were concerned about the lack of consultation and it was agreed that an enquiry letter be sent to LDC re the revised development plans and lack of consultation.

- 6) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn began by informing us that the balance in the bank for LARA was now £1141.81 and then reported that following Paul's email to those on the emailing list, there had been an increase in income of £50.39, being 13 new members subscriptions and donations which had increased our membership by 21.67% ,LARA now having 73 subscribing members. The breakdown of these members was:- 38 from Darwin Park, 3 from The Friary, 15 from Walsall Road and 17 from Christchurch Lane.

7) **Summer Event** – The Treasure Hunt suggested at the previous meeting was well under way, thanks to the efforts of Sandra. A provisional date for this event was to be Sunday 19th July, or Sunday 23th August depending upon events held locally in Beacon Park. It was agreed that, once the date was fixed, Martin Heath Hall be booked from 2.30pm – 6.00pm and Peter agreed to do this when the time came. Agreement was that no hand deliveries would be necessary for this event and that advertising in the Darwin Advertiser, Look Local, Lichfield Gazette, Beacon Magazine with posters in Darwin Hall, Martin Heath Hall and a small number of flyers to be put in The Saxon Penny and The Library would suffice. Streetlife.com was also mentioned as a possible source for advertising and to get people involved. Paul and Dawn would look into this further. The posters and flyers would show that any proceeds from this event would be put to The Darwin Park Lagoon Project.

8) **Meeting with Highways Manager** – Geoff confirmed that a meeting had taken place with Cllr Terry Finn and Richard Rayson, Community Highway Liaison Manager, Staffordshire County Council, based at Trent Valley, on 3rd March. On the agenda had been **Christchurch Lane**: - a site meeting was proposed to take place on 26th March at 10.00am with Richard Rayson, Cllr Terry Finn, Geoff and hopefully Sandra to discuss the state of the footpaths, dropped kerbs and barriers. No parking between the hours of 12.00 and 13.00hrs was suggested at the bottom end of Christchurch Lane to stop people parking all day. It appeared that they were quite amenable to this.

Walsall Road HGV Weight Restriction - It was confirmed that a 7.5ton HGV weight restriction on Walsall Road was going ahead with an exception for removal companies needing to access houses if anyone was moving.

Parking on Darwin Park – A site meeting was arranged for 21st March at 13.30hrs with Cllr Finn, Geoff, Richard Rayson and anyone else who would like to take part. Meeting place Waitrose Cafe, with walk through Deykin Road and Whitehouse Drv.

Bus Passenger Shelter – Following consultation with local residents on this subject it appeared that the optimum place for the shelter would be at the existing bus stop on Cathedral Walk. Jeff asked if we were aware of the design of the shelter as it didn't warrant a large shelter which could be unsightly. This would be clarified before any final decision was made.

Geoff was also advised that the County Council would be taking over the parking enforcement with effect from 1st April 2015.

9) **Any Other Business** –

Jeff – Thanked all those who volunteered to help with the 'litter pick'. A date had been set but he was unable to recall this at the meeting, but would let us know in due course. Details of how many hi-viz jackets and litter pickers were available were yet to be established so Jeff would keep us informed.

Dawn – asked if anyone had put themselves forward to display their gardens at the Friends of Christ Church Garden Open Day on 4th/5th July as mentioned at the last Meeting. No-one had heard.

Peter – with regard to Darwin Walk Trust, mentioned at the last meeting, Peter had kindly obtained a newsletter from them for LARA giving details of forthcoming walks if anyone was interested in taking part. Dates as follows:-

Sheriff's Walk – 29th March starts at Bunkers Hill car park in Beacon Park at 10.00am.

Dawn Walk – 3rd May starts at Bunkers Hill car park in Beacon Park at 04.30am

Summer Walk - 19th July starts at Bunkers Hill car park in Beacon Park at

10.00am

Autumn Walk, Widdershins Walk 4th October starts from Mallets Corner at 10.00am and **Boxing Day Walk 26th December** starts at Bunkers Hill at 10.00am. Anyone interesting in attending any of these walks please contact Trustee Stephen Sanders on 01543 301310

Paul – Having recently looked into the history behind the lagoons Paul had been intrigued by some of the historical events he had found out and felt it may be a good idea to arrange speaker evenings later in the year for anyone interested in the local history of Lichfield, The Sandfields Pumping Station, Waterways of Lichfield and the Lagoons. This was agreed to be an excellent idea and one to organise later in the year.

Geoff – as no response had been forthcoming from the Manager at Waitrose, Geoff called into the store to speak to him personally. Considerable steps have been taken by Waitrose to minimise inconvenience to residents of Whitehouse Drive caused by the parking of employees' cars. Car sharing, use of Saxon Penny car park at certain times, and discussions with Police have all been actioned. The Police response is that as long as cars are parked parallel to the kerb and not blocking driveways, there is nothing they can do. Geoff has asked for a written response from Waitrose on receipt of which the Committee would consider what further action was possible.

Next meeting is Tuesday 21st April to be held at Darwin Hall at 20.00hours unless advised otherwise. Special Meeting re-Lagoons to be advised.

Meeting was closed at 21.35hrs

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