

L A R A

Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 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,
Jay Bryan, Ann Morrison and Cllr Terry Finn

Apologies: Mike Gallagher

- 1) The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 20.00hrs who welcomed everyone.
- 2) **Minutes** - The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st April were agreed by all present as a true record and were duly signed.
- 3) **Matters Arising** – Ann Morrison asked if we had received a written response yet from Waitrose – Geoff advised that we had still not received anything. He informed members that he had been invited to attend a Charity & Community morning at Waitrose on the morning of the 15th May. This was attended by all those who had been lucky enough to have a Community Box in Waitrose to raise money for their charities. There were a number of interesting parties there including Friends of Lichfield Pumping Station who displayed a board at our AGM back in November. Each attendee introduced themselves and explained what they did within the Community and at this point Geoff mentioned again about the parking outside Waitrose and that a letter had been promised on the thoughts of the Management at Waitrose in this regard. So watch this space!
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn reported that there had been no activity during the past month so the balance in the bank account was the same as last month £1141.81. However we had received a new member via Paypal, Katie Gomez of 35 Leomansley Close.
- 5) **Lagoon Project** – A site meeting was held on 15th May to discuss the Lagoon Project with Peter Freeman and Ruth Wojeck of LDC. Sandra kindly took notes on this and they are as follows:-

Pool One - (near Waitrose)

Possibly the better of the pools for 'pond dipping' as there is access around the whole of the pond.

Safety issue as the reeds currently blur the edge of the grassed area and water.

Carp – it is not known whether or not these affect natural wildlife.

Bridge required at narrower point to allow for 'dipping'

Possible funding for the project from Waitrose.

Discussion re removal of reeds, an Options Appraisal required.

Pool Two

Delay on any boards until there has been an investigation as to what is there.

Possible sitings for bird and bat boxes discussed, a bird survey would cost £50.

Possibility of willow weaving.

Bird hide discussed, but not felt that this was required.

Bench needed to view pond, and litter bins. The benches could be from recycled wood or possibly relocate some of the benches from along Cathedral Walk.

Swan Pool

Sign giving information to the history of the pools and charcoal burning etc

South Staffs Bat Group may assist re bat box locations.

Wild Flower Meadow created in the grassed area would have maintenance issues.

Possible compromise – 1metre around each tree to be left uncut.

Planting of bee friendly plants in various areas,

Sensory garden, lavenders etc with bench.

Nature Trail.

Some costings have already been sought but obviously nothing can be progressed until we have confirmation that the areas have been formally adopted. Cllr Andy Smith had spoken with Veronica and confirmed that the reeds will be removed once this adoption was finalised.

It was agreed that a meeting with the current Councillors and Mayor Andy Smith be arranged before the next meeting and Geoff would arrange this.

- 6) **Summer Event** – Sandra confirmed all was in hand and progressing well. Paul would help with Posters which could be displayed in Martin Heath Hall, Darwin Hall, entrance to Beacon Park and advertisements would be put into The Darwin Advertiser, Lichfield Gazette, The Beacon etc. Peter King confirmed that he had secured the booking of Martin Heath Hall for between 14.00 – 17.00 hrs on Sunday 23rd August and had paid a £10 deposit.
- 7) **Meeting with Highways Manager** – The second meeting between Geoff, Cllr Finn and Richard Rayson took place on 22nd April and it was confirmed by Cllr Finn that there is a plan in progress with regard to parking restrictions on safety grounds. Job 1 was parking in Darwin Park and Christchurch Lane. These would be done at the same time therefore saving cost for the LDC and any legalities had they been tackled individually. Jay asked if the area around Poolfield Road and Walnut Walk had been discussed as there were parking issues there also. Geoff reported that they hadn't been discussed so would be incorporated in their next meeting.
- 8) **Bus Passenger Shelters** – After months of discussions and notifying residents of possible sites for these shelters, it had now been decided not to have any shelters at all through the estate but would concentrate on siting them along Limburg Avenue and Saint Foye Avenue where the bus stops are very exposed. Geoff confirmed that he had sent this final proposal to Rhonda at LDC for further progression.
- 9) **Website** – Nothing to report, however Streetlife had been looked into by Dawn & Paul and registration was fairly simple, which would enable us or any individual to register and respond.
www.streetlife.com/conversation if any individuals would like to join.

10) **Blair House Pathway** –An email had been received from Andy Smith who had understood our concerns re barriers being erected at the end of the pathways leading onto Halfpenny Lane from Alesmore Meadow and Victoria Gardens.

11) **Walsall Road HGV Weight Restriction** – This was in progress but a date was to be confirmed by Cllr Terry Finn.

12) **Any Other Business**

Peter had raised the issue of the dangerous crossing at the junction of Beacon Gardens and Ego at our last meeting but it was confirmed by Cllr Finn that any potential crossings in this area had been rejected by the council.

Jeff asked if it would be possible to have a raising bollard in the centre of the pathway of Cathedral Walk as it opens onto The Friary/Walsall Road to stop vehicles from driving down the pathway. Obviously Council workers would have access but it would stop anyone else from trying to drive down it. This could form part of the exercise to tidy up this entrance to Darwin Park.

It was reported that there were no bollards at the pinchpoint of Alesmore Meadow. Cllr. Finn to raise with SCC Highways.

Geoff informed members that he had written in regard to the re-allocation of 106 Funds and will advise of progress.

Sandra said that Ruth advised that funding had been available to improve Stowe Pool by erecting cycle racks in the area and that there were two sites where we may be able to approach for funding.

Ruth.witczak@lichfielddc.gov.uk and parks@lichfield.gov.uk

Veronica asked if we had given thought to an Autumn event yet? Dawn suggested a Barn Dance as she may have a contact.

Ann asked if it had been reported that several bollards on the estate had been knocked down or were missing. She noticed this by the Stonneyland Island / Whitehouse Drive junctions (by Waitrose) and Geoff also reported bollards missing on Colling Drive/Deykin Road junction.

Jeff reported a successful 'litter pick', and thanked members for their offer to help but he did not have sufficient 'litter packs' to be able to use our services.

Dawn reminded everyone to take photos of any inconsiderate parking so a portfolio could be completed in preparation for the Police at the AGM in November.

Veronica expressed her concern that at the Annual Town Meeting held on 20th May it was reported that vital records held in the Public Library were going to be removed and located in Stafford and the Library be closed. There were around 100 people present at the meeting and when a vote was taken on the issue only two people voted against the closure of the Library and the transfer of documents to Stafford. When asked what would happen next, she was informed that the result of the vote would be put to the Council at a meeting to be held in June.

Cllr Finn reported that unfortunately Cllr Ian Jackson had lost his seat in the recent election process and that Cllr Norma Bacon and her husband Brian were both elected. Barbara would ensure that they were included in any further correspondence from LARA and that they were invited to attend our meetings.

Next meeting Tuesday 14th July to be held at Darwin Hall at 20.00hours unless advised otherwise.

Meeting was closed at 21.40hrs

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 Bacon

Signed.....

Chairman