

# L A R A

## Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2015  
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

Present: Geoff Lusher (Chairman), Paul Ledbury (Vice Chairman),  
Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Barbara Lusher (Secretary),  
Dave Mosson, Veronica Birkett, Sandra Booth, Ann Morrison, Jay Bryan and  
Mike Gallagher, Cllr Terry Finn, Peter Freeman

Apologies: Peter & Gaye King, Jeff Fry, Ruth Wojcek, Cllrs Eadie, Smith, Awty and  
Brian & Norma Bacon

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- 1) The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 20.00hrs who gave a special welcome to Peter Freeman of Lichfield District Council Parks Department
- 2) **Minutes** - The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th July were agreed by all present after one minor alteration in the Treasurer's report which stated the bank balance was £1142.77 when it should have read £1143.77 and were duly signed.
- 3) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn reported an increase in our bank balance of £14.06 making our balance £1157.83 and confirmed that she had now received the refund of £31.06 from LDC in relation to the 106 funds, this however had not yet been banked so was in addition to the balance reported. Dawn informed the Committee that she had emailed Ian Jackson in relation to him auditing the accounts ready for the AGM in November, but had not had a response, so she phoned him prior to the meeting and left an answerphone message for him to make contact.
- 4) **Councillor Items – Adoption of Roads**  
Cllr Finn was pleased to be able to read a letter to the Committee confirming that the adoption of all roads on Darwin Park had been completed and the invoice would be paid by the end of the week.

**Footpaths through Estate** – Cllr Finn reported that the footpaths through the estate and by the ponds are the responsibility of the County Council.

**Parking Restrictions** – Cllr Finn advised that Amey were now taking over the maintenance on the estate, and although yellow marks had been put on the kerbstones around the spine road in readiness for the double yellow lines to be put down, this was now delayed until costings and dates were agreed with Amey for progress on this issue. In addition to these yellow lines Cllr Finn informed us that a Bus Bay would be put on the road for buses to pull into so this he hoped would reduce inconsiderate parking of vehicles on the estates spine road.

Cllr Finn also reported that bollards had now been erected at the pinchpoint in Alesmore Meadow and Dave Mosson confirmed this.

Clarification of the Christchurch Lane parking restrictions was discussed and Cllr Finn agreed to contact Lloyd James the trainee engineer who was dealing with this on behalf of the Council.

**Weight Restriction – Walsall Road** – This was an ongoing issue and Cllr Finn advised that a pinchpoint was to be arranged first before any weight restriction notices could be put up. The cost for these notices were £30,000 for 3 signs.

**106 Funding – Hallam Park** – Cllr Finn informed the committee that the 106 funds in relation to the new Hallam Park Development and Deanslade Farm Developments were being discussed, and he suggested we be prepared to ask when they would become available as both sites would affect Darwin Park and Leomansley and we could obtain some of these funds to help with our ongoing projects.

**Friarsgate** – it was reported by Cllr Finn that a figure of £2.8m was being invested by Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent LEP for the proposed Friarsgate Development and the Trent Valley Industrial Park

Cllr Finn then left the meeting at this point.

- 5) **Lagoon Project** – Peter Freeman then gave his views following his meeting with Veronica, Jay and Sandra with regard to our Lagoon project. He disagreed that Pool 1 had already been agreed as the site for the dipping pond, despite our Committee members getting a different indication at the site meeting itself. He advised that Pool 1 was still at the Legal Stage and only when confirmed ownership was announced could we move forward with our ideas. Pools 2 & 3 had not even reached the legal stage yet so it would be a while before our ideas were able to be realised.

Concern was expressed again in relation to the amount of reeds in the ponds themselves. Peter felt that the reeds in the swan pool were having no adverse effect on the swans and that there would be no reason for them not to return again next year to breed. He also confirmed that the swans were now settled happily in Beacon Park.

Sandra informed us that we could go ahead with a bat & bird survey and the initial cost for this would be £50. A contact for this was Lawrence Oates of the Beacon conservation team. Peter Freeman invited members of the committee to go along to Beacon Park Gardens so we could see the growing process of plants, trees, shrubs etc which could then be transferred to Darwin Park free of charge. He also agreed to arrange via Veronica professional advice with regard to the reeds and ponds and the removal of the carp.

- 6) **Summer Event** – Thanks were expressed to Sandra for all her hard work in setting up the Treasure Trail around Beacon Park. Sadly due to the horrendous weather conditions (pouring rain) only 3 families took part and despite them returning from the trail soaking wet they all said how much they had enjoyed it. A photo of the winning team would be put on the website and as children had been involved, then the parents' permission would be sought prior to it being loaded onto the website. Unfortunately due to the lack of participants Dawn had to break the news that we had incurred a loss of £42.47 on the day of which £27 had been for the hire of the hall. It was

agreed that we would revisit this idea again maybe in the spring when hopefully we would have better weather.

It was agreed to put the questions and answers on the website for anyone who would like to have a go, see how much they know about the area, and it would give residents something to do at their own leisure.

A suggestion was made to hold a skittles night and a date was set for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Dawn had already enquired about the costs of hiring the equipment which she found to be £295 for two skittle alleys which included setting up and taking down the next day. Dave Mosson said he had attended a similar event and would find out where that equipment was hired from and the cost so we have something to compare it with.

- 7) **Lighting defects** – Ann advised that any future lighting defect should now be directed to Staffordshire County Council Highways direct. You must give the number on the lamp-post and if near a house the first line of the address for easy identification.
- 8) **Friarsgate** – With regard to the proposal for the Friarsgate Development, discussions followed and the following suggestions were to be made to the developers which Geoff would arrange. The concerns were as follows:-
  - No provision for private residents parking
  - Traffic congestion at exit from new car park
  - Too few bays in bus station with no provision for tourist coaches or buses on layover
  - No dropping off point for car transfer to bus
  - No cover for waiting bus passengers
  - Pedestrian crossings required at crossroads
  - Architecture was too modern for an historical City – should be more in keeping with St Johns.
- 9) **Any Other Business** – Ann asked Geoff if he knew about the changes to the X60 bus service as it appears to have been changed recently– he said he would see what he could find out from Arriva and let Ann know.

Jay asked if anyone knew what was happening to the old Panache building on Walsall Road. Enquiries would be made.

Jeff advised that the Chapter House by the Library was going to be converted into apartments, time scale for these were unknown.

Dawn advised that Ruth Wojcek was extremely grateful for those who helped with Proms in the Park on Saturday and with the litter pick the following day.

Paul gave an insight to a disturbance which badly affected their evening the previous Saturday night by a 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday party nearby. The noise was extremely loud, police were called but did not attend as they said they had no-one available who could attend. He had even offered them photos and even video evidence but they were not interested. He was told to speak to Environmental Health but as it appeared to be a one-off event (hopefully) then no action could be taken.

Barbara had received a list of all the upcoming Council meetings which would prevent any of the Councillors from attending our meetings. One of these dates happened to be 6<sup>th</sup> October which had been booked for our next meeting so it was agreed that we should try to see if we could change our

next meeting from Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October to enable the Councillors to attend. Barbara would contact Louise and see if this was possible.

Meeting was closed at 22.05hrs

Next Meetings Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October (TBC) and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November (AGM)

**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**