

# L A R A

## Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 13th September 2016  
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

Present: Geoff Lusher (Chairman), Dawn Hayward (Treasurer),  
Barbara Lusher (Secretary), Jeff Fry, Veronica Birkett, Dave Mosson,  
Mike Gallagher, Tracy Shepherd, Peter & Gaye King, Shaun Bowden,  
Jay Bryan, Leon Jennings, Cllrs Terry Finn & Iain Eadie

Apologies: Cllr Andy Smith, Paul Ledbury (Vice Chairman), Sandra Booth

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- 1) The meeting was opened at 20.00hrs by Chairman Geoff Lusher who welcomed Brian Carruthers, representing the proposed new Residents' Association for Sandfields Area to be known as SARA, and also welcomed Leon Jennings to his first committee meeting.
- 2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Apologies were given for the lack of availability of the minutes of the July meeting due to the demise of Geoff and Barbara's PC hard drive. These will be sent along with tonight's minutes on the return of a new PC.
- 3) **Matters Arising** – None
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn reported that the Accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 had been audited and signed off by our volunteer Auditor John Pickwell, and the Committee wished to record their thanks for doing this on behalf of the Association. The end of year balance stood at £1384.24 showing a surplus for the year of £242.43.  
Balance to date was £1295.50 in the bank, £5.19 in our Paypal account which was to be transferred giving a total of £1300.69. Dawn confirmed that the cost of the Hi-Viz tabards had been paid.
- 5) **Litter Pick, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July** –  
The Litter Pick went well considering the awful weather on the day, and it was agreed we should make this a regular event. A suggestion was made that we should do one early in the New Year. It was disappointing that apart from the Committee members and two of our local Councillors and their families, no-one else turned out to help, but we were not surprised due to the weather conditions. One idea was to attend the Boxing Day Walk and do a litter pick along the route.
- 6) **Walsall Road HGV Weight Restrictions** - Nothing further to report, Cllr Finn was aware that the signage at the narrowing of Walsall Road had been knocked down, but reiterated that removal vans and buses still needed to get access to properties along the road which precludes a weight restriction.

**7) Christchurch Lane Parking** – Cllr Finn reported that the approval time for this process had now expired, and that the situation was being re-examined but still with introduction planned by April 2017.

**8) Grassed pavement areas in Alesmore Meadow** – Cllr Finn, as previously, stated that services run under these areas, therefore there can be no plans to pave them.

**9) Inconsiderate Parking, Colling Drive** – Geoff reported to Cllr Finn that there is a car parked at the end of the pathway between the top of Colling Drive, leading to Darwin Hall and The Saxon Penny. It is blocking the pathway for those with wheelchairs, pushchairs etc, Geoff had given Cllr Finn a photograph of the vehicle in the hope that he could alert the owner to try and park in a more considerate way. Cllr. Finn undertook to contact the owner in the first instance and report back.

**10) Potholes** – Cllr Finn reported that pot holes are programmed for repair and advised that if we had reported them to the County Council they would have been given a reference number and priority code. On receipt of this code he would then be able to find out when they are due to be repaired.

**11) Withdrawal of Bus Services** – Geoff was aware of Arriva Bus Services 61/62 being withdrawn from the Limburg Avenue/Sainte Foy Avenue route, and being routed instead along Walsall Road. This would mean that there are now four services running along Walsall Road and only the hourly off-peak Service 35 along Limburg & Sainte Foy. Geoff had written to the Area Managing Director of Arriva, but other alterations now meant that to restore 61/62 would result in an additional bus in operation, and this was not a commercial proposition. Cllr. Finn was reminded that it was a County Council responsibility to provide supported services where the commercial network did not meet the need, and he was asked to take up this case with the County's Public Transport Unit.

**12) Lichfield City Station Toilets** – A reply had been received from London Midland's "Customer Relations Advisor" indicating that they hoped to reinstate the disabled toilet facilities, but could not put a date on this.

**13) Lagoon Project** – Veronica had been very busy (as usual) finding ways in which we can move forward and reported on the site visit between the sub-committee and Christopher Walsh and Peter Freeman. Having held this meeting there was now a new vision in respect of the removal of the reeds, and that the best Pool to have the Dipping Pool would be Pool number 2.

Tracy informed us that Phase 1 of the Way Forward was to do a survey to distinguish the habitat for each pool individually, e.g. what does each pool attract – frogs, birds, insects, etc.

Dave had done some research into the information boards which we would like to erect by each pool and following a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum was given the name of a Company who supply them. The Company was AGA Company and after enquiring into the costs for these boards, Dave was informed that for four boards (one for each of the pools) including the design/installation and Vat it would cost £4280. This was felt to be very expensive, but we do want a professional job done, and one where the boards would last for some years without much attention. It was decided to look for alternative costings and Leon agreed to investigate. With regard to trees, Dawn reported that Paul had contacted Taylor Wimpey as there was a tree that had broken and was hanging dangerously. They came out and

cut it down and Dawn noticed that they then seemed to be making notes on the state of other trees on the estate as there were several that appear to be top heavy and in need of pruning.

Having sat in and listened to our meeting Brian Carruthers said he was keen to be involved in some way. He offered to let Veronica have a contact with one of his Marketing colleagues at Tempest Ford to assist with the pool project. He offered to help produce our AGM leaflet by way of sponsorship, with our details on one side of an A5 leaflet and an advert for Tempest Ford on the other. It was agreed that he and Paul should talk directly on this. He was keen that we held joint social events, that way trying to involve a larger proportion of the residents within our two adjacent areas. He also informed us that Simon Price of Arthur Price was head of the Love Lichfield Fund and felt he could also help our cause in some way and was willing to introduce us to him. He suggested a joint BBQ in the Summer of 2017 with sponsorship from Tempest Ford.

All these ideas and contacts were music to our ears, and it was good to know there are others within our community willing to help Residents Associations. Geoff expressed the committee's sincere appreciations to Brian for his significant contribution, and looked forward to continuing involvement with SARA and its embryo committee.

#### **Any Other Business – None**

Date of next meeting Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 20.00hrs at Darwin Hall and the AGM at Darwin Hall on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 14.30 – 16.30 hrs.

**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, and Eadie**

**Signed.....**

**Chairman**