

L A R A
Leomansley Area Residents' Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11th October 2016
at Darwin Hall at 20.00hrs.

Present: Geoff Lusher (Chairman), Paul Ledbury (Vice Chairman),
Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Barbara Lusher (Secretary), Jeff Fry,
Veronica Birkett, Shaun Bowden, Jay Bryan, Sandra Booth,
Cllrs Terry Finn & Iain Eadie

Apologies: Cllr Andy Smith, Mike Gallagher, Dave Mosson

- 1) The meeting was opened at 20.00hrs by Chairman Geoff Lusher
- 2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – The minutes of the meetings held on 5th July and 13th September were agreed and duly signed.
- 3) **Matters Arising** – None
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn reported that the balance in the account as at 10th October stood at £1236.11, there was £6.92 in our Paypal account to be transferred making a total of £1243.03. She also confirmed that the payment for the AGM leaflets had already been made. 2500 leaflets had been printed at a cost of £59.39. Dawn then advised that our public liability insurance is due for renewal on 17th November but had not yet heard how much this year's renewal would be. It was decided that we remain with our current insurer as there were not many out there to give us the cover we require.
- 5) **Litter Pick**
Following the success of our last litter pick in July, (despite the weather), it was agreed we should do another one early in the new year and a date was set for Saturday 28th January between 10am – 12 noon. Starting Point again would be Darwin Hall.
- 6) **Parking Restriction Update** - Cllr Finn advised there was nothing further to report on this.
- 7) **Christchurch Lane Parking** – Cllr Finn reported that following an incident in Christchurch Lane with inconsiderate drivers parking illegally during school drop off and collection times, it has now been agreed by the County Council that double yellow lines will be put on both sides of the road. At present they are just on one side, and following observations by Cllr Finn and Sandra Booth, it became clear that these were not sufficient. Cllr Finn reported that he had emailed the head of the school on 23rd September to discuss this matter but was yet to receive a response. Cllr Eadie suggested emailing again and to send a copy to the head of governors to make them aware.
- 8) **Grassed pavement areas in Alesmore Meadow** – As previously mentioned Cllr Finn reported that nothing is going to be done to resolve this issue satisfactorily due to the services beneath the grassed area that may need to be accessed. (this item will now be taken off the agenda).

9) Inconsiderate Parking, Colling Drive – Cllr Finn advised that he had reported this to the Police but had not yet heard back from them. He will chase this up and report back.

10) Potholes – Cllr Finn tabled a schedule of work to be undertaken in respect to the potholes that seem to be multiplying in the Lichfield area, particularly on roundabouts. Dawn informed Cllr Finn that she had been online as suggested at our last meeting to report the potholes that are particularly bad by the roundabout on Birmingham Road (4058404), Friary Island (4058402) and Maxtock Island (4043596), and noticed that these had also been reported by 12 other individuals. Cllr Finn took details of the numbers and would try to establish when these were going to be addressed.

11) Withdrawal of Bus Services – Cllr Finn reported that there would be no support to help to restore the previous frequency of service along Limburg Ave and Sainte Foy Avenue as the County Council apparently considered this facility not to have been well used.

12) Arrangements for the AGM – The AGM leaflet had been designed and circulated to members by Paul and agreed. Our thanks to Paul for all his efforts in getting this produced. He confirmed that delivery should be this Friday. Jeff agreed to get maps ready for each member of the committee so all members deliver an equal quantity and he would deliver these to Paul by Friday. Once the leaflets had arrived Paul would distribute accordingly. Geoff confirmed the notification of the AGM was sent to The Beacon and he would be sending details to the Darwin Advertiser, Look Local and City Life.

With regard to equipment for the AGM, Jeff said he would make sure he got access to the storage room so that we can have the microphone available. Dawn asked if we were going to do a powerpoint presentation as in previous years, and if so who would we get to do it as in previous years Ann Morrison had done this for us. Sandra offered to ask Ann if she had last year's available on a memory stick that we could have. In the meantime Shaun offered his services as he had done many powerpoints before and as long as he had all the correct information (wording, photos etc) then he would do this for us. Thanks were given to Shaun for his offer.

The election of Officers for the forthcoming year was discussed. According to the LARA Constitution all members of the Committee stand down at the AGM but can then be re-elected if willing to stand for a further 12 months. The Constitution also mentions that a Committee member should not hold the office of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary for more than 3 consecutive years unless they are willing to do so and no-one else volunteers to stand for that position. It was on this basis that Barbara informed the committee that after 3 years of being Secretary she would wish to stand down at the AGM so this position would be vacant. She was however willing to remain a member of the committee.

Paul then announced that with regret he would prefer to step down this year from the position of vice-chairman. He was happy to remain on the LARA Executive Committee and to continue with the duties he currently performs – looking after the web site, flyers, printing etc. However, due to increasing work commitments, he felt that he was unable to devote sufficient time to supporting the chair as maybe a vice-chairman should, and he didn't feel he could justify remaining in the position. He thought that there was an opportunity for someone else to be far more proactive in the role, to actively support the work undertaken by the chair, and to make the position their own, he simply doesn't have the time that the role deserves, and by

remaining in the position himself he was effectively preventing someone else from stepping up and making more of a contribution.

If there was no-one else who wished to take on the role, and if the Chairman and the Executive Committee would prefer, then he was prepared to remain in the position for a further year. However, he felt that maybe leaving the position vacant would serve as a reminder that it is available should anyone else wish to step up. He did not feel he contributed anything as vice-chairman that he would not be able to contribute simply by being a member of the Executive Committee, and stepping down is certainly not going to stop him from voicing his opinion.

Geoff reported that he would wish to relinquish his post at the 2018 AGM, and that the election of a Vice Chairman at the forthcoming AGM was therefore of particular importance.

13) Quiz Saturday 3rd December – Sandra confirmed that this was being sorted in the same format as the last one we did in the summer. It was suggested that we should have a small number of leaflets advertising the Quiz to hand out to those attending the AGM. Paul agreed to arrange for a small number of these to be made available.

14) Lagoon Project – Veronica reported that following an approach made to Christopher Walsh asking if he would be prepared to talk at our AGM, unfortunately she had heard today that he would not be available as he is away with his family at that time. It was suggested that perhaps Leon Jennings may be willing to do a small slot and speak on the environmental issues he is now involved with on the estate, e.g the duck food, to make sure they are fed the correct type of food, the little bird boxes he is now starting to produce etc. As a resident it may well encourage others to help. As Leon was not at the meeting Veronica said she would ask on our behalf if he would be prepared to do so.(subsequently Leon agreed).

15) Relationship with SARA and Brian Carruthers.

Cllr Finn reported that he has been involved with SARA from the very beginning and had found them to be a very professional association. He had attended meetings and reported that they have similar problems with the developers that we had on Darwin Park initially, whereby the adoption of the roads was one issue. He reported that as there are managing agents involved on this section of the estate, it was a different approach that needed to be taken. All residents pay a fee so that the upkeep of the road can be met.

He advised that Brian Carruthers was a leading light on the committee and that they also had a legal person on the committee to help with issues concerning managing agents etc.

The Councillors left the meeting at this stage.

Discussions followed between the Committee members present and it was clear that all had the same vision, that LARA should remain independent, and would not wish to become generally involved with any possible sponsors. This did not preclude specific projects being subject to individual sponsorship, and the possibility of joint social events with SARA was welcomed.

Geoff would respond to the email he had received from Brian Carruthers and inform him of the outcome of our discussion.

16) Any Other Business – None

AGM at Darwin Hall on Saturday 19th November 14.30 – 16.30 hrs.
Quiz Night Saturday 3rd December at 18.30 (start 19.30)

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