

Leomansley Area Residents Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting Held 8pm Tuesday 21st February 2017

At Darwin Hall, Stonneyland Drive, Lichfield.

Present: Geoff Lusher (Chairman), David Mosson (Vice-Chairman), Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Tracy Shepherd (Secretary), Paul Ledbury, Veronica Birkett, Leon Jennings, Cllr Iain Eadie, Cllr Andy Smith & Cllr Colin Greatorex.

Apologies: Sandra Booth, Shaun Bowden, Michael Gallagher, Cllr Terry Finn, Jeff Fry, Barbara Lusher & Peter & Gaye King.

- 1) The meeting was opened at 8pm by Chairman Geoff Lusher.
- 2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – The minutes of the previous meeting of 10th January 2017 were agreed & duly signed.
- 3) **Matters Arising** - A special mention was made concerning the poor health of Gaye King, all the Executive committee would like to give their best wishes to her & Peter and extend any offer of help. Dawn offered to contact Peter ([Action – Dawn](#)).
Councillor Colin Greatorex was welcomed to the meeting and he explained that he will be seeking election to the County Council in May 2017, as a replacement for Councillor Terry Finn.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Dawn reported there was £1186.30 in the bank with £9.60 in PayPal & £40.40 in cash & cheques to be banked. Total £1235.76. Reminders had been sent to all members regarding annual membership fees three had replied leaving a total of 53 members, down from 68 last year. It was suggested that a further email be sent with a breakdown of LARA running costs & membership benefits etc. to highlight the work LARA do on behalf of the community and the need of funds to support this.
It was also suggested that an option to pay fees by standing order might be useful and a short letter produced to be displayed in Darwin Hall explaining the aims and contact details of LARA. In addition, funding may be available, by revisiting the community funding scheme run by Waitrose again. ([Action-Dawn](#))

- 5) **Social Events** – Paul confirmed that the social events are self-funding and the main source of LARA income. They help to raise LARA s profile in a positive manner and the recent Litter pick and comments from the community supported this view. It was confirmed that Sandra Booth had agreed to be on the newly formed social subcommittee and they will be meeting in April.(Action-Dawn)

The next event, the Midsummer Quiz is to be held in Martin Heath Hall on 24th June 2017. Advertising needs to be in place in time with the Darwin Advertiser etc. and possible leaflets too. Tracy reported that she will be setting up a Facebook page for LARA and requested photographs, Dawn advised she may have some available and will send. (Action- Tracy)

- 6) **Litter Pick 28th January 2017** – It was a very successful event in terms of turnout and positive publicity, resulting in twenty three bin bags being collected The council were thanked for their help in providing pickers and collecting the waste. A point of thanks was also made to Darwin Hall for providing the flasks enabling much needed refreshments to be available for the helpers. It was reported that several undelivered piles of The Lichfield Mercury newspaper dated 28th January and The Journal were found. Geoff confirmed he had emailed them to advise them of this. Another flash point was spotted owing to the amount of bagged dog excrement left hanging in hedges on the north side of Falkland Road between Agincourt Road and the Birmingham Road roundabout and it was questioned if dog bins could be provided. Iain explained that the council will empty bins but developers usually provide them. This will be followed up with Persimmon. A date for the next litter pick will be decided at the next meeting (Action-committee), shorter routes will be drawn up and the possibility of contacting Waitrose re rubbish around their car park also.

- 7) **Pool project subcommittee report** – Veronica read out a detailed report about the sub-committee meeting with John Smith, LDC on 9th February 2017.They sort to clarify the options for LARA with regard to the four Pools on Darwin Park and suggestions to enhance and develop them for environmental and educational purposes. The open spaces have not been adopted as yet and it is currently with Land Registry. LDC are hopeful that it will be done by the end of the year so the project can proceed. LDC have agreed to remove the non-native Koi Carp as they are harmful to wildlife and have agreed to reduce the reeds by two thirds and maintain them. Also clearing the brook to improve the water quality. A discussion was then held regarding options for information boards and pond dipping platform and it was agreed that the best way forward was in partnership with the council. LARA will fund the boards and platform by approaching charities, obtaining grants and fundraising. In partnership with the council LARA will also source artwork and appropriate notes on boards. LDC will erect, maintain and insure the boards and platform.

It was noted that it was a very productive meeting, with special thanks to John Smith for taking time to answer questions and the Pools committee look forward to working with the Parks team to deliver the project. A discussion then followed regarding the proposal of a newsletter drop to Leomansley residents detailing the plans of the Pool project and a consultation/drop in workshop to enable residents to come along and air their views with LARA and LDC. To create an understanding of the necessity to remove the Koi carp, for example, to prevent a reoccurrence of Koi being illegally dumped in the pools. Schools and playgroups will be approached also regarding the educational aspects of the dipping platform and more suitable feeding of the wildfowl etc.

Therefore as there will be some cost to LARA it was agreed that the newsletter will include advertising of the next Quiz night and Litter pick plus information on website and Facebook links. (Action - Pool subcommittee) Plus link to school fairs etc. to raise LARA's profile. (Action- Tracy) In addition it was recommended, as John Smith approved, to write to Taylor Wimpy with regard to removing the Koi and Reeds urgently. A letter has been drafted by the Pool committee and will be forwarded to Geoff & Veronica for signing. (Action – Tracy)

8) Website – Paul confirmed the Domain has been transferred and registered in LARA's name.

9) Any Other Business – Iain suggested getting LARA listed on bookings with Darwin Hall and to liaise with Jaimie (Action-Tracy)

David advised that there had been a spate of car thefts in the area where houses had been broken into specifically to steal cars. The Police were aware and suggest caution should be taken when leaving car keys in house, do not have on view. It was suggested linking up with Staffordshire Police Smart alerts. Also regular checking of local planning applications would be useful. (Action- request volunteers at next meeting).

Dawn noted idea of welcome pack or liaising with estate agents to advertise LARA to new residents, to be discussed at next meeting. Also a Parking Advice Notice to potentially be given by PCSO's re inconsiderate parking.

10) Date of next meeting – 28th March 2017 8pm Darwin Hall

It was agreed that Councillors will remain welcome to all meetings. However, in the case of a meeting prior to an event, when a lot of business has to be dealt with, Councillors will be asked to come for the start of the meeting. Therefore, the agenda can be addressed first, & the Councillors may leave once the event organisation business commences.

Executive committee members are reminded that apologies must be sent to the Chairman if they are unable to attend a meeting.

Signed..... Chairman