

Leomansley Area Residents Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting Held 8pm

Tuesday 6th June 2017

At Darwin Hall, Heathcote Place, Lichfield

Present: Geoff Lusher (Chairman), David Mosson (Vice-Chairman), Dawn Hayward (Treasurer), Tracy Shepherd (Secretary), Barbara Lusher, Veronica Birkett, Shaun Bowden, Michael Gallagher, Jeff Fry & Peter King.

Apologies: Jay Bryan & Sandra Booth.

1. The meeting was opened at 8pm by Chairman Geoff Lusher. The agenda schedule was changed by swapping items 4, 5 and 6 to allow Veronica to leave after reporting on the Pool Project.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – The minutes of the previous meeting of 2nd May 2017 were agreed and duly signed. It was noted that there had been a delay in issuing the minutes and agenda therefore steps will be taken to ensure they are issued promptly in future. (action –Tracy)
3. **Matters Arising** -The posters for Darwin Hall and Martin Heath Hall are to be arranged by Dawn. Tracy reported the date for the litter pick 23rd July had been requested with Darwin Hall and will be followed up. (Action - Tracy). Discussion was held concerning Councillors attending as many meetings as possible as they are a valued asset to LARA meetings. Shaun suggested a schedule calendar of dates to be issued. It was therefore agreed to try to fix as many meeting dates as possible, rather than the current two months, and circulate them to ensure as many can attend as possible. It was also agreed that if a meeting would contain confidential information that could be scheduled towards the end of the agenda so the councillors could still attend but leave at that point in the agenda. A recommendation was made to present Terry Finn with Gardening vouchers as token of appreciation for all his hard work as a councillor, as he has recently retired. It was agreed to try to arrange it during the Litter pick or date to suit as many as possible.

4. Pools Sub-committee report – Veronica reported that the Pools' Sub - Committee agreed the event had been a great success. It was very well attended. The register showed 86 adults had signed in and there were also around 20 children in attendance (many couples signed as one so actual numbers were much higher). The register indicated that 99% of residents had responded to the leaflet which had been posted to all Leomansley residents. The Snuffles Hedgehog Rescue Group, set up an impressive display and account of their work, and were involved with many residents. The children's activities enabled parents to concentrate on the issues they'd come to discuss, and some children also completed the 'Naming of the Pools' chart. The activities prepared for residents have provided us with useful information and evidence of their approval or concerns about the proposals. 21 residents completed the Water Bird, Birds and Wild Animals on the Darwin Estate' survey charts, re what species they had spotted. One keen ornithologist provided a sheet of 25 different species of birds he'd observed and reported sightings of a weasel. 58 residents completed the 'Naming the Pools' charts and the favoured choices were: Pool 1: **Swan Pool** .Pool 2: **Trunkfield Mill Pool** Pool 3: **Duck Pool** Pool 4: **Willow Pool**. The charts which summarised residents' views on the four main proposals were. Reed removal chart: 62 residents approved 0 against. Koi carp relocation chart: 57 residents approved 9 against. Display boards chart: 53 approved 1 against. Pond dipping platform chart: 51 agreed: 5 against. The Pools committee have arranged for a follow up meeting with John Smith at LDC on 11th July and will report back to committee. Veronica offered thanks to all who helped and in particular Peter for encouraging as many as possible to come into the hall. A discussion was then held concerning a sign re duck feeding as a cygnet was seen nearly choking on bread.(Action –Tracy) Geoff asked a special note of thanks to be made to Veronica for all her hard work and organisation of this successful event. It was also noted that 16 new members had been signed up.

5. Treasurer's Report – Dawn reported there was £1166.70 cash in the bank. £7.87 to be cashed and £36.08 in PayPal account. Total £1210.65. The successful signing up of new members from the Drop in morning now means LARA has 71 members, sufficient to cover costs. Dawn noted that the accounts will be due on 30th June 2017 and the accountant will be contacted re this. There is currently a loss of £173.59 due to Hi - Viz jackets and printing costs so the quiz revenue will be crucial.

- 6. Social Events Sub-committee Report** – Dawn reported that the advert for the quiz night is in the Darwin Advertiser, The Beacon and on Facebook. Raffle prizes are now sufficient including wine, prosecco, toiletries, vouchers for nails and meals at various restaurants. Martin Heath Hall has been booked from 6.30 - 11pm 24th June 2017. Jobs have been allocated as follows - Geoff, Barbara, Dawn and Shaun will be setting up at 6.30pm. Everyone else to arrive by 7pm if possible. Geoff and Barbara are Quizmaster and assistant. Dawn and Barbara will be front of house taking admission fee etc. Tracy is on Meet and Greet. Veronica, Shaun and Jay are doing the raffle. Peter and Susan will be on refreshments in the kitchen. Michael and Shaun are raffle splitters. The PA system will be available and the full job list is to be circulated. Shaun suggested a fundraising idea of renting a hall for a Bring and Buy sale. Tables to be rented for £10 each enabling people to have a clear out and sell books, toys etc. before Xmas. One table to be reserved for LARA to sell stuff too. There could be a raffle and Pools and LARA info available too. The committee unanimously agreed with this proposal and dates will be checked out, possibly 14th October. The Litter pick was discussed and a date needs to be agreed (action Tracy)
- 7. Local Planning Applications** – David reported that the Planning portal was unavailable online at the time, Geoff will forward the list of local planning applications to David. The City Forum is meeting next Wednesday and David will be representing LARA and reporting back. Questions were raised about the closing of a footpath on Cathedral walk and a large fenced off area appearing. David will follow this up and circulate to committee. (action-David)
- 8. Crime Update and Neighbourhood Watch.** It was noted that this is a very useful and regular email and thanks were made to Michael. A question was raised about whether the culprit who stole money from the honesty box re the duck food had been caught, Tracy will follow up.
- 9. AOB** Dawn reported that the standing order option is now on the website and tie-break questions for the quiz were actioned. Jeff enquired if the email list was used to advertise events and it was confirmed it was. He also updated the committee about the antisocial behaviour at the MUGA which was ongoing and had been logged twice. Michael noted thanks for all the hard work the committee do. Shaun queried the state of grass cutting on the estate as some is done regularly while much is left at different heights. This may be due to the various ownerships of the land still with developers and the council will be asked for updates.

10. Date of next committee meeting 18th July has been booked 8pm Darwin Hall.

Subsequent suggested dates (tbc) 12th September, 3rd October, 4th November (AGM) 14th November & 16th January 2018

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

Signed..... Chairman