

Committee Meeting, Wednesday 24th April 2023

Minutes

Meeting was held at The Golden Lion, and commenced at 18.30

Those attending: Peta Boucher (Chair), Roshna Ahmad, Lynn Burnett, Paula Pearce, Heather Stennett, Freda Tassell, Fred Tassell, David Wadmore.

There were no apologies for absence.

Peta started the meeting by introducing all the committee to one another, followed by a brief statement that the object of the Residents' Association (RA) was to bring the community of the two villages together.

Treasurer: It was agreed that the committee would ask Ann Davies if she was still in a position to take on this rôle, and if unable, Roshna would take on the duties.

Co-opting committee members: The meeting felt it would be a good idea to ensure that some parts of the area neede dbetter representing, especially Sturry Court Mews, Pafford Court, and the sites at Bluebell Wood and Dengrove Park. The committee would make enquiries through their contacts and report back at the next meeting. Heather offered to contact the over 50s club and Peta the residents of Orchard view. Heather also mentioned that there was the Bell Grove Residents organisation, with whom we should make contact. The meeting would ask Ann Davies if she knew of a suitable contact person for Fairview Gardens.

Events: The table for the RA at the Coronation Celebrations was confirmed and it was agreed to hold a Tombola. Paula brought a large bag of gifts and it was agreed to send out an email to all members asking for donations. David will supply a gazebo and table, and there will be a short rota of committee members who are able to assist on the day.

Freda agreed to contact the farm shop regarding the possible donation of a hamper, perhaps as a separate raffle item.

It was decided that there should be a membership leaflet/application form available at the event, and it was suggested that we explore the use of QR codes. Posters for the event, and to encourage people to join the RA were also mooted. If possible, posters to be produced in time for local elections and placed outside polling stations and other village locations.

David will source decorations for the gazebo. Heather will bring some of her books about the area to sell alongside the Tombola.

Funding: Once the results of the council elections are known, it was agreed to contact the successful candidate re grants and funding possibilities.

Groups: The meeting then talked about what special interest groups could be successfully run under the umbrella of the RA. It was noted that we need to liaise with the Over 50s and Bowling Club to avoid any conflict of interest. We would also seek to contact the Scouts and Guides and the Church.

There was consensus that a Walking Group would be a good idea, and Peta agreed to consider organising it, but raised the question of insurance. David will look into it.

Heather suggested that while the committee is in its early stages, more frequent meetings would be desirable.

AOB: There was a general discussion that there needs to be a campaign for more 'Neighbourly Awareness' and that part of the campaigning by the RA would be for a more tidy, welcoming local environment, that would restore some pride in our area. Items such as pavement parking, bins on streets, speeding vehicles and the inevitable dog mess were highlighted. It was agreed that we would campaign on these issues and hope that as our membership increases, so will the awareness of these problems.

Heather mentioned the huge nuisance caused to residents by the beeping of reversing warning on contractors' vehicles on the Barretts site. It was agreed that we would campaign for the developers to introduce 'broad band' directional alarms that reduce the spread of noise. We would try to find a contact email for the site manager.

Discussion was held over the frequent re-positioning of bus stops and the general confusion caused by KCC's lack of consultation on the new road layouts.

As part of our campaigning it was agreed that a Twitter account may be very useful. Lynn agreed to manage this.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th June, 6.30pm at the Golden Lion.