

Whinfield Residents Association

(incorporating the Friends of Beech Wood)

(website:www.whinfieldresidents.co.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of 20/01/2016 at Oban Court

Attendees: Anne Rudkin, David Milner, Judith Murray, Alan Hutchinson, Graham Foster, Jean Foster Cllr. Helen Crumbie, Allannah Robinson, Carol Milner, Peter Voss, P Newton & B Newton ,James Eddy, Rosemary Adams, Mike A Haw, Roger Fitzpatrick-Odahamier, Tom Watson, Chris Bean, Chris Upton, B & D Reynolds, John Atkinson, Alan McNab

Apologies: Cllr. Tom Nutt

Approval of Minutes: Proposed by Pat Newton, seconded by Allannah Robinson and agreed.

Matters arising from the Minutes

- **Shopping Trolleys:** Anne Rudkin, Graham Foster, Louise Gibson (Community Champion, Asda) had met with Teaching Staff from Whinfield Primary School and decided on a competition in the form of a poster on the theme of “not taking trolleys home but to return to store”. It will be judged by members of the public and then overall winners will be decided by WRA and Asda. A question was asked by staff members and the cost of replacing a shopping trolley is £110.00. Graham Foster to update at next meeting.
- **Bus Routes:** Councillor Crumbie reported that a survey was being conducted about service 10 alternating clockwise and anti clockwise, and she brought survey sheets for members. A website link will be sent to members by Anne Rudkin so the survey can be completed online.

Chair's report

David Milner reported on our Community Funding Application. DBC are not giving money to fund a Newsletter or I.T. equipment, but would consider funding the website if we spoke to Haughton Residents' Association about how to do it cheaper. David Milner wrote and spoke to Val Rutherford (DBC) to inform her as to why we want a newsletter and relayed information regarding the Haughton website. Councillor Crumbie would be willing to put information in the Councillors' Newsletter but it can only be a condensed version. It was pointed out re the constitution that we are a non-political organisation and perhaps it would not be the correct thing to do. David Milner to update at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

- There is £1028.13 in the bank account.
- Judith Murray answered questions re. the Community Funding Application and stated that we had met the criteria needed.

Beech Wood

- Councillor Crumbie has been assured re the issue with the tree that it will be removed by the end of February by Ian Thompson. If this hasn't happened the next move is to speak to Jenny Chapman M.P.
- David Milner spoke to Blairs' re bulbs for planting in Beech Wood but it was the wrong time of the year, and he would have to charge us for them.
- Graham Foster updated us re bulb planting along the borders, but these would have to be maintained by members. Rob George had mentioned about a small grant could be available to contact Lisa Loche from Groundworks for more information.
- Tom Watson informed us about Asda having left over bulbs, the sub-committee for Beech Wood will look into this, but John Atkinson pointed out that we need to beware that the bulbs are not invasive and detrimental to local flora and fauna.

Springfield Park

- David Milner to contact Rob George re painting of the play area and inspection of play equipment. Councillor Crumbie to look into a question raised by John Atkinson.

Residential Developments

Muscar House Farm: No time scale has been put on development and no developer has come forward, but it is still in the Plan. Councillor Crumbie seeks continuous feedback.

Darlington Golf Course: Highways to inform around March time, Councillor Crumbie to update David Milner as Chair, or the Committee before the next meeting.

Website

Alan Hutchinson had updated the website, and had set up a group email for Anne Rudkin to send out Minutes and Agendas. He had been talking to John Bignall, Vice Chair of Haughton Residents' Association about their website, which is in conjunction with the Haughton Hub, but they do not get any financial support from DBC. Our website is likely to be no more expensive to run than theirs. Haughton are keen for us to cooperate with them re. events and most of their funding seems to come from the Memorial Garden website. The meeting agreed that even if our Community Funding was not forthcoming, we should go ahead with professional hosting as soon as possible.

PACT Meeting

- Meeting to be held on 26th January.
- Jean Foster said that there are very poor attendances, so groups might be amalgamated into one local meeting.

Any other business:

- David Milner expressed concern over congestion at the Whinfield Road/Whinbush Way junction. A box junction had been rejected some time ago by DBC as expensive. The traffic lights had been altered but it hasn't made an improvement. Councillor Crumbie to contact Councillor Nick Wallis about this.
- Judith Murray outlined ideas for a litter pick near Whinfield School, equipment can be supplied by DBC Environment Agency.
- David Currie Street Champion to be nominated for the Mayor Award for service to the Community.
- Tom Watson suggested obtaining publicity for WRA events via the DBC magazine.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16th March 7pm at Oban Court

Meeting closed at 8.15pm