

Whinfield Residents Association
(incorporating the Friends of Beech Wood)

(website:www.whinfieldresidents.co.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of 24/05/2017 at Oban Court

Attendees: David Milner, Judith Murray, Graham Foster, Anne Rudkin, Alan Hutchinson, Rosemary Adams, James Eddy, Roger Fitzpatrick-Odahamier, Jean Foster, Alan Macnab, Clive Merrick, Carol Milner, Barrie Newton, Pat Newton, Barrie Simpson, Peter Voss, Pankaj Chaddan.

Apologies: Linda Davison, John Atkinson, Peter Plant, Cllr. Tom Nutt, Cllr. Helen Crumbie

Approval of Minutes: It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 22/03/2017 be signed by the Chair as a correct record, proposed by James Eddy and seconded by Peter Voss..

Matters arising from the Minutes

Parking on footpaths and verges: Previously Cllr. Nutt had outlined 3 options for the access road to Oban Court:

- Installing bollards along the area which could block access for emergency vehicles,
- Dry hard verges to widen the road, which could encourage more parking,
- Double yellow lines along the area, which would take 4 months to come to pass.

After a vote it was agreed that double yellow lines is the preferred option. David Milner will pass this decision on to Cllr. Nutt.

Telephone Box, Drummond Close: Cllr. Crumbie will report back at the next meeting.

Springfield Park: Cllr. Nutt had had a meeting with the Golf Club and Planning Dept re. the gap in the hedge near Sparrowhall Drive but it seems that the Golf Club has done as much as it can. John Atkinson will report back at the next meeting. Dean Scott from DBC has given John Atkinson the Groundworks number, and John is to seek approval for seats in Springfield Park. Alan Macnab will pass details to John about grants for play equipment.

Chair's report

- David Milner reported he had been very encouraged regarding our Cake Stall and the raising of £96 but felt it could have been better attended by WRA members as most of the proceeds were given by Oban Court residents.
- Haughton Fayre raised £23.50 and was a chance for us to network, which we did.
- Judith Murray, Anne Rudkin and Jean Foster had attended the Big Car Boot Sale at Middleton St George selling a few items and raising a total of £50.20
- A special meeting was held on 26th April 2017 re. Darlington Local Plan where Cllr. Chris McEwan did the presentation. Again attendance was poor, for a very important meeting.
- Rosemary Adams suggested that we need help with publicity, and that a Publicity Officer needed to be appointed.

Treasurer's Report

Judith Murray reported that following the events mentioned by the Chair, above, there is currently a balance of £1197.00 in the bank. Support is needed for our fundraising events.

Beech Wood

Over Easter some residents had challenged what is going on in the wood, Cllr. Crumbie had emailed David Milner about the importance of obtaining permissions and advice from DBC and a line of contact had been established with DBC. Graham Foster reported that he had obtained a copy of the old action plan for open spaces in Darlington, which was put together by Rob George showing a comprehensive list of trees etc. Graham had met with Pippa Smalling, Parks Ranger, about bringing the action plan for Beech Wood up to date to allow things to be done without having to constantly ask permission. Pippa is hoping to get a team together with Street Scene to clear the dry ditch behind Aberdeen Road sometime in June.

Springfield Park

David Milner asked members for ideas regarding the green areas in the Ward and what we want to do in Springfield Park (apart from the seats). Graham Foster also suggested that the Skerne riverbank could be a candidate for improvement.

Darlington Local Plan

There were no new updates to report. It was thought that DBC will begin consultation after the summer and Judith Murray agreed to investigate and report back. David Milner agreed to follow up questions raised with Cllr. McEwan at the special meeting, and to try to find out why Springfield Park and Beech Wood are on the Call-for-sites plan.

Website

Alan Hutchinson reported that because of a close-family bereavement he had only been able to do routine maintenance but that the site is up to date. Developmental work will recommence when time allows.

PACT Meeting 31st May

David Milner reported that the main focus is on off-road motorbikes, which should be reported, along with other instances of anti-social behaviour, to 101 and photos taken if possible.

Litter

Judith Murray is to arrange another litter pick for June or July, possibly in Springfield Park. Pat Newton commented on the efforts of an unknown lady to pick up litter next to the main railway line, towards Town, which presumably the railway company should be doing. This will be raised at the Councillors' Ward Surgery.

Any other business: None.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19th July 2017 at 7pm in Oban Court.

Meeting closed at 7.51pm