

Whinfield Residents Association

(incorporating the Friends of Beech Wood)

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Minutes of the Special General meeting of 15/05/2019 at Oban Court

Attendees: Judith Murray, Anne Rudkin, Alan Macnab, Jean Foster, James Eddy, Allanah Robinson, Rosemary Adams, Ralph Bradley, Amanda McEwan, Roger Fitzpatrick-Odahamier, Cllr Andy Keir, Ruby Keir, John Atkinson, Dave Clark, Linda Davison, Alan Hutchinson, Chris Jackson, Mike Haw, Pat Newton, Joan Thompson, John Thompson, Chris Upton, Peter Voss, Andrew Ward, Kevin Brack (NM), Frazer Spence (NM), Pat Griffin (NM)

Apologies: Frederick Greenhow

A Special General Meeting was held on 15th May 2019 to consider the future of the WRA due to the position it was in following Committee vacancies, they were experiencing which meant they could no longer perform as per the Constitution.

Introduction: Judith Murray explained the reason for the Special General Meeting due to the resignation of Chairman David Milner and Secretary Alan Hutchinson, and took the opportunity to thank them both for their valuable contribution and wished them both well for the future.

Judith then went on to say that should no one step forward to fill at least some of these vacancies then members would need to consider whether or not WRA should continue. If members decided that there was no future for the WRA then another SGM would be called with the sole purpose of dissolving the WRA with all appropriate paperwork being available should that happen.

The aim of the WRA is to promote members interests and rights and to encourage social, welfare and recreational activities. The remaining committee felt that it was vital that the association continue, so that it is able to fulfil these objectives, and ensure that all the hard work that the association has done in the community both past and present should not be in vain. The committee hoped that the members would all agree with this.

Having sought advice from Darlington Borough Council's Community Engagement Team with regards to conducting this SGM, Judith explained that it was felt that, in the absence of a Chair, an independent person should be asked to act as a temporary chair. Initially Denise Parkin, who is chair of Haughton Residents Association, had agreed to do this but unfortunately was unable to do so due to personal circumstances. The committee therefore asked Cllr Andy Keir to act as chair for the evening which he very kindly agreed to do. The meeting was then passed over to Andy Keir.

The chair supported the continuation of the WRA and hoped that people would come forward to fill the vacant positions. He then moved on to ask if anybody would be willing to stand for committee. A question was raised by a member regarding what this would exactly entail and Judith Murray responded by saying it was on average a committee meeting every 2 months followed by a general meeting every 2 months with exception of the AGM in December.

In total five people volunteered to join the committee, one as fundraising officer, resulting in the committee now being quorate as per the constitution. The people who volunteered are as follows:-

Linda Davison

Amanda McEwan

Roger Fitzpatrick-Odahamier

Ralph Bradley

Jean Foster (Fundraising Officer)

Roger Fitzpatrick-Odahamier did raise the issue that although our present constitution does allow it he did not feel it appropriate for 2 members of the same household to hold office on the committee and as such he only volunteered as a committee member.

Volunteers were sort for committee 5 volunteered. Cllr. Andy Kier asked if there were any questions following on from this and if everyone was happy. As there was no response the meeting closed with a round of applause.

Meeting closed at 7.15pm

Addendum

Subsequent to the SGM noted above a further member of the WRA came forward at the end of the meeting volunteering to become a committee member, Mike Haw, was welcomed as the sixth member of the committee.