

Whinfield Residents Association

(incorporating the Friends of Beech Wood)

(website: www.alanhutchinson.webspace.virginmedia.com/wra/home.html)

Minutes of the meeting of 16/12/2015 at Oban Court

Attendees: Anne Rudkin, David Milner, Judith Murray, Alan Hutchinson, Graham Foster, Cllr. Helen Crumbie, Allannah Robinson, Carol Milner, B Simpson, Peter Voss, I Wroe, K Wroe, P Newton, James Eddy, Mike A. Haw, D Watson, Tom Watson, Jackie Upton, David Lyonette

Apologies: Cllr. Tom Nutt, John Atkinson, Rosemary Adams, Jean Foster.

Approval of Minutes: Proposed by James Eddy, seconded by Carol Milner and agreed.

Matters arising from the Minutes

- **Website:** Alan Hutchinson had contacted “Godaddy” to inquire about Whinfield Residents Association having their own domain name of **whinfieldresidents.co.uk**. The cost would be about £129 for 3 years of hosting the website. A decision on whether to proceed will be considered by the Committee and finalised by the next meeting.
- **Shopping Trolleys:** Anne Rudkin has been in contact with Louise Gibson Community Champion at ASDA with regard getting the local school children involved in a poster campaign to get people to return their trolleys to the store.
- **Bus Routes:** Councillor Crumbie had put the idea to Arriva of the No.10 bus alternating direction locally and they intend to carry out a consultation early in the New Year. It is hoped that councillors and residents will be involved in this.

Chair's report

- David Milner said that it was encouraging to see where we were last year to where we are now, with the increase in members compared to the small turn out we had and the threat of closure, to enable us to work as an efficient organisation.
- We have vacancies for at least two members to join the Committee,
- David also mentioned our problem with communication with residents in trying to get the word out to make residents aware of our contact info e.g. website and email address.
- David also thanked Councillors Crumbie and Nutt for the inclusion of Whinfield Residents Association in their Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

- There is £1,048.13 in the bank account.
- The table-top sales had been very successful.
- Thanks were given to Mike Haw, the Mayor & Mayoress, Helen Crumbie and Roger.Fitzpatrick.

Beech Wood

It was agreed with members of the sub-committee overseeing Beech Wood that Jean Foster would liaise and be seconded onto the Committee. Cllr Crumbie informed members that the tree would be cut down by the end of the year. A suggestion was made by Tom Watson that bulbs, as they would be cheap to buy this time of year, could be planted in an area along Beech Wood to enhance it. David Milner will ask Blairs if they would donate some bulbs for planting.

Springfield Park

David Milner and Anne Rudkin had a meeting with Rob George at the park pointing out the focal areas for enhancement. David Milner will email Rob George to find out names of football teams, with the intention of approaching them to help with fundraising.

Residential Developments

Muscar House Farm: Nothing new to report. Judith Murray asked re the time scale of Muscar House Farm, Councillor Crumbie will get back to us with an answer.

Darlington Golf Course: Discussion took place about possible plans but no details are yet available. David Lyonette stated that in planning matters the presumption is now in favour of development. He pointed out the position regarding development on Golf Club and adjacent land and indicated that the information regarding this is coming from members of the Golf Club.

PACT Meeting

David Milner and Alan Hutchinson reported back from the last PACT meeting:

- Poor attendance at PACT meetings is becoming a problem.
- Speeding in Barmpton Lane and Whinbush Way is being addressed.
- Dog fouling in Green Lane. Dog warden to concentrate patrols in the area.
- If any incidents occur, however small, contact **101**, and the police may then concentrate on a particular area where there are known problems.

Any other business: None.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20th January 2016 at 7pm at Oban Court.

The Meeting closed at 8.15 pm