

BEECHES COMMUNITY GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held on 10 February 2011

Present:

Malcolm Lewis (Chairman), 14 Residents, Representatives of Cirencester Town Council, Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council, Bromfords HA, Watermoor Community Group

1. Welcome and Apologies

Mike Jupp

2. Minutes from the Meeting held on 11 November 2010

The minutes were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes that are not Included on the Agenda

None

4. Chairman's Report

None

5. Town, District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Peter Braidwood and Cllr Mrs Shirley Alexander gave an overview of a proposal made by Cirencester Baptist Church to the Town Council to build a Church on the Kingshill site. Various aspects were discussed such as:

Size, whether it should be a shared building, responsibilities for management, needs of the local community, religious restrictions on use, the numbers of people attending the current Church in Coxwell Street and the services it provides and many others.

It was agreed to invite representatives from the Church to the next meeting to discuss and explore options and to extend an invitation to other Community Groups, the Youth Town Council and anyone interested.

It was also agreed that Cllr Shirley Alexander would write an article for the Churn and to use it to consult more widely.

6. Cirencester Neighbourhood Partnership

- Liza Darroch advised that **Park Ward Community Group** is about to have its 4th meeting and she was confident that it will be a focused as Beeches.
- **Stratton Association** is slowly coming into the group. Parking in the town is an issue as it's too far to walk for many residents. Stratton is hosting the Police meeting in July.
- **Whiteway** has its own group but it was developed from single issue to prevent further development.
- Funding of the Churn is now looking more solid and specific funding could be coming shortly.
- **Watermoor Group** is meeting on Monday with Roger Brown talking on flooding issues. The Group has secured £1,000 from the Winson Trust for subway improvements. They have adopted a constitution and are about to open a bank account. There will be a piece in the Standard next week.

7. Kingshill Development and New Residents

Welcome Packs

Now complete and about 50 are to be given out in next few weeks. A further 200 will be delivered in the spring when more residents move in. They are to be distributed by Bromfords HA, the developers and Cirencester Athletics Club.

Kingshill South – don't yet know the road names.

The Chairman asked for a vote of thanks to Roger Sweeting who initiated and put the packs together and to Bomfords for all the help given.

8. Social Committee

Minutes were tabled (attached)

Janet Broom Field advised that she is organising a Garden Fete on the 1st or 2nd Saturday in August and will need volunteers for stalls, clearing up etc. and raffle donations.

9. Community

Residents of Purley Road and Melmore Gardens are planning street parties for the Royal Wedding on 29 April. It was agreed that the Group would not arrange one.

10. Any Other Business

Churn Funday – Sunday, 9 May

Consider having Beeches stall and will need ideas at the next meeting.

Greens Open Spaces in Beeches – it has been confirmed that the 'Keep Off' notices are advisory and not statutory.

Damage to trees – it is sad that damage to cars warrant a 999 call but does not apply to trees.

Reorganisation of Policing Divisions - PB confirmed that the Constabulary has been instructed to consider the amount of harm when prioritising complaints. New policing plans will include the reduction of harm as a whole. 63 Police Officers and 150 PCSO's will be engaging with the community in Safer Community Teams by 1 April and not sitting in cars waiting to respond to incidents. It was generally acknowledged that changes are already starting. There is a change in attitudes and crime is very low in Cirencester.

Litter picking – Doug Emmott advised that more joint operations with Watermoor need to be arranged and that the ditches need tackling again and other black spots need attention. JB suggested making links with Park.

Graffiti on bridge – needs repainting.

Credit Union – DE advised those present that a Credit Union will soon be opening in Cirencester. It is an alternative to the high street banks and will provide loans to people who can't otherwise get them from banks. It will be based in Library and is an offshoot of the one in Gloucester.

Advent Festival – JB was congratulated on her work in helping to organise the Festival.

Community Police meetings – RS commented that the first Police meeting with Beeches Group was not mentioned on the Police website.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 10 March 2011 starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting was closed at 7.30 pm