

BEECHES COMMUNITY GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held on 8 September 2011

Present:

Malcolm Lewis (Chairman), Janet Broomfield (Treasurer and Social Secretary), Caroline Braidwood (Secretary), 10 Residents, Cllr John Hughes (CTC & CDC), Cllr J Burgess (CTC & CDC & GCC), Peter Braidwood (GCC), Muriel Payne (AGE Concern), Clare Bartlett (Bromfords), Clare Charlesworth (Housing 21)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies: Liza Darroch (The Churn), Cllr Shirley Alexander (CTC), Dee Drinan, Denise and Keith Handley, Fran Embleton-Smith (The Churn)

The Chairman welcomed 4 new members to the meeting.

2. Minutes from the Meeting held on 28 July 2011

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

Request for safe crossing near Golden Farm

Cllr Burgess advised that following a meeting with Highways there is no possibility of a zebra crossing. The Primary School could fund a lolly pop person if it wished but it may be difficult to justify with no accident record. It was noted that there pedestrians also have difficulty when approaching from the Churnside direction.

London Road

Money has been obtained from developers to redesign the junction with Burford Road. When approaching the roundabout from the NW, there will be a designated lane to turn left, the zebra crossing on Burford Road will be replaced with traffic lights and there will be a pedestrian crossing over the dual carriageway. It was confirmed that the developers have had to contribute substantially to infrastructure and that it is hoped the Town Council will open up a cycle / pedestrian route through the Abbey grounds.

Temporary Path from Kingshill

It was agreed to make enquiries about concerns raised at the last meeting and also about the naming of the development area of Kingshill South which is causing confusion.

Junction of Beeches Road and London Road

Still a problem.

4. Chairman's Report

Nothing further.

5. Report from the Community Building Questionnaires

Clare Bartlett presented the report on her analysis of the questionnaires (attached) and advised that this is to be presented to the Town Council next Tuesday. It was confirmed that £500K is available to the Town Council as s106 contribution for a 500 sq ft community building.

Clare was congratulated on her report and thanked for all the work she had put into the questionnaires.

6. Social Committee

Feedback from the Weston Trip and the Garden Fete - Lessons learnt

Janet Broomfield highlighted:

Coach trip - August 4 was the first. Hope to repeat annually.

Garden fete - very successful and lots of people attended. Use Golden Farm next year for a Beeches focused event.

The Chairman thanked Janet and Rose Leicester for all of their hard work.

Financial report and disposal of funds

Janet gave a financial report (attached).

It was unanimously agreed that £450 raised from the Christmas raffle would be used to take a group of children to Giffords Circus. Giffords is reducing the ticket cost by 50%.

It was also unanimously agreed to donate £250 of the funds raised by the Fete to The Churn.

Although initially The Churn was intended for the over 55's residents of Beeches residents it has been open to all comers and provides lots of activities for all age groups including Good

Neighbours.

Christmas Dinner – Friday, 9 December 2011

at Ingleside. Same format as last year. Menu to follow.

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations June 2012

It was agreed to take up the offer of a stand in the Abbey Grounds which could be used to promote the group and raise funds.

7. The Way Forward

Opening a new Pop In

The Chairman explained that the Golden Farm has new management who are willing to open a Pop In for Beeches residents. He then welcomed Muriel Payne of Age UK to tell us about the Stratton Pop In.

- Following the closure of Akeman Court, AGE UK looked around for a Cirencester pub which would charge the same price to serve tea.
- Pop In at the Wheasheaf charges more overall – charges those attending the same price as Akeman Court and AGE UK for the difference. It is open every morning.
- New Rector at Stratton recognised the need for a Pop In in Stratton.
- The top room The Plough is no used between 10 – 11.30 am. Charge 50p coffee and biscuits are provided free. There is a very happy atmosphere with all ages represented and the Church makes sure there is someone to welcome – very important.
- Now starting lunches on Wednesdays at special price of £5.95
- Also giving talks by invited guests - Police offered to give talk on safety in the home
- Essential to advertise to get word out.

The Chairman thanked Muriel for her advice.

- Considering Monday for pop in at Beeches.
- Could start in November which would suite Golden Farm
- Formulate a small committee to drive forward at the next meeting.

Working with the Youth, Encouraging New Members and Venue change

Deferred to next meeting

8. Reports

Litter Picking

Continuing

Welcome Packs

Corinium Via - Despite Welcome packs having been given to the sales office, some new residents present have not received them.

100 packs are to be assembled by 19 Sept and will be hand delivered. Roger Sweeting described the contents for those who had not seen them.

Berkeley – first occupants will be social housing. Number of shared ownership properties have increased by arrangement with Bromfords. No private sales until spring 2012.

9. Any Other Business

Mulberry Court

Extra care facility. 60 flats. Extra care on site 24 hrs. Independent living in own flat. Restaurant and lounge also open to community. Open day to be announced. Hope to be fully occupied by new year. Rents approx. £180 per week for 2 bedroom apartment which includes utilities.

Disturbances in Gloucester

Gloucestershire has no riot squad. All officers on 12 hour shifts to deal with copycat incidents after riots in London. There has been no problem in Cirencester. County Police bill in the region of £1.25m so far including work to reassure residents that there is effective policing. Issues with Officers living outside the area which adds travel time to their work schedule. Detailed crime figures on website

Police authority continue till November 2012 as there has been a delay with the elections for Police and Crime Commissioners.

New Emergency No goes live from Monday replacing the previous one - 101

Dog mess has increased and some bins are not being emptied. Need bins on Corinium Via – pass to CTC and CDC

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 13 October 2011 starting at 6.30 pm.

The meeting was closed at 7.55 pm