

BEECHES COMMUNITY GROUP

Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting held on 14 November 2013

Present:

Malcolm Lewis (outgoing Chairman) Janet Broomfield (Outgoing Social Secretary), Peter Braidwood, Caroline Braidwood (outgoing Secretary), Jamie Walton (CTC), Doug Emmot, Keith Handley, Jenny Smith and Cllr Patrick Coleman (CTC),
Corinium Via Residents Association: Rosie Stephens, David Grange, Anne Rawlins, Neil Martin, Stuart Tarr, Kerry Heathcote

1. Welcome and Apologies

James Trotter and Clare Bartlett (Bromfords), Paige Lilley, Mike Jupp, Cllr Mrs Shirley Alexander (CTC), PCSO Renee Broad, , Tony Cooper (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Nigel Robbbins (CTC & GCC)

2. To Approve the Minutes from the ANNUAL GENERAL Meeting held on 10 October 2013

Proposed: Stuart Tarr and Seconded: Peter Braidwood and unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

None

4. Chairman's Report

Malcolm Lewis (outgoing Chairman) welcomed the work that had been done on the steps under the bridge on the redundant railway line and congratulated GCC & CTC.

He had raised the matter of litter and confirmed that he has contacted CDC about the litter under the bridge and that Tesco has agreed to clear their site. He reported that Preston PC is installing a litter bin on the old road adjacent to Tesco's Kingsmeadow site.

5. Finance Report (Attached)

Noted. The Chairman explained that funds had been raised from events and used to support the community

6. Election of Chairman to serve until the Annual General Meeting in 2014

Stuart Tarr was proposed by Malcolm Lewis and Seconded by Peter Braidwood and unanimously elected as Chairman.

Malcolm Lewis then stood down and the remainder of the meeting was Chaired by Stuart Tarr.

7. Election of Officers to serve until the Annual General Meeting in 2014

Vice Chairman - Paul Maidens was proposed by Stuart Tarr and Seconded by Neil Martin and unanimously elected as Vice Chairman.

Secretary - Remains Vacant.

Secretariat note: David Grange has since offered to undertake the role of Secretary – to be proposed and approved at the next meeting.

Treasurer - Anne Rawlins was proposed by Stuart Tarr and Seconded by Peter Braidwood and unanimously elected as Treasurer. It was agreed that the accounts would be checked and finalised before being handed over.

Social Secretary – Mike Jupp was proposed by Stuart Tarr and Seconded by Caroline Braidwood and unanimously elected as Social Secretary.

The Chairman proposed that the Group should meet bi-monthly in future (in keeping with the Terms of Reference, Aims and Objectives, paragraph 3.6) and this was unanimously approved.

Website – Caroline Braidwood agreed to continue to maintain the website.

The Chairman explained that he is a committee member and ex officio Vice Chairman of the [Centuria and] Corinium Via Residents Association (CVRA) and that Paul Maidens is the Chairman. It was agreed that CVRA and BCG will consider at future meetings whether to merge or to continue independently sharing meeting dates etc.

8. Reports from the Group

i. Community Speed Watch & Neighbourhood Watch – Keith Handley

Neighbourhood Watch – little to report and membership has not increased. Keith asked to be advised of anyone interested in being involved. There have been 3 alerts this week and residents are being warned to secure garages as bikes have been stolen. The Churn Project will also carry warnings.

Community Speed Watch – Keith advised that there have been changes and that all equipment is to be held centrally. Waiting for further information.

ii. Litter Picking –Doug Emmott

Doug explained that the group is self-sufficient with people working more or less independently in their own areas. A lot of litter is dropped at the weekends and that regular clearing keeps it under control. The old Swan Sanctuary is a particular problem.

CVRA advised that CV doesn't have a major problem as it is covered by CCTV but Malcolm Lewis suggested a joint litter pick in the future.

It was reported that dog mess on the path leading past Century Close & Millennium Way to the redundant railway line is a significant problem. Malcolm Lewis advised that 2 offenders at the green in Kingshill have recently been fined and it was agreed to publicise this via Spotted Cirencester on Facebook.

There is also an issue concerning dog mess along the green open space drainage area pathway which lays between Trotman Walk and Winstone Gardens on the CV development which requires waste bins to be provided. Stuart said he would investigate whether a bin or bins might be provided on an adjacent GCC Highways verge. Jamie Walton advised that the TC has waste disposal bags and he would look into the provision of dispensers as well as the option to install a bin or bins.

Identify area under Highways control and install bin(s) with CTC/CDC/GCC agreement.

Action: ST / JW

iii Website, Facebook and Twitter – Paige Lilley and Caroline Braidwood

Website is updated and will continue on a monthly basis. Facebook and Twitter have been set up but not much used.

iv. Corinium Via Residents Association

There have been recent meetings with GCC, Redrow Homes, Charles Church and Meadfleet (Management company) regarding:

- Maintenance of the GCC Highways verges which were not being maintained. Meadfleet have since volunteered to cut the narrow strips which are under Highways control.
- Other issues: smashed windows in the lower apartments of Wilbur House and fly-tipped rubbish left outside bin enclosures. The latter may have been left by residents who could not access the bin enclosures. Some large items of furniture have been left out on the road and collected by Cottsway but this may fall to CDC to collect in future.
- Parking continues to be difficult. Residents have been asked to comply with developer agreements to use parking spaces or garages but some (thought to be students) continue to park on a sharp bend which potentially hinders access.
- Street lighting – 2 lights in Forstall way have never worked and SEC is now checking all the lights to ensure they are in working order. 3 lights are also out between Kingshill School and Millennium Way / Century Close.

Action: Jamie Walton to take up with Martin Conyers

- Beeches Road – overhanging hedgerow and nettles – arrange for Gloucestershire Highways to cut back (in action, awaiting clearance date).
- Queen Anne's Road and St Mary's Walk – pavements and lighting need attention - invite Gloucestershire Highways & Bromfords to develop a joint solution (in action, awaiting a response from James Trotter).

- Bus Gate - An update from Mike Jupp was précised by the Chairman. In summary:
 - The Local Government Ombudsman will not pursue a complaint of maladministration;
 - A meeting has taken place with Cllr Nigel Robbins but there has been no response to subsequent emails addressed to Cllrs Robbins and Coleman;
 - A meeting has also taken place with Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP for the Cotswolds, which is the subject of separate correspondence to be reported at the next meeting.

Note: a copy of the full report can be obtained from Mike Jupp.

9. Reports from Police, Town, District and County Councils

Jamie Walton extended an invitation to the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting tomorrow between 11 – 3.15 pm and encouraged residents to have an input in to the community area at the new Primary School (Stuart said he was attending the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting and invited others to join him).

Cllr Patrick Coleman introduced himself explaining that he is also a CDC Ward Councillor representing Stratton and previously a Wiltshire County Councillor. He stressed how important it is to work together and in partnership.

10. Any Other Business

- Janet Broomfield expressed concern that Bromford Housing Association no longer send letters to householders before visiting properties. She explained that this puts the elderly and vulnerable at risk. She also added that the Town's Christmas lights will be switched on 30 November and that Marshalls are needed for 2 hour slots between 2 – 7 pm
- The equipment accumulated by the previous committee is held in garages and sheds and needs to be moved. Jamie Walton agreed to try to find somewhere to store.
- Kerry Heathcote explained that residents are emptying litter bins in the CV children's play area as they are not emptied often enough. It was agreed to address the frequency of emptying.
- Anne Rawlins enquired when the remodelling of the London Road roundabout would take place. Peter Braidwood explained that it is subject to s106 agreement based on the occupancy of properties at CV. The work was originally scheduled for 2 years ago and should now be done early in the New Year (2014).
- Christmas Dinner – Friday 13 December at the Wheatsheaf – contact Mike Jupp.
- Malcolm Lewis said that it is good to have contact with CVRA but regretted there has been little contact with residents at Kingshill Meadow and poor communication with Kingshill School.
- The Chairman thanked the out-going committee for their work in the past. Janet Broomfield proposed a vote of thanks to Malcolm and to Caroline for their hard work and commitment. This was unanimously approved.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 16 January 2014 at 7pm at Ingleside House.

The meeting was closed at 8.05 pm