

Beeches Community Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015

Present: Stuart Tarr (Chair) Nick Bridges (minutes), Malcolm Lewis, Mike Jupp, Keith Handley, Cllr Patrick Coleman (CTC), Cllr Nigel Robbins (GCC) , Paul Maidens, David Prewett, Howard Toplis, Joanne Gilmour, Bruce Lloyd, Mark Foster, David Winstone, Julia Winstone, David Rollason, Ian Forrest, Peter Coulter

1.	Welcome and apologies: Caroline Braidwood, PCSO Renee Broad, Lyn Hilditch, Kathryn Toplis, Tim Killen
2.	Minutes from previous meetings: These were accepted as a true record but it was noted that Garry Handley's observations regarding communications, and also comments regarding the Burford Road Crossing were missing.
3.	Matters arising from the minutes that are not included in the agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lights, Tree canopy, Burford Road – the review with GCC Highways noted that the trees did not occlude the street lighting and so no further action was required. The situation will be kept under review• Lights on Pathway near Kingshill School – have now been lit. Martin Conyers CTC has been asked for a design plan and materials plan of what the path will look like after improvements. This to include a hanging rail• Ditch in Golden Farm Road – It has been established that this ditch which is usually full of litter is owned by GCC Highways. Amey to be asked if this ditch can be filled in (as long as there are no drainage implications) and a flowerbed put there instead (Action Nigel Robbins). It was noted that GCC councillors now have a budget of £2500 for tree planting and surgery and that with recompense Cirencester Town Council (CTC) is adopting light maintenance tasks.• Fly-tipping at Abbey Home Farm. Britannia Homes have conducted a tidy-up. CTC are waiting on Will Chester-Master to discuss installation of bins.
4.	Chairman's Report: - Completion date for Burford Road works chased. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Considerable time spent on fence issue (see below).• Guest at newly opened Watermoor School.
5	Finance Report: After payment for grit and litter bins there is £160 in the account
6.	Corinium Via: proposed fence opening in SW corner near playing ground. A complex and lengthy debate followed which discussed information previously circulated. Key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redrow homes have extended the play area from the original plan;• An island and drop pavement appeared on the highway in July 2014;• Original plans showed access for emergency vehicles from highway;• Cars and lorries on highway are not observing speed limits;• The sustainable transport plan for Cirencester shows access through this point;• The fence has been damaged by vandals.• 3 teenagers reported and caught on camera vaulting the fence and going to the Co-op (went via resident's private garden). PCSO Renee Broad thanked for visiting school and confronting culprits.• Man in twenties vaulted another fence heading towards garage.

6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over anti-social behaviour in the evenings. • Concern over dog fouling. • Concern over risk of burglaries with easy escape route to woods and getaway cars • Concern balls will be kicked into road (and causing cars to swerve). • Concern small children and pets will run into road. • Concern over maintenance contract; cost of any changes being passed on to residents. • The original plans do not show any fence at all – playground would have been open to the road along entire length. • Some trees have been removed • The access to Arnold's Way community is now fenced off – steep bank and fence now there – due to residents' concerns over heavy footfall. • Residents divided into those who want the fence left as is, those who want a gate installed, and those who want some sort of barrier. <p>After considerable discussion the consensus was that Redrow should be asked to carry out a risk assessment of the new play area, to include risks posed by ballgames, pets, children running unsupervised, anti-social evening behaviour and security issues for local houses and gardens. Once the risk assessment and consequent design proposal have been developed by Redrow, then all residents are to be consulted by letter on next steps (this to include an option for keeping the fence closed). Subsequent to the meeting the Chairman has sent a letter to both Redrow & also GCC Highways requesting their new assessment and input on this matter.</p> <p>The Chairman was thanked for his sensitive handling of the debate.</p>
7.	<p>Crime report: (Keith Handley)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 offences in January and 11 in February, most acts of violence related to one home and most burglaries centred on one street. • PC Paul Gillan to replace PC Neil Lightfoot • Security items are on sale at the Police Station • A white van has been reported driving erratically around the Beeches Estate. This action has been stopped thanks to a resident capturing images on a mobile phone. • Sheds and patio doors have been broken into – residents be vigilant!
8.	<p>County Council report (Nigel Robbins):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that A417 missing link remedy might be dropped after next election • Amey contract is under review • New Street signs have been installed • Burford Road road improvements have overrun due to unforeseen problems relating to the drainage system, and problems with the service maps provided. Concern expressed that the traffic lights were delayed due to accounts losing a payment. Concern over speed signs (Action: Keith Handley to send Nigel Robbins an email from Richard Gray relating to repeater signs in built up areas with street lighting) • Tesco roundabout – lines will be repainted, also consideration will be given to install traffic lights, have 30mph signs or change lanes all TBC
9.	<p>Buses (David Prewett)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relayed a promise by Alan Barrett of the Integrated Transport Unit, GCC that afternoon services of buses would be reinstated 'by Easter'. • It was hoped that the existing services would be put out to other contractors to bid on.

10.	<p>Bus gate (Mike Jupp);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are tactile lines for blind pedestrians at Kingshill Meadow end but not North Home Road end. • The bus route will not be opening in March but June at the earliest,
11	<p>Bank Signatories: It is hoped that Caroline, who is standing down from managing the website, will continue as Treasurer/signatory with Malcolm as an additional signatory until the AGM in November.</p>
12	<p>Speedwatch: Wednesday 25th March will be the first road action to measure speed. It is hoped to involve residents in other wards as this has proved most effective in other areas.</p>
13	<p>Burford Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed activated camera: Action Keith Handley to write to Stuart Tarr asking for its reinstatement. • Bart Casagrande to be contacted over the state of the roundabouts (Action: Stuart)
14.	<p>Litter: Stuart to write to CDC after litter left after refuse collections</p>
15.	<p>Venue for meetings: The planned move to Watermoor School has been delayed due to a clash with a Zumba Class in the next room. Alternative nights are to be investigated. Ingleside are happy to host the group on the following dates: May 14, July 9, September 17, November 12 Please note that the September date is the third Thursday of the month, others are second Thursdays.</p>
<p>We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting at Ingleside on Thursday May 14th at 7pm</p>	