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NORTHWOOD HILLS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on WEDNESDAY 16th July 2014 at 7.30 pm

Present

Andrew Riley (ARly)	Chairman
Maxine Goswell (MG)	Minutes Secretary
Lucy Hall (LHI)	Committee Member
Alan Lester (AL)	Editor, Hills Echo
Anila Hashim (AH)	Planning
Lynne Halse (LH)	Events Organiser
Herbert Levinger (HL)	Transport
Trevor Dixon (TD)	Secretary
Paul Bushell (PB)	Quarter master
Andrew Retter (AR)	Committee Member
Graham Mann (GM)	Police
Tony Lane (TL)	President
Cllr Jonathan Bianco (JB)	Ward Councillor
Michael Rosenthal	Resident
David Bishop	Resident

1. Apologies for Absence received from:

Fiona Morgan (FM)	Treasurer
Lesley Crowcroft	Environment
Joan Butfield (JB)	Co-opted Committee Member
Cllr John Morgan (JM)	Ward Councillor

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 14th May 2014: approved.

3. Matters Arising: none.

4. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman welcomed the newly elected Committee and reported that he looked forward to working with them over the coming months. There is a lot to be done.

He also welcomed JB, one of the newly elected Ward Councillors and reminded everyone - despite NHRA being apolitical - of the need to have regular and constructive dialogue with the Councillors who have been democratically elected for the next 4 years.

He thanked everyone involved in supporting the AGM event and said that feedback received was very positive but a number of people had suggested next year we revert to a 7:30 pm start (brought forward this year to accommodate Nick Hurd) and that we should only look to have two speakers. As a follow on to the AGM, he had attended the Ruislip Woods Management Advisory Group meeting yesterday evening. It was agreed to use the Flip Charts again at the next AGM.

He thanked Chris Bushell and everyone who had been involved in The Big Lunch event: the biggest attendance yet with about 400 people, great food and entertainment. As with other events the NHRA has staged, this one seems to get bigger with each year, although this year was decidedly helped by the beautiful weather.

Since the last meeting ARly had helped with the Scouts' Jumble Sale, attended the opening of the refurbished Namaste Lounge and the Hillingdon Heroes Awards where he was presented with a certificate.

5. Events:

Independents' Day (Saturday 13th September)

Progress to date:

- Licence to hold the event has already been submitted. Detailed information has to be submitted late August. (Cut-off date is 22nd August.) JB agreed to help chase if required (**JB**).
- A further info sheet will be given to shopkeepers soon, outlining Licence requirements (**TD**). Main activity expected to be 11.30-4.30.
- Deputy Mayor is booked, times to be confirmed, probably 1.30.
- The Library is staging readings and events for Roald Dahl Day, which is on that day. Vanessa Woolf may be present.
- LH & TD have identified two entertainment hubs: outside William Jolle and outside Safia's. Both will provide electricity and pavement tables & chairs. LH to follow up acts. Should any acts have their own PA, then an extra hub could be used, perhaps near the roundabout and by Catherine Fry. LH to ask Stomp Box. Car audio shop may have some PA system but would need a café/stall near there to make it work for people to sit and listen.

- Police info bus is now going to be just the normal minibus booked for the loading bay outside Catherine Fry.
- Climbing wall booked for forecourt of Namaste Lounge. (LM.)
- To date, only 5 charity groups will be joining us. (5 more are busy that day; 12 have not replied.) **AL** to chase Michael Sobell House to email TD if want a stall.
- If we wish to close parking bays, we need a licence. Cost is £15 per bay.
- Blocking off Briarwood: not this year, as we should have already applied and if it was granted we would not be allowed another road closure within 12 months without applying to Court. (Independents' Day 2015 is likely to be in June.)
- A4 posters will be distributed to shops, etc late August. A5 flyers (with special offers on reverse) will be distributed to all households early September. It may be hard to get the Scouts to deliver these as it would have to be done on their first meetings back after the summer break. **LM**. A few A3 posters would be helpful. A4 flyers with an A5 size NHRA registration form was suggested.
- There will be a NHRA stand, probably outside Namaste Lounge, with the purpose of significantly increasing our membership. **TD** to draw up rota of committee members.
- The Chamber of Commerce have kindly agreed to sponsor the event to the sum of £1000.
- TfL art work outside station: still not known if TfL will officially open it on this day or will decide on another date.
- Suggestion that perhaps a mini ferris wheel or bouncy castle (Ruislip Lions) could be used.
- **ARly** to ensure current insurance cover for this event is sufficient.
- Suggestions of performers to LH.
- In future years the Scouts may be able to offer a hot dog stall, but as the date is straight after term starts this would be difficult to arrange. Other suggestions were candyfloss, marshmallows, chocolate on sticks....
- Suggestion of the AGM Community Forum Flipchart ideas being on display in the library. (Appendix).

Christmas Lights Switch-On (Saturday November 15th)

Progress to date:

- LH has contacted schools to pre-warn them of the date.
- TD has contacted shops so that they can help turn it into an early evening pre-Christmas shopping event.
- The Mayor has been booked.
- There will be 30 lampposts to light this year, not just 12. **JB** was asked to investigate the amount of grant possible. If sponsorship could also be sought, the display will hopefully be better than last year. LH was thanked for all her work so far on the options for the lights.
- **ARly** agreed to speak with the WJ with a view to getting them to speak with their suppliers about providing the wine for the mulled wine.

- Haydon School had been asked by AL to work on a Christmas poster. LHL announced that she will be on maternity leave from Haydon in October and will be moving to Yorkshire in January. She hopes to be able to find a replacement liaison teacher.
- AL and LH to liaise re the programme and printing.

6. Planning and Environment:

- 169 Joel Street: removal of hedge and construction of brick wall was refused; this nevertheless went ahead and permission has now been sought retrospectively. AH to object on behalf of NHRA about the process, not necessarily the design.
- 92 Catlins Lane: AH to object on behalf of NHRA on the grounds of change of use. One semi-detached house into 2 separate dwelling units will make the units very small and sets a precedent that any subsequent semi-detached house owner could use.
- 16 Hillside Gardens: a big extension with a flat roof would now be accepted under permitted development, but using a sloping roof, they have to apply for permission.
- 10 Hillside Gardens: extension work has stopped but unclear of current position. AH to ask if Enforcement Officer needs to view the site. Any half finished work should be reported to the Enforcement Officer, applicants should not be allowed to just leave unsightly buildings.
- NISA: no change. ARly to ask Planning Officers for an update.

7. Conservation Report

From LC: Without dealing with any specific planning application, but concentrating on trends:

Hillside Area of Special Local Character.

This ASLC is predominately bungalows, with hipped roofs. There is a growing trend for applicants to try to raise the roofs of both the main dwelling house and outbuildings, such as garages.

Also turning a hipped roof into a gable end to allow for loft conversions.

Both of these changes should be strongly contested, otherwise the area will lose its character.

Single and Double storey extensions being changed into Studio Flats or two storey houses. This occurrence is not limited to Northwood Hills, and is a worrying growing trend.

7. Health:

Last Friday ARly met with Nick Hurd, and PropCo the owners of the Northwood & Pinner Hospital site. PropCo reported that whilst the CCG had not announced the decision that the site was surplus to requirements an announcement would be made shortly. In the Autumn PropCo will do a "best options" report and one of the possible outcomes could be to sell the site off

for housing development as early as 2015/16. The site currently has a book value of £2m but could be worth more.

8. Transport:

JB reported that TfL still insisting that the H13 bus stops must be elongated for DDA.

Joel St will be one way only from 24 July, from the roundabout to Tolcarne Drive for 6 weeks. **TD** to email map of plans to committee. Noted that Northwood Hills still seems to be 'off the map' for TfL, no Evening Standard provided at the station, no bus stop signs at the station.

9. Police:

Drivers blocking Tolcarne Drive when waiting to go into the Tesco/petrol station can only be moved on by the police.

The Police Consultation review is now completed and the new structure should soon be available. Any items for the next Police Panel on 19th August, to be passed to TD or HL. The new commander was impressive at the AGM, it is hoped that he will be able to deliver, particularly his focus on internet fraud. Alison Jeffery is to be married on Independents' Day, so she will not be available. The NHRA sends her good wishes.

JB reported that Duncan Flynn, new Councillor, has been informed of criminal activity at the back of Briarwood Drive and is involving the police. He is also hoping to get speed camera exercises set up on Hillside Road and Pinner Road.

10. Treasurer's Report:

FM was thanked for the new presentation of accounts, as proposed at the AGM. Should any additional funding be available, it was suggested that head mics could augment the current inventory. Steve Rogers is kindly working through the equipment list to see what else is required.

11. Secretary's Report:

TD had a meeting with Stuart McTiernan and students from Haydon re a new NHRA website. As a result we invested £58.45 for a year's upgrade to Weebly Pro, to enable them to work on this further. Noted that the Constitution is on the web site.

Agreed that to be able to use the Hillingdon Council notice boards (without a hefty charge) would be very useful, as would a NHRA board outside the library as well as the station (not just inside it). **TD** to write to the Council to facilitate this.

A discussion took place on how to motivate more residents to get involved and share the tasks out across a wider base.

12. The Hills Echo:

A reminder that Copy Date for the Echo is September 15th, and non-political material from Committee members is welcomed. Also, AL will be away on Independents' Day, photos and someone to provide a report were required. **MG** to see if Lois Goswell could do this. It may be worthwhile printing the Constitution in the Echo every few issues.

Local businesses that had not yet advertised were to be approached:

TD: Vet surgery, **AR:** Argyle House.

AH, GM and **JB** to provide a 'Who am I' editorial for the next issue. The next issue will be AL's 10th. The committee thanked him for all his hard work.

13. Councillors' Report:

A new list of roads to be resurfaced will be available after the summer. JB is also hoping to list pavements that are to be improved as well. Traffic calming in Hillside Road has been raised again. Team for Northwood School enlargement has not yet been appointed.

JB reported that LBH are going to replace the gates at the Highland Road entrance to Northwood Rec and do some landscaping. He also reported that the Football Club were looking to do some work on their building/facilities. The Council were thanked for the Hanging baskets provided as part of Hillingdon in Bloom. Poppies are being planted around the Borough to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WW1.

14. Any other business:

LHI reported that 5 residents had now been interviewed for the Aural Histories memories of the local area. These will be uploaded onto the website at a later date. Any other potential interviewees: please let Lucy know. The procedures to be used for the renting out of the equipment are still to be agreed. **PB**.

An ex-serviceman is needed to lay the wreath at the next Remembrance Sunday service. **LHI** to ask at Northwood Live @ Home. **AL** happy to purchase the wreath.

15. Dates for Next Meetings:

August - No Meeting - School holidays

Saturday 13th September - Independents' Day

Monday 15th September - Hills Echo Cut Off Date

Wednesday 24th September

Saturday 27th September - Northwood Hills Clean Up Day (to be delayed)

Wednesday 22nd October

Sunday 9th November - Remembrance Sunday

Saturday 15th November - Christmas Lights Switch On Event

Wednesday 26th November

Sunday xx December - Evening of Community Carols

December - No Meeting

Wednesday 25th January
Wednesday 28th February

Meeting closed at 9:30 pm

Appendix

Feedback from post-it-notes at AGM:

The following were submitted:

- 1) Use NHRA notice boards for the very things they were intended for actions/ events/changes etc..
- 2) Provide a Policing notice board clear and apparent for purpose.
- 3) Be active in finding a solution for the elderly day and longer term care in this, their residential area
- 4) Introduce resident parking permits in local roads
- 5) Poor quality of Briarwood Drive road surface
- 6) Litter problem at back of bar and KFC backing onto Briarwood Drive