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Hon. Sec.:
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NORTHWOOD HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on
 WEDNESDAY 22nd January 2014, 7.30 PM**

Present

Andrew Riley (ARly)	Chairman
Leo Mindel (LM)	Deputy Chairman
Christine Bushell (CB)	Events
Herbert Levinger (HL)	Transport
Graham Mann (GM)	Police Rep
Maxine Goswell (MG)	Temporary Minutes Secretary
Lucy Hall (LHI)	Committee Member
Alan Lester (AL)	Editor, Hills Echo
Trevor Dixon (TD)	Secretary
Jane Clayfield (JC)	Road Steward
Joan Butfield (JB)	Co-opted Committee Member
Pauline Sherman (PS)	Resident
Andrea Chambers (AC)	Joel St Vets Practice Manager
Derek Glover (DG)	Resident
Cllr Andrew Retter (ARet)	Ward Councillor
Cllr Jonathan Bianco (JB)	Ward Councillor

1. Apologies for Absence received from:

Lesley Crowcroft (LC)	Environment
Cllr John Morgan (JM)	Ward Councillor
Tony Lane (TL)	President
Paul Akers (PA)	Road Steward Co-ordinator
Anila Hashim (AL)	Planning
Lynne Halse (LH)	Events Organiser

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 27th November 2013: Approved.

3. **Matters Arising (not tabled as Agenda Items):** None.

4. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and wished them a belated Happy New Year! The regeneration works are progressing. Work outside Argyle House and the Namaste Lounge have been completed and the team are now working on the stretch from the bridge to Windsor Close. The project team has identified a couple of weekends towards the end of February when the station will be closed for track maintenance work and it is proposed that the paving work outside the station be done then and the road crossing re-instated. He reminded everyone that the proposed station wall art is on display at the Library. The art work for the bridge is due to be completed in March, the trees planted in June and the final resurfacing is to be done in July. The puddles in many places currently, particularly in the parking bays, will be sorted out at this time.

Just before Christmas the Chairman gave two presentations to groups of students at Haydon about the regeneration of Joel Street.

(Like everyone else) The Chairman was baffled with the outcome of the Licensing review relating to Arens Wine Bar. He has been advised that due to the significant costs involved local residents have decided not to appeal the decision. One of the outcomes is the owners of Arens have to hold regular meetings with local Residents, representatives from LBH Licensing Department and the Police. A date for the first such meeting has not yet been advised.

The Chairman was very surprised by the findings of the Planning Inspectors report regarding 117 Pinner Road which says: "(The) council indicated that it was satisfied that the alterations to the development set out in further amended plans which led to the Inspector finding in favour of Mitel Properties. **ARly** will seek an explanation as to why the Council have made such an indication after having served a demolition order on the owners of the site and also the costs involved.

On January 10th, the Chairman and Hon. Secretary attended the Patients in Partnership meeting at Fairfield at which Ceri Jacobs, COO from the CCG, was a speaker. When questioned about the location of the new health centre in the North of the Borough she gave very unconvincing answers which vacillated from "Mount Vernon" to "a decision will be made in March". Asked about the future of Northwood and Pinner unit she told several stories. Attendees were vociferous in their views that they should have a say in the location (and so they should). One of the slogans on the CCG presentation stated "The NHS belongs to the people". Obviously the CCG does not believe its own message.

Subsequent to this **ARly** has met with Dr Stern, Dr Patel and Dr Thakrar and written to Nick Hurd requesting him to arrange a meeting at his office with both Ceri Jacobs and **ARly**.

The Councillors were reminded that in the run up to the election, political arguments between the parties would not be tolerated at these meetings and if they did occur the Councillors may/would be asked to leave the meeting.

5. Events

Committee Dinner - Wednesday 18th December, at the Himalayan Flavours: enjoyed by all who attended, with thanks to AH for organising.

On the previous day, a number of those present had attended the Residents Coffee morning at Haydon School. Entertainment and IT assistance had been provided and the Sixth Form were commended on the work they had done to make the event successful. LHI was asked to pass the thanks back to the school. ARly and others had visited the Drama and IT areas and been very impressed with what was on show. A continuation of these coffee mornings would be welcomed and ARly agreed to ask for them to be sent out on LC's address list to ensure more residents were aware, as it was a shame that more residents local to the school did not attend.

There were a few suggestions of items with which the students could assist the NHRA:

- Performances at the Thank You Supper/AGM.
- Help by the school Eco club with the Litter Pick up Days.
- Assistance with designing the Christmas Programme.

It was reported that the display of the art work for the bridge on Joel St was currently on view at the Northwood Hills Library and some had been present at the viewing with the Mayor two days previously. The Art would make a positive impact on the image of Northwood Hills.

Thank You Supper - Tuesday 4th March: **ARly** to obtain list of provisions required and this is attached to minutes. **ARly** also agreed to invite Councillor Dann as the Mayor was not able to attend. **All** to consider what dishes they would be willing to prepare for this and to let ARly know by Friday 21st February; as well as any other invitees. **SEE LIST ATTACHED.**

A Visit to Mayor's Chamber for the committee was to be on Thursday 13th or 27th March. **All** to confirm available dates to TD.

Post meeting note: confirmed as 13th March.

The Big Lunch: Sunday 1st June, no action currently.

Independents' Midsummer Day: Saturday 21st June, **AR & JB** agreed to contact the Chamber of Commerce to ask them to be involved with the organisation. Planning for systems for the music sites, school performances and co-ordination with shops onto the pavement would be required.

AGM: Wednesday 25th June, suggestions for speakers were made, including Ceri Jacobs, COO of the CCG, and other NHS representatives such as Shane DeGaris, CEO Hiliingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation, but it was felt that other more popular speakers might be:

- James Rogers, Head of Planning

- Reprs from the UTC, Chair of Governors, Geoff Rodgers, Principal, Bryan Berry, Paul Holloway or Brunel Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rogers.

ARly to issue invitations.

6. Planning and Environment

Ruislip Lido: noted that the improvement work here had been going well, though it is not yet completed. A future aim to improve the water quality sufficiently so that it can be used for swimming would be ideal, but that is not yet achievable.

Long Meadow

- Some trees have now been removed to facilitate the installation of the dipping platform and beach on the banks of the Pinn, near the Sheila Liberty Bridge.
- Work on the installation of the back waters etc. should start during March/April. Starting the work depends entirely on ground conditions. At present the ground is water logged, and any heavy machinery will become bogged down.
- Seeds have been purchased for the annual wild flower meadow. Again rotovating the ground will depend on the meadow drying out soon. Sowing may be a little late.
- Sue Place has produced an I Spy leaflet for young children, this can be downloaded from the Eastcote House Gardens web site:
www.eastcotehousegardens.weebly.com

Eastcote House Gardens

There has been a growing trend for the spreading of human ashes in the Walled Garden. The FEHG volunteers have found this practice unacceptable as the ashes often swirl up as they are gardening. They can also kill plants if not dug in well away from plants. The Green Spaces team has put a notice on the web site, posters will be put up and crematorium staff will be asked to inform Funeral Directors, and ask them to inform their clients. This is an interim measure until a new byelaw can be enacted. The ruling also covers memorials on public land, so hopefully the Long Meadow Shrine will be moved as soon as possible. FEHG thanked NHRA Chairman for his support. NHRA are happy to provide funds towards a notice in the Meadow/Walled Garden if needed. It was suggested that a policy notice should be placed in Hillingdon People and could be printed in The Echo. **AL** to liaise with **LC**; and **AR** to liaise with Hillingdon People.

Built environment

White Cottage, Harlyn Drive - Grade II Listed. Building consent for maintenance works mainly in the grounds e.g. erection of a new fence. No comments have been made.

Fairway High Road Eastcote - to change from 2 bed bungalow to 4 bed house by raising roof. Approval was given by LPA. Work well advanced.

Oak Tree - Arden Mhor. Refused. This oak tree carries a TPO. The LBH Tree Officer's report is very interesting. An Insurance Company was insisting on the removal of this tree claiming that it was causing subsidence to one corner of the property. Using the London Tree Officers guidelines it was shown that the Oak has an amenity value of £121,350. Therefore, there was no real proof that this was causing the damage, and to repair the subsidence with a deeper foundation would cost £80,000. The tree won.

Refurbishment of **The Woodman Public House Joel Street**, part of the Eastcote Village Conservation Area. - Grade 2 listed building. All 3 planning applications are undecided; signage, new fence and internal works needing listed building consent. These works have been carried out. **Ward Councillors** are trying to find out what is causing the delay. It appears that action on the application has taken more than the statutory 13 weeks, so the applicants could continue the work and there would then be no comeback available to the Planning Dept. Perhaps there are not enough Conservations Officers to deal with the whole Borough.

Recent application for **78 Catlins Lane** for a side extension - approved.

Dog walking on farm land in Fore Street. ECP has written against the application as it does not have an ecology survey and there is question concerning animal welfare. This application has not yet been determined, and it is out of time.

There is a Petition against the application and this was discussed in some detail, **PS** and **DG** were extremely concerned about the potential increase in noise level and were urged to keep a diary so that Council Officers could be informed. **NH Councillors** are looking into it. It appeared that asbestos was removed from old buildings on the site without approval. **JB** agreed to investigate.

Concern over noise from **Jacks Stable** was also raised by **PS** and **DG**. **ARly** agreed to organize a meeting with the stables for them.

Joel Street Farm, Locally Listed Building, another application to demolish the old barn. Rebuild and change of use for part of the premises to a children's day nursery. It seems that the applicant has had considerable talks with LBH officers before submitting this application and it is being submitted by a company that appears to specialize in development on Green Belt, as this is. There are still concerns re the parking. **ARly** & **TD** are making a site visit on Tuesday. If this was to be approved, it may pave the way for the cemetery application to be resubmitted.

NISA, 117, Pinner Road. The appeal against demolishing this building has been upheld. However, changes have to be made to follow the original plans and have two retail units on the ground floor, with access to the flat between, thereby giving disabled access at all times. Other changes also need to be made to make the building comply with the original plans.

LBH sought costs and were successful. **JB** agreed to provide a detailed report as it seemed unbelievable to the Committee present that the vast list of reasons for demolition could now be so easily rectified (See Chairman's report).

181, Joel Street, Application to convert this large extended house into two dwellings, one 4 bedroom house and one 2 bedroom house. Objections will be made on behalf of NHRA. The 2 bedroom house is extremely small, also the

front elevation is of poor design. The houses in this area of Joel Street are detached and this will be out of keeping with the area.

In Conjunction with Gatehill RA.

- a) 6, Willow End, part of the Gatehill ASLC. This is a second application to change the garage into a habitable room. The first application was refused as it was detrimental to the ASLC and there was a possibility that this side room could be altered to become a separate dwelling, as a side door was present. The second application is exactly the same with two slight alterations, the small side room has been called a cycle store, and the connecting door has been removed. It would be very easy to re-instate the connecting door during building works, and make this a separate dwelling. NHRA have written objections supporting GASLC.
- b) 1A Ravenswood Park. Although not part of the Gatehill ASLC, Ravenswood Park borders onto the ASLC. The application is to build another dwelling in the side garden. This is garden grab and because of the levels, the proposed dwelling would be over dominant to the ASLC. A Petition against has been raised, and a Ward Councillor has requested the matter be determined by the North Planning Committee. This is the second application for this site. The previous application that was approved was to extend the existing dwelling and divide into two separate dwellings. If this current application is approved, then there will be three houses in an area currently supporting one.

An observation was made that calls to report unsafe building sites now seemed to be answered by an outsourced company in the Midlands, and not by anyone in the council who may have some knowledge of the area. **JB** and **AR** to check.

AH is currently not able to fully take on board the Planning role for NHRA, due to recovery after an operation. ARly and LC were keeping abreast of any issues and the committee wished AH well.

Not in NH Ward, but the application for a Sainsbury supermarket in Northwood by the station has been rejected, however, it is expected they will reapply at some point.

7. Health

Report Provided by Community Voice: this had been attached to the agenda, as had the minutes of a meeting at which Shane DeGaris, CEO Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, gave a presentation similar to that given at the Patients in Partnership Meeting at Fairfield.

8. Transport

Metropolitan Line: Three years after being awarded the contract for upgrading the signalling system of the Metropolitan line and after a year of preparatory work resulting in weekend closure, Bombardier have announced that they are withdrawing from the contract. Apparently it has now been discovered that their signalling system is incompatible with the infrastructure and operating methods of the underground system.

Transport for London have signed a joint release agreement and it is reported that Bombardier will receive about £80m for their work to date. LT are now looking for a new contractor to take over the job. They claim that this will not seriously affect the completion timetable (2018) but may result in additional costs.

It may be coincidental but Bombardier are currently on the inside track for another large Crossrail contract as Siemens have withdrawn from the bidding.

Hillingdon Circus:

The Council have rejected the planning applications of both bidders (Morrison and Tesco) but this decision could be overturned by Boris Johnson. If he agrees with the Council's decision, there would then be an opportunity for either or both parties to lodge an appeal. If one application is eventually approved, it would at the moment seem more likely to be Morrison.

Current Major Projects:

These at present are concentrated in the south of the Borough, eg Hayes Town centre improvements, problems on Hillingdon Hill due to the RAF Uxbridge development, the Southall Boulevard project and the Southall Gas works development.

9. Police

Safer Neighbourhoods Team: these are depleted due to having to work with the 999 response and crime investigation teams.

GM attended the last ever Consultative meeting which is to be replaced by a new body. Post Meeting note: Ian Brooks, current chair of ERA, is confirmed as its chair. HL will be attending this meeting.

GM reported a 10% reduction in crime Apr-Jan last year though there have recently been many burglaries, often of garages and sheds.

Post meeting note: Members might like to look at the following to keep track what is happening in their area:

<http://www.police.uk/metropolitan/>

10. Secretary

Links to the website and the Secretary's email have now been placed on the Community page of the LBH website.

TD reported that he is trying to ensure that news items and updates on the regeneration are passed onto RK for inclusion on the website. The numbers of visits to the website has increased significantly over the past few days.

Discussions with the IT A Level students at Haydon about managing, updating & revamping the website have resulted in the possibility of this being included as part of their curriculum, which would be far better than just a one-off project. A sub-committee to get this started was agreed with **AL**, **TD** and **ARly** as members. **TD** to subsequently liaise with RK.

It would also be useful if the email contacts list could be built up, so that regular updates could be sent out to members. An appeal via the Hills Echo was suggested, asking residents to provide their email if they wished to receive updates. This could also be done at the **AGM** and via Road Stewards when subs are collected. **AL**, **PA** & **ARly**.

11. Councillors Report

The work on Joel St appeared to have boosted local businesses to improve as well, with the Tesco Express/Esso Garage currently closed for refurbishment, as is the Namaste Lounge.

Grants for shop front renovation are also available.

Petitions for controlled parking zones once again seem to be increasing, York Road is again facing problems.

12. The Hills Echo

AL suggested that the committee members could prepare a couple of paragraphs on their role in the NHRA for the next edition. Agreed this was a good idea. If they are all submitted by **1st March**, then he can hold some over if not enough space in this edition. **ALL** to prepare. **HL** to submit his to **AL** as the first item, and **AL** to ask others in turn if members don't submit theirs, but would be preferred if all did so sooner rather than later.

13. Web Masters Report

See item 11, above.

14. Treasurer's Report none

15. Meeting Dates (Committee meetings in bold)

Wednesday 26th February (confirmed) (Half Term 17th - 21st Feb)

Thursday 13th March: Committee Mayor's Parlour visit

Saturday 1st March - Hills Echo Cut Off Date

Tuesday 4th March - Thank You Supper

Wednesday 26th March

Saturday 19th April - Northwood Hills Clean Up Day

April - No Meeting (Easter, 18th to 21st April)

Wednesday 21st May - (Local Elections 22nd May and Half Term 26th-30th May)

Sunday 1st June - The Big Lunch

Saturday 21st June - Independents Midsummer Day

Wednesday 25th June AGM (Any nominations for Guest Speaker?)

Wednesday 16th July (NB 3rd Wednesday of Month)

August - No Meeting - School holidays

Monday 15th September - Hills Echo Cut Off Date

Wednesday 24th September

Saturday 27th September - Northwood Hills Clean Up Day

Wednesday 22nd October (provisional) (half term date 27th -31st Oct)

Saturday xx November - Christmas Lights Switch On Event

Wednesday 22nd November

Sunday xx December, Evening of Community Carols

December - No Meeting

15. Any Other Business.

PS expressed disappointment that the No Parking signs had still not been erected by Salisbury Road and would email details to **JB**.

The RAF Band are performing at a concert on 21st February at the Winston Churchill Hall.

Meeting closed at 9:30 pm