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Secretary:
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NORTHWOOD HILLS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on WEDNESDAY 24th September 2014 at 7.30 pm

Present

Andrew Riley (ARly)	Chairman
Maxine Goswell (MG)	Minutes Secretary
Pauline Sherman	Road Steward
Jane Clayfield	Road Steward
Anila Hashim (AH)	Planning
Lynne Halse (LH)	Events Organiser
Herbert Levinger (HL)	Transport
Trevor Dixon (TD)	Secretary
Joan Butfield (JB)	Co-opted Committee Member
Andrew Retter (AR)	Committee Member
Graham Mann (GM)	Police Rep
Maggie Lane (ML)	Road Steward
Cllr Jonathan Bianco (JB)	Ward Councillor
Cllr John Morgan (JM)	Ward Councillor
Cllr Duncan Flynn (DF)	Ward Councillor
Elizabeth Hampton	Resident
Chris Bushell	Events & Health
Tom Rawlings	Fairfield
Steve Rogers	AV Rep

1. Apologies for Absence received from:

Fiona Morgan (FM)	Treasurer
Lesley Crowcroft	Environment
Alan Lester (AL)	Editor, Hills Echo
Lucy Hall (LHI)	Committee Member
Tony Lane (TL)	President
Leo Mindell (LM)	Vice Chairman

2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 16th July 2014: approved.**

3. **Matters Arising: None**

4. **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman thanked everyone involved with the Independents' Day event which was a great success and a good opportunity to show some of the Community assets we now have in Northwood Hills.

The Chairman reported that while it had been hoped that the southbound carriageway of Joel Street would have been opened earlier he was pleased to see the instant aesthetic impact of the central reservation. The trees are now to be planted in mid to late October. There is still a lot of work (and rework) to be done including the removal of the Christmas tree pit. This area will now be paved to make it maintenance free, with bollards to stop illegal parking on the pavement. When the time comes to erect the Christmas tree all we will need to do is lift a manhole cover and drop the tree into the tube below. There will be a separate manhole cover for the electrical transformer.

The slow traffic in Joel St is an expected result of the works, although some changes may be needed in 'hot spots' such as the parking space outside the Namaste Lounge which seems to impact the flow rather too much, it may be suspended.

The Post office has advised that Northwood Hills Post Office will be upgraded from a sub to a main branch as part of the modernization programme. This will mean that they are able to provide the range of Post Office products and services. The Post Office will be closed from the 11th October to enable internal alterations to be completed and will re-open from 23rd October. This is a massive boost for Northwood Hills bearing in mind that it was not that long ago that the sub Post Office was threatened with closure. An article listing out banking services has been written for the Hills Echo.

5. **Events:**

Independents' Day (Saturday 13th September)

It was a very good team effort. George and Judy Cooper, Deputy Mayor and Mayoress commented about the real community spirit that everyone had. A lot of the shopkeepers saw how worthwhile the whole thing was. The Cabaret gave a real focus.

Follow-up to Independents' Day:

1) Damaged Equipment: An old amplifier was damaged beyond repair at the end of the event and will need to be replaced at the cost of approx. £140. **ARly/FM** to liaise with **SR**.

2) Equipment missing from the Janitor's cupboard caused a problem and a new procedure for sign in/out is required, **ARly** to progress.

3) Donation to Independents' Day Performers to be agreed before the next meeting. **ARly/FM**.

4) TD had feedback from several shopkeepers, all of it positive and most with constructive suggestions for future planning. All were in favour of next year's event being in June, but would need more active involvement from them.

5) We gained 33 new members.

A debrief needs to take place, to consider what to take forward for next year. Items to be covered, along with other issues:

- Identification for the committee members, people were looking for someone to talk to on the NHRA stand, but it wasn't clear who we were. The hi-vis jackets work at the Christmas lights with the darkness, but at a day time event we need badges, t-shirts or sashes.
- The gazebo for the NHRA needs more signage.
- The Flyer needed to explain more about what was happening, e.g. didn't say climbing wall/bouncy castle for the kids, bbq, entertainment etc.
- Fairground rides sponsored by the shop keepers.

Clean-Up Day:

The twice yearly Clean Up Day was booked for Saturday 11th October. The UK Big Litter Pick has been planned for 18th October. If the date could be changed in the Echo, then we would move ours by a week, but if not, then it would remain as 11th Oct.

Christmas Lights Switch-On: (Saturday November 15th)

Progress to date:

- LH in liaison with schools. Cherish and other performers had also been booked. TR had kindly agreed to compare.
- 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** to confirm amount of grant possible, he will liaise with the council leader.
- The barriers and sound system needed had been agreed.
- William Joelle to provide mulled cider.
- At least 500 mince pies will be needed. AR to contact Tesco and TD to contact Wenzels.
- If £750 of funding was forthcoming, then this will be matched by the council.
- LM had reported that he could source marquees big enough to cover the whole of the Namaste Lounge car park if needed due to wet weather.
- Recognised that the children who were performing never had a chance to go into Santa's Grotto. Santa didn't have a single break during the whole event. Two Santas are needed and an improved system for entry, perhaps by ticket, other than just queuing.
- A sub-committee was needed, MG, ARly & TR happy to help, LH to organise. LH was thanked for all her work.

Carol Singing:

December date to be confirmed, it will be inside William Joelle.

6. Planning and Environment:

Residents were urged to inform the council of any occasions of fly tipping, notably in Fore St & Pinner Rd, which can be done through the website, giving any information that may help reveal the source address. DF stated that he was happy to help.

Conservation:

Long Meadow

London in Bloom

Long Meadow was entered for the first time as a Conservation Area and was awarded Silver Gilt and category winner. In London in Bloom, Eastcote House Gardens was awarded Gold for Park of the Year and category winner.

A nearby site, Highgrove Woods, was entered in the Small Conservation Area and was awarded Silver Gilt and category winner. Altogether Hillingdon received 26 awards for Parks and Open Spaces and was awarded Gold in the Large City category, and category winner. Congratulations to all Green Spaces staff and volunteers.

The river works in Long Meadow are now completed. There are one or two minor adjustments to be made: the addition of a hand rail to the small bridge across one of the backwaters, a chipping path from the Sheila Liberty Bridge to the main mown path in the meadow, improvements to the vehicle entrance, another small area of chippings to stop the works vehicles becoming bogged down in wet weather. More wild flowers suitable to a wetland habitat will be planted within the next few weeks. A hole has appeared in the Sheila Liberty Bridge; the repair work is in hand.

Residents were urged to support the Lloyds bank sponsorship of EHG.

Planning:

1) Prior Approval

Recent changes to the National Planning Policy Framework introduced a system of Prior approval. This gave householders the ability to erect very large rear extensions, the Local Planning Authority only being able to intervene if a next door neighbour objected. To stop these inappropriate extensions being built, LBH have introduced an Article 4 direction across Hillingdon; now all extensions which extend more than 4 metres from the rear wall of the property, semi-detached and terrace, or 6 metres for a detached property will require Planning Permission.

The same Prior Approval means that offices can be changed into dwellings without permission. The only powers any LPA has to stop this, is if there are traffic considerations or contaminated land; then a full survey is required. Over-development, lack of school places, doctors surgeries etc cannot be considered. Any sized rooms are also allowed, however small.

2) Joel Street Farm

The Planning North Committee heard the planning application for the nursery at the end of August. A good case against the development was made by NHRA. No decision was taken on the night but a site visit has been arranged for 26th

Sept. Following this, it is likely that further debate will take place at a future Committee date (not yet known). Ahead of this, a second petition is being organised by the vets which, once submitted, will allow an opportunity for NHRA to speak further.

3) Arens Bar

Complaints continue to be received about noise egress and other issues. A further meeting with the owners was arranged for Monday 29th September but at this stage we are unsure that residents have heeded the need to report all incidents to the Police, obtain a Crime Reference number and also keep a diary. The Chairman has written to Stephanie Waterford and Inspector George (who has now moved to a position in the South of the Borough), suggesting that a joint leaflet be written by them which can be given to residents on the 29th.

4) 1A Ravenswood Park, to build a detached house in the garden: refused at the NPC, but has now been taken to Appeal. NHRA have made further comments to the Planning Inspectorate.

5) 10 Hillside Gardens: a retrospective application for a large extension which has also been taken to appeal.

6) 169 Joel Street, a 2nd retrospective application for front railings replacing a hedge. Refused at the North Planning Committee.

7) 12 Colchester Road: Recent application to demolish a bungalow and erect a pair of semidetached houses on the corner with York Road. NHRA objected to this application, requesting it to go to committee.

8) 61 Wentworth Drive, Eastcote (for information): Demolition of existing bungalow, erection of 4x 2-bedroom back-to-back dwellings.

9) 10 Hillside Rise has had planning approved and the work started. The original bungalow has been knocked down apart from the front gable.

10) 45 Potter Street had planning approval to extend into the garage.

11) NISA: all works are to be done by February. It was noted that when shoppers reverse out of the small parking area at the front, pedestrians are very vulnerable. Some of the wall should be removed for more visibility.

Information on an additional structure near her house to be passed to JM. PS

7. Health:

ARly is still attending several meetings about the Northwood & Pinner hospital site. PROCO do not seem to be rushing to dispose of the site. No major information in the latest Community Voice, hence it not being added to the agenda.

8. Transport:

A petition from residents of Briarwood Drive was heard, requesting a CPZ.

HILLINGDON CROSS: TESCO

Planning permission for the Tesco development at Hillingdon Cross has been approved by a vote of 7 to 4. This will create even bigger hold-ups at peak times on the north/south artery Ickenham / Long Lane. To permit west-bound traffic

accessing the Tesco site, it is proposed to create an additional access road on the right of the spur leading from the A40 to Hillingdon Cross.

The rival application from Morrison for the site on the other side of the road has been withdrawn.

NORTH / SOUTH EXPRESS BUS ROUTE

This North Hillingdon to Heathrow scheme has now been abandoned since it proved impossible to produce an economic case satisfactory to potential providers.

ELECTRIC CHARGING UP POINTS

It is proposed to considerably increase the number of electric charging up points for motor cars. This would entail outsourcing the whole project to a private company who are also considering the hire of electric vehicles to the public.

9. Police:

TD and Lois Goswell to liaise re the forms/collection of email addresses for the Police to use to inform residents of any fast time intelligence about crime in the area, give warnings, advice and information. Residents need to agree to their details being used, they cannot just be forwarded to the Police without being asked for their permission first.

The new Inspector, Rob Bryan is hoping to visit all Ward Panels. Residents are urged to keep diary of any ASB and to log any incident with a Crime number. Any visual information, particularly on motorbikes, is very helpful.

10. Treasurer's Report:

- a breakdown of the expenditure on Independents Day
- The Chamber of Commerce have kindly agreed to sponsor the event to the sum of £1000.
- donation to all the performers that took part
- overview in general of expenditure and income to date

11. Secretary's Report: TD was still liaising with the Council to get the board outside the station improved and ARly had had a commitment from Jane Chamberlain that it would be tidied up.

12. The Hills Echo:

The Echo proof copies were made available at the meeting.

13. Councillors' Report:

It was reported that the plans for the Northwood School development were not yet available. The first part of the UTC had opened this month on the site. Any changes to traffic flows were to be reported to DF.

Work at Harlyn School was not yet completed and parking problems had increased since term started as there is not enough room in the car park currently for all the teachers' cars. This should ease once the work was finished.

14. Any other business:

A resident recently requested that some undergrowth was cleared which was in fact private land, but the council workers started to do it, without checking. Once they were told, they stopped.

15. Dates for Next Meetings:

Saturday 11th October - Northwood Hills Clean-Up Day

Wednesday 22nd October

Sunday 9th November - Remembrance Sunday

Saturday 15th November - Christmas Lights Switch-On

Wednesday 26th November

Sunday xx December - Evening of Community Carols

December - no meeting

2015

Wednesday 21st January 2015

Monday 9th February - Hills Echo cut-off date

Wednesday 18th February (Half Term week & Ash Wednesday)

Tuesday 3rd March - Thank You Supper

Wednesday 18th March

Wednesday 15th April

Saturday 25th April - Northwood Hills Clean-Up Day

Wednesday 20th May - AGM

Sunday 7th June - The Big Lunch

Wednesday 17th June

Saturday 20th June - Independents' Day

Wednesday 15th July

August - no meeting

Monday 14th September - Hills Echo cut-off date

Wednesday 16th September

Saturday 10th October - Northwood Hills Clean-Up Day

Wednesday 21st October

Sunday 8th November - Remembrance Sunday

Saturday 14th November - Christmas Lights Switch-On

Wednesday 18th November

Sunday xx December - Evening of Community Carols

December - no meeting

Meeting closed at 9:30 pm