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NORTHWOOD HILLS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES of the Committee Meeting held on
WEDNESDAY 25th March 2015 at 7.30 pm

Present

Leo Mindel	Vice-Chairman
Trevor Dixon	Secretary
Maxine Goswell	Minutes Secretary
Herbert Levinger	Transport
Joan Butfield	EHG & Health
Fiona Morgan	Treasurer
Alan Lester	Editor, The Echo
Graham Mann	Police Rep
Andrew Retter	Committee Member
David Bishop	Resident
Michael Rosenthal	Resident

If your initials appear in **BOLD** in the minutes, you have an action to report back to the next meeting with please.

1. Apologies for Absence received from

Andrew Riley, Tony Lane, Lesley Crowcroft, Lynne Halse, Jane Clayfield, Anila Hashim, John Morgan & Duncan Flynn.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 25th February: agreed

3. Matters Arising (not tabled as Agenda Items): none. In the absence of the Chairman, LM had kindly agreed to chair the meeting.

4. Chairman's Report

In his absence the Chairman submitted the following report:

He reminded everyone that whilst we were not yet in an official period of 'Purdah', with less than 50 days to go before the General Election, members should not make comments which could suggest that they or NHRA favoured one political party over another - NHRA is apolitical.

Subsequent to the last meeting The Friends of Eastcote House Gardens have written to request a bursary of £100 towards the cost of printing a book on EHG. While EHG

is outside the Ward Boundary residents of Northwood Hills visit and use the gardens and the northern most side, ie the Long Meadow is in the ward. **This was agreed.**

He reminded the Committee that they should also agree a donation to Fairfield for the use of their facilities which could be presented at the forthcoming AGM. Agreed to donate £100.

Post meeting note: the freezer donated last year was supposed to cover 2 years so perhaps £150 offered next April would be more appropriate. Suggest that this is formally agreed at the next Committee meeting.

He also thanked the Secretary, who has been doing a sterling job distributing Hills Echoes to Road Stewards due to the unavailability of PA. He also thanked AL and his wife for allowing their porch to be used as a magazine collection point.

In closing, he apologised for not being able to allocate as much time as normal to NHRA over the last month due to the need to attend an ongoing (extended period) Review Hearing at Ealing Town Hall.

5. Events

Past Events

From the Chairman's report:

Residents Association Annual Supper: Tuesday 3rd March.

He thanked everyone who contributed/helped etc., with the Supper. Feedback has been extremely positive and the entertainment was appreciated by everyone. The magician was generally liked, although it was noted that some do not like audience participation. One impact of having entertainment was that the amount of wine consumed on the night reduced significantly.

Delhi Spicee, who provided a number of portions of food free of charge, would like to offer NHRA members a discount, on production of a Membership Card. The Chairman has written to them to say that we support the idea and in return for the complimentary food they provided at the supper, has offered them a free 1 page advert in the Autumn edition of The Hills Echo. A flyer giving details of the offer was circulated and agreed. **TD** agreed to send it out to the NHRA email list, which currently stands at about 100 residents.

It was agreed that the idea of discounts being offered by local businesses to Members could be extended.

Feedback to the table questionnaires was low:

1 person voted yes to change the logo but keep it simple, 1 person said keep as is. A third did not comment.

3 people supported the idea of buying trees to be used in pavements.

Future Events

AGM: Wednesday 20th May in the main hall of the Northwood UTC.

The request for a speaker from Northwood Headquarters has now been acknowledged but there does appear to be a game of Ping Pong going on between the office of a Lieutenant General and a Major as to which department should provide the speaker. A decision is anticipated before the end of the month.

Rob Bryan of the Police had agreed to attend and would speak if required. It was hoped that Nick Hurd would also be there. A Q&A session with them and the Councillors is to take place.

TD was chasing UTC re the logistics of the meeting, **MG** offered to attend a pre-meeting there with him.

The committee agreed that the Logo was in need of updating. The Banner on the Website, using some artwork from the mural works well, but would not suffice as a logo, which needs to be reproduced in black and white. It was suggested that some ideas could be presented at the AGM and a decision made there. The individuals who helped with some design work for the shop fronts and the person who did the Jubilee event logo Miles Gillman; miles.gillman@btinternet.com, may be able to help. **ARet** to contact.

Big Lunch: Sunday 7th June, was being co-ordinated by Tom Rawling from Fairfield. His email requesting help and a pre meeting had not been received by all the committee. **LM** agreed to forward it.

6. Planning and Environment:

Hillingdon Plan Part 2:

The results of the consultation and changes resulting from the consultation on Part 2 of the Hillingdon Plan were submitted to Cabinet 26th March. The submission was approved by Cabinet. Any changes resulting from the consultation will be the subject of a further consultation. An examination by the Planning Inspectorate in December 2015/January 2016 will follow.

One change made which was requested by the Eastcote Conservation Panel, Ruislip RA, NHRA and Eastcote RA, amongst others was that the wording pertaining to building on gardens should be brought into line with the National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF], The NPPF states that building on gardens should be resisted, however the draft HP referred only to back gardens. This has now been amended to gardens in general.

Requests to give Metropolitan Open Land [MOL] status to the Bessingby Park/ Cavendish Park/Pine Gardens complex and to Warrender Park/Highgrove Woods have been refused. Also, giving dual designation of MOL and Green Chain to the Pinn River meadows was refused. These requests can be put to the Planning Inspector at the examination. Representatives from Eastcote Conservation panel & Friends of Pinn Meadows will take the matters forward at the examination.

Bishop Ramsey School made an application for floodlights for the all-weather pitch, the same as Haydon School. This was withdrawn after considerable local opposition,

including Nick Hurd MP & Sir John Randall MP. A request was made for firmer guidelines to stop these applications being lodged. All schools are within densely populated areas, some adjacent to Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, so floodlights and accompanying noise and the rise in the volume of traffic is not acceptable to man nor beast. The floodlights are required for commercial purposes not for education. The reply was all applications will be judged on their merits. So, more fights ahead.

The committee discussed this at some length. This was the 5th all weather pitch with flood lights application in the local area over the last 2 years or so: Bishop Ramsey, Haydon, Harlyn, Eastcote Hockey club and Northwood School. It was worrying that these applications take up so much resource and finance for them to be heard and then all rejected. Although other central government departments are trying to grow the sporting facilities, these are not often in line with local requirements. The likelihood of central government at some point over turning these decisions was of concern.

Northwood School: The application was heard at the Major Applications Planning Committee held on Tuesday 22nd. It was approved. The demographics of increased numbers of younger children coming through the primary schools inevitably means that the secondary schools need to expand. Although the elderly population of Northwood Hills was growing, there was also certainly an increase in the younger families moving into the area. **DF** to provide a brief report on the meeting.

Letters of objection have been sent regarding the following planning applications:

48 Coniston Gardens: The Dormer Windows in the proposed front elevation would alter the character of the area.

154 Joel Street: 1) this would change the nature and character of the area.

2) It would require the whole front garden to be concreted over with no landscaping - Garden Grab

3) Vehicles would undoubtedly need to reverse out into a main road/bus route. Main roads/bus routes are busy and there is an increased chance of collision due to the presence of more cars on the road. Danger to public safety.

Sirocco, Catlins Lane: The increased height and size of the proposed roof extension would dominate and alter the nature and character of the area.

Langside, Larkwood Rise: 1) The increased height and size of the extension would dominate and alter the nature and character of the area.

2) The dormer window in the front roof elevation would change the nature and character of the area.

A new application had been lodged regarding the area in Fore St, now called 'The Yard'. Few details were available at this stage, although LC was kindly dealing on our behalf with the Council Officers, but seems to be to request to keep it as it is, rather a mess.

Conservation:

1 The backwaters installed in Long Meadow last summer are already showing signs of wildlife moving in. Both have a large quantity of frogspawn. The Friends of Eastcote House Gardens Countryside Conservation Group will continue to monitor all wildlife in the meadow this year and send recordings to the appropriate bodies, as well as managing the meadow.

2 The building work at Eastcote House Gardens is now at least two months behind schedule. However the annual Summer Picnic will still be held on Saturday 6th June 2015 11am-4pm.

3 FEHG Community Archive will have their first publication on sale at the Picnic, Eastcote House & Gardens: The People and the Place. The second - 'Secret Eastcote' detailing the importance of Eastcote during WWII - is at the research stage.

7. Health:

Northwood and Pinner Cottage hospital site: (From Nick Hurd MP's February 2015 E-Bulletin) 'Nick Hurd MP is working with NHS Property Services Ltd, the current site owner, and potential developers. A small team has been formed to explore an alternative development that would upgrade the Northwood Health Centre and incorporate some sheltered housing with extra care for elderly residents.'

8. Transport:

HL reported that the public end of Elgood Avenue was scheduled for resurfacing between 27-30th March.

The METROPOLITAN LINE Croxley Link to Watford Junction has now finally been agreed.

Mike Brown (MD of London Underground and London Rail) issued an update on the improvements planned for Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines and is seeking approval from the Transport for London Board for investment of up to £5.54 billion in the modernisation of these lines. It appears that the contract with Thales for the new signalling has still not been finalised. We are now looking for a completion date for the whole programme of 2022.

The MOTORISTS FORUM will in future probably meet at one of the local libraries.

9. **Police:** No report provided. GM pointed out a Police Federation Advert in the press recently.

10. Treasurer's Report:

FM presented a draft copy of the Accounts that will be presented at the AGM. She reported that some roads do have fewer members than previously and subscriptions are down, despite the rise in the subs. It was agreed that a list of members in each road really was needed and that Road Stewards should in future ensure that subscription collections are handed over with a list of the houses involved. Without this it was impossible to review/monitor the membership.

A possible solution to trying to collect the subs was that of attaching an envelope to The Echo and asking for the money to be dropped into the road steward's house. LM reported that Paul Akers is standing down as Road Steward Co-ordinator, although he will still collect from Hilliard Road. He was thanked for all his work in the role. A new co-ordinator is now needed.

ARly had previously offered to check the costs involved in using a Direct Debit Agency as this may be a way forward. Cash and direct debit collections could be run side by side. A separate membership secretary would probably be needed to administer the scheme.

There was a suggestion that a trial in a couple of roads could be tried, of delivering The Echo to all the houses, with a slip in it asking for a Road Steward. If it was successful, then it could be extended. **TD** to suggest possible roads.

11. Secretary's Report:

Most copies of The Hills Echo have been distributed to the Road Stewards. Some have collected their subs and returned the money, together with the lists of names. A central list of members is now being compiled, so that if a Road Steward were to drop out, the names of their members would be available for someone taking over. (Please note that, to preserve members' privacy, this database will only be shared with the Association's officers and, in part, with the relevant Road Stewards.) We are also looking at ways to set up a system whereby magazines can be distributed, and monies collected, in as quick and efficient way as possible. The possibility of 6 zones within the Ward, with 6 Zone Stewards may be a way forward.

The Secretary had also looked at the grant application forms from the Mayor of London's office regarding Capital Clean-Up. As the main thrust of this is a large-scale community event to deal with one particular eyesore or hazard, it seemed unlikely that we would qualify for a grant, so no application has been made.

All confirmed that if the clean-up days continue, then NHRA tabards are needed (**ARly**). How useful these days are is difficult to judge now, although getting bags and rubbish out from under hedges is needed, but is difficult without the correct equipment.

The Secretary attended as a member of the Ward Police Panel meeting, where the three priorities, or Promises, were agreed as:

- 1 - Anti-social behaviour around the shops in Salisbury Road. DF and PC Max Christmas are following this up and looking at the possibility of having a secure fence and gate erected to the rear, as planned earlier.
- 2 - Burglaries from homes, especially of jewellery. PC Max Christmas has prepared an advice sheet, which has been circulated to all NHRA members with emails and put on the NHRA website.
- 3 - Business security. Sgt Alison Fanton will be extending the scheme already trialled in Northwood, visiting shops and giving advice on security.

He has also attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Hillingdon Alliance of Residents' Associations.

12. The Hills Echo:

As well as a deadline dates for copy and print runs of the magazine, AL requested that the distribution should also have a deadline date, as once the magazines are printed with current dates in them, it is no use if it takes too long for the Road Stewards to deliver them.

To resolve the issue with direct advertising payments, FM agreed to meet with ARly to change the bank account.

13. Councillors' Report: None received.

14. Any Other Business:

Should any group want to advertise on the board at the EHG Fete, please let JB know.

The Northwood RA notice board outside Waitrose seems to be kept quite current, agreed that the one outside NH Station should be updated more frequently, although someone has to take on this task.

The closure of the Polling Station at Northwood School/Northwood Hills Library may well disenfranchise a number of elderly people nearby. The cost savings of this closure was agreed at the council meeting and it was felt that the Ward Councillors should have informed NHRA of this proposal. Now we can only await the vote count to see if the numbers are reduced as a result of this closure, particularly on the roads affected.

Traffic: the comments raised at the last meeting were again discussed at length. LM pointed out that a number of modifications were being looked at, and hopefully, the budgets being sought. These were:

Roundabout: Approaching the roundabout from Pinner and from Joel St, to have a second lane re-instated for as much as possible.

Roundabout Crossings: The crossing by Nisa to be reinstated and the present crossing removed. Change the zebra crossing to the library to a pelican crossing.

Station crossing: Consideration of this being removed as there are now a number of informal crossing points and its removal should help the flow of traffic.

DF and JM were requested to report back to the committee.

Unfinished work: Signage, lighting and pavement repairs have all been raised, as has year round tree lighting. DF and JM were again requested to report back to the committee.

The minor damage to the mural reported at the last meeting has been inspected and is not deemed in need of repair.

General issues: eg fly tipping: all residents were urged to report this to the council contact centre and if it was not subsequently dealt with, then to contact one of the local councillors.

The Northwood Bowling Club celebrates its 80th Anniversary with a Challenge Bowls match between the Northwood and Northwood Hills Councillors on Sunday 10th May.

The Sports Centre in Chestnut Avenue has closed and is reopening as Darwin Wellness.

15. Dates for Next Meetings:

Wednesday 22nd April

(Sunday 26th April - St Georges Day Parade: starting outside Haydon School, Wiltshire Lane, Northwood Hills 1:30pm - finishing at the Hogs Back.)

(Thursday 7th May - General Election)

(Sunday 10th May - Northwood Bowling Club 80th Anniversary Challenge Bowls Match)

(Saturday 16th May - Scout Jumble Sale @ the Hogs Back 1:30pm)

Wednesday 20th May - AGM

(Saturday 6th June - EHG Fete)

Sunday 7th June - The Big Lunch

Wednesday 17th June

Wednesday 15th July

August - no meeting

Friday 11th September - Hills Echo cut-off date (end of week date is simpler)

Wednesday 16th September

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

The meeting closed at 9.30.