

Chairman:
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Secretary:
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NORTHWOOD HILLS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the Committee Meeting held on WEDNESDAY 26th November 2014, 7.30 pm

Present:

Leo Mindel	Vice-Chairman
Tony Lane	President
Trevor Dixon	Secretary
Fiona Morgan	Treasurer
Alan Lester	Editor, Hills Echo
Anila Hashim	Planning
Lynne Halse	Events
Herbert Levinger	Transport
Andrew Retter	Committee Member
Jane Clayfield	Committee Member
Christine Bushell	Committee Member
Pauline Sherman	Road Steward
David Bishop	Resident

In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was taken by the Vice-Chairman.

In the absence of the Minuting Secretary, the minutes were taken by the Secretary.

1. Apologies for Absence received from:

Andrew Riley, Graham Mann, Maxine Goswell, Lesley Crowcroft, Joan Butfield, Duncan Flynn, Lucy Hall

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd October 2014: agreed

3. Matters Arising (that are not tabled as Agenda Items): none

4. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman was not able to attend the meeting but sent in a report.

He thanked everyone (Committee and wider) for his or her help and support in making the Grand Christmas Lights Switch-On event a huge success. It was a great team effort and the smiles on the faces of the younger performers said it all - Please can

we do it again next year? He was also pleased with the support received from the business community, a number of which supported the event for the first time. As in previous years there are a number of learning points that need to be reviewed.

Since the last Committee meeting the Chairman has attended a Ruislip Woods Management Advisory Committee meeting; he also attended the Armistice Day service at Northwood. He met with Rob Jones, the Head of Haydon, to discuss why NHRA has objected to the Haydon School application to install a 3G Astro pitch with floodlights. He has also made comments to LBH about the published plan for the rebuilding of Northwood school - additional parking and fear of possible installation, at a future date, of floodlights to illuminate the sports pitch outside of normal school hours. He has also raised concerns with the Council about a proposal to close the Polling Station at Northwood Hills Library.

A number of emails have been received from residents who live close to Arens Bar and at the suggestion of Cllr Morgan the Chairman will chair a meeting of residents and management of Arens bar on 1st December.

5. Events:

Christmas Lights debriefing:

The general consensus was that the whole event had gone very smoothly and any problems identified were comparatively minor ones.

The following "problem" points were identified:

- 1 - Safety clips for chairs: we need to look at hiring chairs with these built-in.
- 2 - Santa's Grotto: the site would not have been suitable if windy; we agreed to factor this in next year with the possibility of re-siting it. Also to involve a "design team" beforehand and on the day.
- 3 - We need to ensure electricity is available from 8.30
- 4 - Proper securing hooks on front of Namaste for decorations (or a re-think?)
- 5 - Extra help for Get-Out?
- 6 - Dustbins for rubbish
- 7 - Poor signage: we need to print several large banners, for example to advertise the Grotto and restrict parental access backstage.
- 8 - Refreshments for Get-In team: arrange with Whistle Stop for food/drink delivery at a set time?

Plus points identified to:

- 1 - Length/variety of programme
- 2 - Tombola rather than raffle
- 3 - Backstage arrangements
- 4 - Removal of queues for Grotto from Namaste (but see above)

Committee meal: Agreed for Wednesday 17th December. Meet at the William Jolle for 7.00; table to be booked at The Mandarin for 7.30.

Carol Singing: Thursday 18th December, 7.30 - 9.00 at The William Jolle

Thank-You Supper: Tuesday 3rd March

It was agreed to provide the catering "in-house". Pauline agreed to look at menu options. Alan offered to prepare a tabletop quiz. Leo will investigate hiring a magician.

6. Planning and Environment:

Northwood School: Pre-application consultation for the rebuilding of the school. Comments have been submitted by NHRA.

Haydon School: Application for an Astro-turf pitch and floodlights. A number of objections have been submitted by NHRA. Application expected to be on the Agenda for North Planning Committee 9th December 2014.

12, Colchester Road: Also expected to be on 9th December Agenda.

10, Hillside Crescent: Loft conversion & change of roof shape. Regrettably this application has been approved. LC has written to James Rodger asking for an explanation as to why this has been approved, when previously the change from hip to gable end has been resisted by the LPA. Reply awaited.

1A Ravenswood Park: This was refused at appeal. The Planning Inspector stated in his report that the LBH Planning Officer's opinion that two detached houses on this site was preferable to two semi-detached houses was incorrect. The existing planning permission for two semi detached houses is still current.

154 Joel Street: Conversion of a two storey dwelling into 3 flats was refused. Mainly car parking issues and lack of private amenity space.

7. Health:

No report.

8. Transport:

Metropolitan Line: It is expected that the new contract with Thales to provide the signalling update for the Metropolitan Line will be signed shortly. This replaces the contract which Bombardier abandoned after three years of preparatory work, saying that their system was not compatible with the way in which the line was operated. Officially it is claimed that completion will still be achieved by 2018, but I have been told that it is likely that there will be a delay of one year.

HS2: There now seems to be a distinct possibility that the whole project will be cancelled. Apparently it has now been discovered that the cost of the proposed demolition and rebuilding of Euston Station was grossly underestimated, in particular the cost of the surrounding land which needs to be purchased has proved to be substantially higher. There are moreover several major environmental difficulties to be overcome. One thing is perfectly clear, namely that the new station would in any case not be ready for the proposed starting date of the high speed link.

Two alternatives are now being considered. One is to maintain the existing station and build a small separate high speed terminal next to it. The figures for this scheme however do not appear to be very much more favourable than the original one and the environmental issues remain.

The second is to build a separate terminal for the new high speed link at Old Oak Common in Harlesden. While this would dramatically reduce the cost and ease the environmental issues, it destroys the whole concept of HS2 as a city centre to city centre link. There would have to be a connecting link from the terminal into the centre of London and it would mean losing most if not all the time advantage which was the reason for HS2 in the first instance. Boris Johnson has indicated that he would not support HS2 if this option were adopted.

9. Police:

No report.

10. Treasurer's Report:

The Switch-On had approximately broken even.

Expenses to date £1800

Income: Tombola £245

Donations £77

St Johns £500

Also sponsorship from Namaste Lounge and InToto Kitchens, plus LBH grant. The Treasurer stressed that we would need to think about how we fund the event in subsequent years, as the Council grant was not guaranteed.

11. Secretary's Report:

The Secretary attended last week's Ward Panel meeting, which set Police priorities ("promises") for the next three months. The first of these was to concentrate on the shops in Salisbury Road, where there have been continual problems involving youths, plus reports of drug-taking and -dealing.

The Secretary also visited several shops in Joel Street for feedback, but no similar problems had been experienced.

The two other "promises" were to continue speed-checks, especially in Pinner Road and Joel Street; and to promote domestic security, in view of the recent spate of burglaries and the approaching Christmas period.

Membership 2015: Following up earlier suggestions that members be issued with some form of membership card, A Rly has received a mock-up from The Print Shop for perusal/discussion. (Appendix 1)

12. The Hills Echo:

A reminder from Alan that the copy date for the Spring edition is 9th February.

There had also been problems due to the set-up with the Nationwide account, which meant that advertisers who paid in using credit transfer could not be identified, so

Alan was unable to determine who needed to be reminded. A change of account to a different bank should overcome this.

13. Councillors' Report:

No report.

14. Dates for Next Meetings:

Thursday 18th December - Evening of Community Carols

December - no meeting

Wednesday 21st January 2015

Monday 9th February - Hills Echo cut-off date

Wednesday 25th February

Tuesday 3rd March - Thank You Supper

Wednesday 25th March

Wednesday 22nd April

Saturday 25th April - Northwood Hills Clean-Up Day

(Thursday 7th May - General Election)

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

15. Any Other Business:

1 - An adult gym had been installed without publicity at Ruislip Lido.

2 - A decision on whether to hold Independents' Day in 2015 needs to be made.

3 - The Clean-Up Day had become less effective and we ought to think of an alternative, perhaps involving the schools or the Council, or both.

4 - It was agreed that the Christmas lights looked effective.

5 - Jales and her team were very pleased overall with the results of the regeneration, although there were still a few details to be put right.

6 - As the larger equipment, specifically staging and PA, was sometimes damaged in use or transit, a donation of £50 per hire was agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.30.

**Appendix 1:
Mock-Up of Membership Card:**

The following amendments are proposed:

- 1) Registered Charity being removed
- 2) Membership Card for the year date being changed to 20__
- 3) (for the year 31/12/15) being removed - it's duplication
- 4) An apostrophe being added to the word Residents'

Member(s) Name(s):
Mr/Mrs/Ms

.....

Address:

.....

.....

Amount Paid £.....
(for year to 31.12.15)

Date:

**NORTHWOOD HILLS
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Registered Charity No. *****.

Membership Card to 31st December 2015

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Subscriptions received £.....