

Wilford Community Group

The Tenants and Residents Association for Wilford

Minutes of the Committee Meeting
held on Thursday 1st May 2003
at Nottingham Moderns RFC

Present:	David Boulton (DB)	Chairman
	Sheila Atherton (SA)	Treasurer
	Roger Steel (RS)	Vice Chairman
	Josie Foster (JF)	Minute Secretary
	Kate Clark (KC)	
	Brian Clark (BC)	

ACTION

1 Apologies

Brendan Clarke-Smith
Revd D Rowe

Absent

Mike Cathcart
Jonathan Shewell-Cooper

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes were approved

3 Review Actions from Previous Meeting

3.1 Consultation on the embankment footpath

DB met with John Lee on the 1st April and reported the conclusions of the consultation exercise. They met again on 23rd April when he agreed in principle to the proposals but stated there would still have to be a formal consultation. However, in the circumstances it was felt appropriate to wait until after the local elections. The Environment Agency would be happy to provide screening for those properties on Hunters Close and Chancery Court who require this. More effective barriers will be placed at the other end of the 'B' bank footpath to prohibit cyclists.

3.2 Removal of Flashing Signs

We have received written confirmation they will be removed during the sometime during the next six months. It was agreed that we should ask if the signs could be removed before the AGM. DB will progress this.

DB

3.3 Meeting with NET

RS has been in touch with NET but no meeting has so far been arranged. To be carried over to next meeting.

RS

3.4 Website

Reworking of the 'About Wilford/map' page is still required. SA has provided photographs of the flooded areas of Wilford.

SA

ACTION

- 3.5 Bollards on the Village Green
The requirements for placing bollards around the green are 80 posts, 18 inches high one of the posts will be lockable for mower access. The village green is owned by the Highways Department, so far they have not been contacted. DB to chase. DB
- 3.6 Wheelchair Access to the footpath on Coronation Avenue
This is restricted and DB will take up this issue with the Highways Department when discussing the bollards for village green. DB
- 3.7 Unsightly pole and bad positioning of Road Sign on Corner of Holly Avenue
No feedback from RS. Carried over to the next meeting. RS
- 3.8 Newsletter
JSC was not present to report on the progress of co-ordinating distribution of the Newsletter with the Church Magazine. Carried over to the next meeting. JS-C
- 3.9 Track behind Vernon Avenue and other related footpaths
DB has liaised with City Council and met with John Lee on site on 1st April and walked both routes. If the footpath behind Vernon Avenue is adopted the Residents whose properties back on to this track will be required to cut back overhanging bushes and shrubs. RS stated that last year the City Council cut back along this track. BC said the council could undertake this work but may invoice the people concerned. The footpath to the south of Vernon Avenue has already been cut back and pedestrians are now able to walk all the way through to link up with other footpaths in the area. John Lee did not think the path was wide enough to permit access by motor bikes. RS was concerned that it would become a rat run.
- A barrier was needed at Coronation Avenue and the Emmanuel School may place one here.
- The Allotment Association and a Vernon Avenue resident has requested a gate be placed across the track behind Vernon Avenue to prevent vehicular access. Mr Lee measured the path and it was not wide enough for a gate and pedestrian access so he felt it should remain open and that it was a sufficient enough deterrent for the bollard already in place further down the track. A resident said he was not happy with this arrangement, as the bollard was very rarely in place to prevent vehicular access, if necessary the fence along the boundary of his allotment could be taken back to its original position to allow for the provision of a gate and pedestrian access. RS would speak to Lol Ryan, who is the key holder to the bollard, and ask him to keep it in place. It was suggested that anyone seeing unauthorised vehicles along this track should note the time, date and registration and report it to the police. RS also agreed to investigate whether the post could be placed immediately after the allotments gate to prevent speeding along the track. RS
- 3.10 Dog fouling was an issue raised by a resident, however, Mr Lee has said no to the installation of bins as they were often set on fire. As there are no signs about dog fouling is it possible to request again for a bin to be placed at the corner of Coronation Avenue and Main Road on the approach to the Toll Bridge. A request also for the existing bin on the 'B' bank to be emptied more frequently. KC/BC were asked if they would contact the relevant people and see what could be done, if anything, on this issue. KC/BC
- 3.11 Free bulbs for Nottingham in Bloom
RS agreed to take responsibility for finding suitable locations and will report back at the in time for bulbs to be acquired in September. The committee gave suggestions for various sites for bulb planting such as by the Co-op, the triangle of grass near the Harvester, the corner of Bader Road and Main Road, the corner of Chancery Court and Main Road and to complete the squares along the 'B' bank. JF mentioned that if planting were taking place in the Autumn are the Committee aware that cherry trees were going to be planted in the Church area, these are being provided by the monies remaining from the Millennium celebrations in 2000. RS also mentioned that Bellway were also planting trees near the church drive. RS

ACTION

3.12 Planning Application – Fixings House

DB has received a letter from the Planning Department saying this particular has been turned down the application on the basis that this type of housing is inappropriate for the area.

3.13 Location of Notice Boards

DB has had a meeting with Parbinder Singh from the Area Committee and located two prime sites, namely at the Co-op and South Wilford School. The Co-op Community Projects Manager is willing to have a board placed on the wall but will have to speak to their Property Department. DB is awaiting details from Parbinder Singh for siting a board on the wall of the School.

DB

4 Chairman’s Report

Another local business has been placed on the web site. DB has written to all the local retail outlets but apart from the three already on the web site, he has had no further replies. It was suggested that local Painters/Decorators and Building Contractors be contacted. It was suggested that the businesses that advertise in the Church newsletter be approached. DB will progress this.

DB

D Wilson has lodged an appeal about the time it is taking to receive planning permission for their development, however, the appeal has been withdrawn. DB agreed to find out what this actually meant for the application.

DB

Lesley Lowe has forwarded a new version of a Tenant Participation Compact which mainly concerns Council Tenants. DB will contact Lesley Lowe initially to find out how many properties are council owned in Wilford.

DB

DB has received via MC a letter from the Youth Offending Group detailing a new option for dealing with young offenders, Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme. SA will read and report back to committee if it could be of any use to us as a group.

SA

5 Treasurer’s Report

SA reported that monies received since the previous meeting was £10 for the new business placed on the web site and approximately £34 in donations from the Public Meeting.

ACTION

6 Review of Public Meeting

DB asked if there were any comments or alterations the Committee wished to make to the minutes of the Public Meeting. There were none, therefore, DB will post the Minutes on to the web site.

DB

A resident remarked that it was a very positive move to have the Police attend a Public Meeting.

Crime Prevention Officer details will be added to the web site together with the phone number for anonymous callers.

RS posed the question – what are we doing as a Group to help the police? We could invite a Field Intelligence Officer to attend a closed meeting in order to advise us on how we can achieve this. RS to progress.

RS

RS stated that the Rugby Club is trying to encourage 18 year olds and as they become part of the stable community could encourage the younger teenagers to have a better care of the community. It was pointed out that younger children need adult supervision and they would not be allowed to come and go at the Rugby Club without this supervision.

There are concerns about certain properties in Wilford, which may at some point, have police high covert CCTV cameras placed on them.

These are issues that have to be addressed and will be picked up by the Field Intelligence Officer.

7 Annual General Meeting

This will be on Thursday 24th July and suggestions for a suitable venue are the Beckett School on Ruddington Lane or South Wilford School, RS will contact the schools to see if either is available.

RS

The election procedure dictates that all the current committee stand down and the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary are voted in. Each of these positions must have a nomination and a seconder. An independent person will be invited to oversee the meeting. Potential candidates were suggested and DB will make approaches.

DB

An auditor has to be appointed for the coming year and SA agreed to undertake this arrangement.

SA

After the election there will be a break for refreshments, the selling of raffle tickets and for the committee members to be available to take note of residents issues.

Raffle tickets £1 a strip, JF volunteered to organise and run the raffle. BC offered a bottle of wine for one of the prizes.

JF

8 Sub-Committees

DB suggested that to move forward more quickly it maybe easier to have three-member sub-committees who will report back at the committee meetings. Suggestions for three sub-committees would be headed up as Young People, Planning & Development and Fundraising. DB suggested that these would be run as follows:

Young People – SA (Chair), BC, KC
Planning & Development – DB (Chair), JS-C, MC
Fundraising – RS (Chair), JF, DR

RS said he would prefer to work in another area in particular the environment and young people and not as suggested fundraising. He would prefer to work under the heading of Community and Environment. DB explained that this would be covered by the Planning & Development committee and that the motivation behind the suggestion was to exploit people's strengths and experiences – SA had volunteered to lead the Young People committee and asked that BC and KC work with her, with which they agreed; DB had built up some good relationships with relevant City Council departments and felt that JS-C and MC had the experience of dealing with such groups, especially Council departments (JS-C) and the Environment Agency/Severn Trent (MC); at previous meetings, RS had made it clear that he has established contacts with many organisations and DB wanted the Group to exploit this, along with experience of fundraising gained by JF with the WI and DR.

RS also expressed a concern that he felt that he did not have enough time to dedicate to a sub-committee. DB stressed that the Fundraising committee would only be required to devote a significant amount of effort when a specific fundraising project had been set up. As this was not the case, and was not likely to be in the near future, little effort would be required in the immediate future.

RS questioned the effectiveness of the Planning and Development sub-committee in major matters such as the developments at Wilford House and Wilford Green. DB agreed that it was unlikely that the Group would prevent such developments, but it was important for all that the Group made its views known to the Council Planning Department. A resident agreed that the Group must be seen to be doing this; otherwise the credibility of the group would be eroded very quickly.

DB said that the progress made by the Group on matters such as the Embankment footpath, barriers on the Bee Bank footpath, adoption of the Vernon Avenue/Holly Avenue footpaths and the removal of the fluorescent signs near South Wilford School showed that the Committee could be very effective in issues that may seem small, but matter to residents.

A resident mentioned at this point that a survey was underway to review the tree situation in Wilford and that on Grange Close a tree has had an order placed on it for pruning or felling in six months time. We should take up this matter and see what the City Council is proposing. DB stated that no information had been received from the City Council regarding this matter in the Weekly List of Planning Applications.

9 Fundraising

To be left open until we have a particular project to aim for.

ACTION

10 Any Other Business

RS said the road sweeper was back to its early morning run and does not do Holly Avenue. RS agreed to contact Councillor Tim Spencer to determine the arrangement.

RS

RS would speak to Bellway and try and get them to improve the site line for the trees. He would also speak to them about the property fronting on to the pavement and suggest that it would look better with a small garden and some railings.

RS

The Meeting closed at 10.30 pm

SignedDavid Boulton (Chairman)

Dated5th June 2003