

# Wilford Community Group

The Tenants and Residents Association for Wilford

## Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2003 at Moderns RFC

Present:	David Boulton (DB)	Chair
	Sheila Atherton (SA)	Treasurer
	Roger Steel (RS)	Vice Chair
	Josie Foster (JF)	Minute Secretary
	Kate Clark (KC)	
	Brendan Clarke-Smith (BCS)	
	Tim Spencer (TS)	

Invited Guest: Mr John Lee from the Public Highways Authority

Chairman, David Boulton, welcomed Mr Lee and visitors to the meeting.

The meeting opened with Tim Spencer explaining about the origins of the right of way along the riverbank from Clifton Lane to Bell Lane. This has been a right of way since 1870 and he was looking into the legalities of moving the footpath to the side of the river. John Lees was introduced to the meeting and invited to state the facts, as he knew them to be.

Mr Lees said he knew this to be a sensitive issue for everyone in Wilford and went on to explain the position of the Environment Agency who was responsible for the flood bank.

The Environment Agency had increased the height of the flood protection bank when repairs to the flood defences were carried out and if horses, cyclists and motorbikes continued use it will eventually require further work to repair. The Environment Agency would prefer the public not to use the flood bank.

It had decided to create a new footpath and with advice from the EA a new lower footpath was made from the River Users Car Park by Clifton Bridge along the side of the Fairham Brook through to Bell Lane. At this time the school walking bus was being formed and a path from the Harvester Car Park was made to link up with the footpath. The top of the flood bank had never had a Right of Way, and until 1988 the City Council had responsibility for Public Rights of Way on the footpath but did not undertake their duties and it became the responsibility of the EA at that time.

The situation at the moment is that a steel fence is on order and is about to be erected; this is being done to protect the flood bank. The Environment Agency feels that the continued unauthorised use of the flood bank will cause damage and the bank is there for the protection of the whole of Wilford. If there was strong objection to the steel fencing John Lee suggested that Chairman David Boulton should email him and suggest an

alternative path be made along the top of the flood bank if we felt that was a better solution. Mr Lees agreed he could put a stop to the steel fencing being erected by a phone call the following morning (Friday 28/02).

A member from the floor stated the case for not having the flood bank fenced off. She was concerned about the lack of notification from the Environment Agency of their intention to erect a steel fence, to which Mr Lee replied, that in the future we are all going to be consulted about any changes.

The discussion drew to a close, Mr Lees was invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting but as he had had a very long day at work he excused himself from the meeting.

## **ACTION**

### **1 Apologies**

Mike Cathcart  
Brian Clark  
Jonathan Shewell-Cooper  
Revd David Rowe

### **2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes were approved.

### **3 Chairman's Report**

DB said that he had now set up the web site and was looking for contributions and comments on format and layout. The web site is only going to cost the group £6.09 for 2 years. More about the Web Site later.

Correspondence: DB had written to South Wilford School about the walking bus and signage asking for their comments.

Response from the school was that the walking bus could not function without supervision, it required someone to organise and run the scheme. Originally the responsibility came from parents who lived in Wilford Village and so far there had been no response from parents outside the Village area to run the scheme. The walking bus requires 4 adults as a minimum. As a resident the Head Teacher had no strong feelings about the signage.

If the school eventually resurrects the walking bus, the signage and flashing lights, will be required.

DB to investigate the removal of signage and to find out who would be responsible for this.

DB

## ACTION

The Tram - DB did not wish the Group to be too involved with the rights and wrongs of the tram however, the committee felt we should be pro-active and get more details, have a public meeting and listen to everyone's views.

TS finds it difficult to support the tram at moment as he feels that currently the proposed route is not suitable for the well being of residents with particular reference to where the sub stations and stops are being sited.

RS agreed that whilst not being involved specifically we had a duty to residents to gather information on issues involving tram stops, car parking etc.

We have to ensure that no traffic comes over the Toll Bridge but details of the tram route will not be available for some months yet.

A lot of concern has been expressed with regard to parking and how it will affect residents close to the tram route/stops, there has been mention of residents parking permits.

It was agreed we should write to NET, Mr Bates at Lawrence House and arrange a meeting. DB would prefer two committee members with differing views on the tram to attend this meeting RS and BCS offered to go on our behalf and put a balanced view across to Mr Bates without expressing views but seeking information on how it will affect the residents of Wilford.

RS/BCS

### 4 **Treasurer's Report**

The funding should be in the banking account by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Fund Raising: SA has been in touch with Nottingham in Bloom, Awards For All and information about the National Lottery can be obtained from a web site. Other web sites are Halifax Community Affairs, Civic Trust. Trafford Hall has training course details.

The money placed in our box at the Ferry Inn during January (£8.97) to be returned to them at their request. Apparently it was a tip placed there by mistake.

SA

### 5 **Area Committee Update**

BCS and TS had attended the Area Committee meeting but there was nothing spoken of that affected Wilford. Wilford needs a notice board to inform residents of the dates of meetings and to make residents aware

DB

**ACTION**

of the Area Committee. Where would be the best place to site a notice board? DB would make this an Agenda item for the next committee meeting.

TS commented that a Notice Board would need planning permission and he would get in touch with Contract Works. TS

**6 Vote to co-opt Mr Geoffrey Bennett onto the Committee**

Mr Bennett was not in attendance at the meeting, therefore, this item was not acted upon.

**7 Vote to appoint Mr Bennett to the position of Secretary**

As item 6

**8 Plans for the Public Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April – Crime and Policing in Wilford**

This meeting will be held at the Emanuel School at 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm and there should be ample parking for visitors. It was agreed that there would not be sufficient time to have refreshments. The meeting will be led by Inspector John Woodward and Wilford Beat Officer, Jon Cooper, will be in attendance and would like to be aware of any questions he will have to answer.

It will be advertised within Newsletter Nr 2 and DB asked for volunteers to help with a door to door letter drop. A4 posters put on lampposts. To help with the expense of producing the Newsletter and Posters SA to find out if her work place were prepared to photocopy these on our behalf. SA

Boxes were to be placed as previously for people to place their pre-notified questions. Any questions from the Committee to be given at the next committee meeting. DB

**9 Web Site Review**

Any business wishing to have a link through our web site would have to pay a fee but at the moment, until it is up and running, say after six months, then we would have to have a meeting with those concerned and agree the fee to be charged. The first six months would be free for name address and telephone Nr. A contribution would be appreciated DB

**ACTION**

for further information. It was suggested that a full page advert would cost £50, a link to the web site a negotiated fee.

Job Vacancies – would be negotiated.

Houses for Sale or Rent – this particular page is under development

When advertising we must make it known that we hold no responsibility for what is advertised.

SA to suggest improvements to the “About Wilford” page.

SA

**10 Any Other Business**

1. Wilford House Development. DB asked, as a Group do we approve of the plans, there are no specific plans for traffic, any plans for children’s playing area. There will also be a considerable impact on local schools. A resident had posed the question “Is it Listed Land?” A City Surveyor had replied to DB that there is no such thing as Listed Land. DB had written to the Planning Department that it is a “special site”, reduce the amount of dwellings, to make allowance for a green area and access.
2. SA had seen some publicity for the Play Group and wondered if they would like to be included in the Newsletter. DB said he would ask Ann Mason if they would like to be included in the website. DB
3. Bollards around the village green – write to Planning Department, Lawrence House, Nottingham to see if bollards (preferably shorter than those on Coronation Avenue) could be put in place to protect the green during development work and thereafter. DB
4. There is a lack of wheelchair access along Coronation Avenue due to bollards and trees obstructing the pavement. A letter to the City Council will be drafted. RS
5. BT has placed an unsightly pole on village green. A letter to BT will be drafted. RS
6. Holly Avenue sign is wrongly sited, when driving it is very difficult to see traffic approaching from the right. A letter to the appropriate authority will be drafted. RS
7. The street cleaning vehicle is quite ineffective because of the parked vehicle on Vernon Avenue early in the morning, could something TS

**ACTION**

be done about it coming later in the morning when there are less vehicles etc on the avenue. TS said that he would contact the City Council Cleansing Department.

**11 Date of Next Meeting**

This will be Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2003 7.30 pm at the Rugby Club.

**Signed:** David Boulton.....(Chairman)

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> March 2003.....