

Wilford Community Group

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Monday 18th July 2011 7.30 pm at Wilford Social and Bowls Club

Present: Committee:
Andrew Rule (AR) Chairman
Peter Stiles (PBS) Treasurer
Sheila Atherton (SA)
Daniel Atherton (DA)
Alan Foster (AF)
Brian Hardy (BH)
Bill Roughton (BR)
Frank Wakelin (FW)

Official Representatives:
Cllr Roger Steel (RS)
Parbinder Singh (PS) Neighbourhood Action Officer
CPO Allan Wadley

Residents:

Action

1 Apologies

Dave Boulton; Maureen Godfrey; PC Matt Pooley

- 2 After the official business of the AGM and the election of Officers and Committee Andrew Rule took the chair in his new capacity as Chairman. Steph Taylor and Josie Foster resigned from the Committee and Alan Foster was elected as a new member of the committee.

3 Review of Outstanding Actions Wilford Library/Asset Transfer

AR had been unable to contact Naomi Diamond of Development Trust Association but hoped to do so by the September meeting of the WCG and hoped to inform the group of progress. **AR**

A resident asked what was happening about the opening of a Post Office in Wilford. RS has been involved with this situation and informed the meeting that it was, in the words of the Post Office, a "Temporary Closure" until suitable accommodation could be found. However, when re-opened it would be a "local only" Post Office which means it will not be selling licences, car taxes etc. RS was unsure about the payment of pensions and card usage and cheques. It was mentioned that cheque facilities would stay as long as there is a demand certainly for the next 7 years.

RS said there was indications from some local residents, who were experienced with working in a Post Office, that they would be interested in running such a post office, the position would command a salary of £15,000. Whether the post office would be new build or renovation of the old library would depend largely upon information about an Asset Transfer. Parbinder Singh said whatever route was taken, a Business Plan would be needed and The Development Trust Association would be able to advise.

RS stated that a Post Office is not the only requirement, as indicated from a questionnaire circulated among residents, suggestions were made for a café, community centre etc. Finally, the Asset Transfer was originally £10.00 This was unlikely to be the case now, and to purchase the site we are looking at long term funding from whatever source is available to us.

4 Street Lighting

(RS) reported that Residents of Westerfield Way, Silverdale had recently had a meeting with the Environmental Agency because of concerns about the new lighting and the flood bank. They were informed that the integrity of the bank would not be affected by the lighting and the residents had won their case for the new lighting to be situated on the flood bank.

RS went on to talk about the lighting issues in Wilford in particular that some of the new street lamps had been placed in the trees along the Bee Bank, by the Church gate and Church Cottage among shrubbery thereby preventing the lamps from doing a proper job. RS is dealing direct with Council Officers. **RS**

5 Victoria Embankment

An email has been sent to the WCG asking for support to stop the Council giving a permanent Alcohol Licence to be sold from Trent Bridge to the Toll Bridge meaning that no applications need be made in the future. This will mean that events, such as the Riverside Festival, will be able to run a bar until 11.30 pm and music can be played until 2.00 am. RS said this could affect Wilford Residents particularly if the wind is in the right direction. However, apparently a licence has already been granted.

6 Wind Turbines

FW told the meeting that in the same email mention had been made of a wind turbine on the Embankment and was concerned about the noise level as well as the aesthetics, should we follow through with this.

The meeting then discussed the proposed three Wind Turbines on Clifton Grove. Planning Application will be available next week (25th July) for 28 days. RS to find out a definite date by which we can make comments on plans. RS reminded residents that these would have a visual effect on Wilford. BR said not everyone is opposed to Wind Turbines.

These turbines were costing in the region of £10 million pounds and would need replacing in 10 years. They were for the sole use of Student accommodation owned by Nottingham Trent University and it was a Government grant making them viable.

ST had attended a public meeting but when she had asked how the turbines were powered no-one had any technical knowledge to answer the question.

The discussion on the wind turbines concluded that the WCG keep a careful eye on the situation.

As yet there is no legislation on how far turbines should be sited from private property. PS said it was classed as a semi-urban area.

RS said that the Clifton Grove Community Group are concerned about the turbines with regard to health issues being paramount and suggested that the WCG should contact the Clifton Grove group and discuss their findings, as they had been researching on the internet the effect of Wind Turbines. ST thought she had a contact number and would pass this on. **ST**

No decision was made about whether to contact the resident from the Meadows, Jonathon Hughes.

7 Crime Update from an email sent by Matt Pooley

Summary of crime figures recorded in Wilford (not Silverdale) from 1/1/11 -15/7/11

Theft from motor vehicle = 6 crimes

Dwelling burglary = 5 crimes

Violence = 2 crimes

Robbery = 5 crimes

Burglary Other = 13 crimes (this is burglary at commercial properties and garage/shed breaks)

Theft Other = 9 crimes

Theft from shop = 3 crimes

Drugs = 2 crimes

Criminal Damage = 4 crimes

8 Iremongers Pond

BR reported that £50,000 had been raised and spent on footpaths around the pond and various other works. The pond had received 4 awards but this was not the aim of the Pond Committee it was more about making a good environment for everyone to enjoy. Nottingham in Bloom will be visiting again in a few weeks.

Unfortunately dog fouling had become worse, no doubt, because of the pleasant surroundings the area had become more popular with the public. The pros and cons of having dog waste dispensers; PS was of the opinion that it discouraged dog owners from taking their own bags and that prosecution is a better way to prevent fouling. Signs could be an advantage. A resident reported that since the Becket School had closed on Ruddington Lane dog fouling had increased on the playing field.

The council no longer collected rubbish from the pond area due to financial cuts apparently the cost of providing this service is £250.

9 Public Meeting with Lillian Greenwood MP

The question was asked why has Lillian Greenwood been invited? BH said it was his idea basically because she had been very helpful on several occasions namely the Library closure and to give local residents an opportunity to ask any relevant questions or concerns with the area. The congested A453 would be one subject to be debated and it was up to others to put forward their questions.

Her office has offered Friday 14th October as a date for her visit.

SA queried who would be paying for the publicity, hire of hall etc. As we had invited Lillian Greenwood to a public meeting it was suggested the WCG should fund the evening, however, PS said that MP's funded these meetings; RS said that LG is being asked as part of a Public Surgery. PS said we should put the question to her office.

It was suggested that we invite older students from Emanuel and Becket Schools to participate.

SA said because of the imminent school holidays and the fact that the WCG do not have another meeting until September, by which time it would be too late to organise publicity, it is urgent that the WCG make this a priority as of now.

A sub-committee was formed with Andrew Rule, Brian Hardy, Peter Stiles, Sheila Atherton and Daniel Atherton. Meeting date Wednesday 27th July at 7.30 pm at Wilford Social & Bowls Club. BH suggested a Newsletter be produced and SA offered to help with getting one under way.

AR would take on the task of booking a meeting place immediately.

AR

10 Becket School Site on Ruddington Lane

RS had organised and publicised a meeting to those residents on Ruddington Lane, Bradbourne Avenue and Launceston Crescent, as they were the ones most affected by the new housing estate. 44 residents attended this meeting; Andrew Rule took the minutes of the meeting.

There is planning permission for Taylor Wimpey to build 121 properties of a mixed design, including affordable housing and two storey properties with gable ends. The main concern was regarding fence height and where the affordable housing would be located. Bradbourne Avenue housing is all bungalows and residents were very concerned about being overlooked. RS has taken their concerns to Council but he advised all residents to write personally with their concerns on how they will be affected, the number of letters received will be taken into account.

Residents on Ruddington Lane residents were not happy with the road humps, as vehicles, mainly lorries and skips, start along the Lane as early as 4.30 am and the noise is very disturbing. The road humps will be removed and replaced with two raised platforms, pedestrian crossing and speed indicator signs.

The consultation period is now closed.

A resident wanted to know if RS knew the time scale between demolition of the school and building. RS would look into the matter. DA raised concern about trespassing on the site and breaking into school for gigs and spoke of "Urban Archaeologists". RS said the police were using it for training dogs and there was a good strong fence around the site. Concern was also expressed about vehicle parking and what provision is being made. RS said that there would be properties with garages, parking bays and on street parking. **RS**

Allan Wadley reported that 3 people had been arrested on site.

ST was disappointed at RS for not making the WCG aware of the meeting in view of the fact that at the June WCG meeting it had been discussed how to encourage residents in that area to become involved with the WCG. AR said he had been asked by RS to take the minutes of the meeting and he had taken the opportunity to publicise the WCG and of the forthcoming AGM.

11 Any Other Business

a) A resident raised the subject of the removal of railings at the crossroads and how dangerous it had become with pedestrians now crossing anywhere along that stretch of road and were they going to be replaced. They had been removed to facilitate the fixing of new lampposts and they railings were not being replaced.

b) SA said thank you to Stephanie Taylor for her work on the committee and Chairman for the last two years, and as a token, the committee members had donated monies for a garden gift voucher, wishing her well in her new home.

The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Next Meeting 19th September 2011 7.30 pm at Wilford Social and Bowls Club.

.....
Andrew Rule

.....
Date

Chairman

Action