

NORTHAW & CUFFLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of meeting held
11 October 2018

Present:

Andrea Allgood – Chair
Diane Draper – Treasurer
Trevor Scammell – Vice Chair
Susan Ashby – Membership Secretary
David Ashby
Martyn Folland
Michael Green
Tony Chappell
Janice Randall
Fred Allgood

Apologies: Debi O’Sullivan, Anna Sharkey (Minutes taken by Fred Allgood)

Conflicts: None reported.

Agenda Item 3 – Minutes

After some discussion it was agreed that in view of the complexity of the Constitution redrafting process vis a vis the main committee, a sub-group should meet to consider the re-draft.

It was agreed to convene a meeting re the Website on Thursday 18th October 2018 at 7.30pm at 20 The Meadway. Invitees were: AA, AS?, DA and DO’S. **Action: AA, AS, DA and DO’S.**

SA reported that membership reminder letters had been successful - current paid-up membership was now over 500 households. But some had paid twice and were notified/ refunded. Some refund cheques had not been banked. It was decided that in future members should have their membership rolled over. **Action: SA.**

The Committee agreed to donate £100 towards the cost of a Willow Arch in the new KGV play area. Corrections to the previous minutes were agreed (Green Belt Plans and para 9.3). **Action: FA to liaise with AS re agreed amendments.**

Agenda Item 4 – Matters Arising

It was reported that

- Welhat had refused the application to open a Nail Bar on Station Road.
- Northaw Action Group had been successful in presenting its case against the latest Wood Green Timber application at the Coopers Lane wood yard (greenbelt), with Welhat Planning Committee members soundly rejecting the application at their last meeting. The Committee welcomed NAG’s notable success here.
- Welhat was convening a joint hearing to discuss all aspects of the Colesdale Farm Events (subject of numerous nuisance complaints - AA attending).
- There was sparse information on Welhat’s progress (or lack of it) on planning infringements/enforcement actions relating to activities at Judges, Northaw.

Agenda Item 5 – NCRA Administration

There were no issues to discuss.

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

DD reported that she had a further £10 of members’ subscriptions to pay in. The Committee agreed to reimburse AS £64 to replace the gazebo destroyed by the team dismantling it on Village Day. **Action: DD and AA**

Agenda Item 7 – Planning Update

It was reported that Welhat had received 30 objections from members to the revised “retirement” house planning application adjacent to the new public footpath between Starling and Oak Lanes.

AA reported that she had objected to the application to add an additional top storey onto the small development to the rear of the Lambs Close flats. The proposal included a plastic “living wall”, with a reported life of only 3 years!

AA gave the Committee a resume of progress to date on the further review of the Welhat Local Plan by the Planning Inspector.

Following a joint PC, SCANGB & NCRA meeting the Parish Council had engaged Planning Consultant’s Troy to carry out a speedy review of Welhat’s methodology in its further Local Plan review (requested by the PI following his own review of the original Welhat Plan). Troy had done a thorough review in a short space of time (under 2 weeks). The Inspector has now asked Troy to present their findings to the Inspector on 6th November 2018. Given that this revolved around high-level planning issues – probably beyond the average layperson – it was agreed that the Committee should simply monitor outcomes.

TC praised the quality of Barry Knickell’s (SCANGB) paper following the joint meeting that he had emailed to interested parties and SCANGB and NCRA members, outlining developments and Troy’s proposed review. TC considered – and the Committee agreed – that BK had produced a really excellent paper that distilled the facts and laid out the issues in layman’s terms.

SA asked whether Potters Bar has a residents’ association. The consensus was that one was being established and that we could perhaps liaise with them on matters of mutual interest as and when they started to operate.

AA reported that she had an hour-long discussion with our new Borough Councillor, Simon Wren, at his recent Saturday morning surgery at the Parish Office. She considered that this had been productive and that he was a BC we could work with. He had been helpful in leading the way on Welhat Councillors overturning their Officers’ decision on the Wood Green Timber appeal. She also said Bernard Sarson was a Councillor we could approach to speak on our behalf.

Agenda Item 8 – Website

Dealt with earlier.

Agenda Item 9 – Precis Reports

9.1 Neighbourhood Watch

AA handed out leaflets on doorstep and on phone “scams”. MF indicated how the Web browser could be used to block unwanted and spurious numbers. The upshot was Committee agreement to include a note on scam prevention in the NCRA section of the Christmas edition of the Parish Update Magazine. **Action: AA.**

9.2 Police/PCSO

There were no reports/presence. It was some time since there had been any Police/PCSO action vis a vis NCRA. AA agreed to remind AS to ask the PCSO to pencil in for a much-needed update. **Action: AS.**

9.3 Parish Council

AA reported that the Parish Clerk was on extended sick leave - some 6 weeks – on following annual leave. This had strained the PC's resources as the remaining staff are part-time employees. The PC would meet on Friday evening in part to discuss the way ahead/how to cover the Clerk's absence at this time – there was a significant backlog of work. The former bookkeeper (employed on a sub-contract basis), who had resigned, may agree to return to operate the SAGE accounting system on which the PC's financial systems are based. Carol Branigan (Deputy Clerk) is covering the Clerk's priority work, with Parish Councillors volunteering to cover "front of office" functions (4 days/12 hours per week).

MF reported that he had suggested - and Sally Pollitt (PC Chair) had agreed – to introduce a comments book so that the PC is aware of current "hot" topics.

9.5 Cuffley Hall

MF reported that a pre-Christmas Whist Drive is planned.

AA reported that the PC is funder of last resort for the Hall. The plan is for the PC to assume responsibility for all costs associated with maintaining the fabric of the building, which could involve major expenditure, and for the Hall Committee to continue to fund the internals. But this is work in progress at present.

9.6 Footpath Monitoring

FA reported that he had walked the Parish public footpaths last Sunday and they were generally in a good state. He had submitted his report directly to Dawn Grocock (HCC Rights of Way) so as to relieve over-stretched PC staff of the chore. His walk had been uneventful until the very final part – walking up FP1 (The Dell) towards Cuffley Ridgeway. He found a dead horse lying by the side of the path. Following contact with Herts Police he had established that the horse had been severely damaged by becoming enmeshed in barbed wire. The RSPCA had responded earlier and had euthanized the animal and were to remove the carcass (problematic given the location). The latter had not been done and FA agreed to a Police request to return to the Dell that day and report back - the carcass was still there. However, later in the week FA noted that the FP had been closed by notice on the entrance gate. **Action: FA to follow-up to ensure the Dell FP has been re-opened.**

9.7 PPG Update

It was reported that the Goffs Oak/Cuffley practice now has two partners. Also that there has been a hiatus in deliveries of the triple Flu vaccine for over-65s, with sessions cancelled. The programme should recommence on 23rd October.

Agenda items 10/11 – Residents' Issues/Co-opting Members

None.

Agenda item 12 – Any Other Business:

MF asked how the requirement to amend the NCRA constitution transpired. AA explained the background.

SA complained that cutting back the bushes on Northaw Road East (bottom of Colesdale) had resulted in leaf/branch litter being left on the pavement, MF agreed to take a look and report back. He mentioned the problems Cuffley faced generally regarding dumping of rubbish (eg outside Simmons) – the identity of the dumpers is unknown - and provision for its removal. He outlined his ability to talk to SERCO

directly re removal. He also agreed to look at fly-tipping off Coopers Lane Road. Other issues discussed included: the need to replace/refresh the Station Road flower beds; lack of crossings; outdated bollards and coverings; value of traffic calming (Berkhamsted cited as a model). AA suggested improvements could be included in the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan, but that nothing would be imposed on parishioners, who would vote on whether they approved the proposals or not.

Action: MF

FA said he had put his name forward for the PC vacancy and would present at tomorrow's co-option meeting in Northaw Village Hall. As a result he was resigning from the NCRA Committee, but said he would be willing to continue reporting FP issues as a resident attendee at future NCRA meetings.

Fred Allgood
13/10/2018

Next Meeting 8th November 2018 at Cuffley Hall.