

Alexandra Residents Association Committee Meeting Minutes of Meeting held on 20th May 2014 at Alexandra Nurseries.

Present

Lucy Smith
Shirley Homewood
Jane Doxey
Sarah Garcia
Jessica Farrand
Jane Ching

Apologies

Brian Braddon
Sally Ann Hodge

Minutes of last meeting accepted.

Matters Arising

Welcome Packs- Brian delivered hard copy to Jane C. who has not had time to pursue this task yet.

Agreed any new pack could be considerably reduced as so much information is now available on ARA web site, but Jane C. will prioritise a 'Welcome Letter' for new residents introducing ARA to them and guidance to web site addresses etc.

Road Reps.

Jane D has made an approach to someone in Princes Road, but no definite commitment yet, so this road remains without representation on the committee. Shirley believes that maybe 2 road reps. in Victor Road have or are in process of moving.

Shirley to check with Brian so that new reps. can be asked for at AGM if needed

AGM

Shirley has highlighted on June newsletter.
To be discussed further on today's agenda.

Feedback on Yard Sale

Jane D. fed back that Yard Sale raised £83.73 and most stall holders pleased with event. Refreshments proved popular, but probably slightly undercharged. Proved a good way to meet new neighbours and also local leafleting in few shops, cafes, and the library and Nurseries as well as Penge Town Talk and Bromley Net Mums seemed to attract buyers on what was a slightly unpredictable day weather wise. Agreed worth doing as a fund raising event with minimal effort. Let down regarding charity pick up at end, but relations being fostered for future events with an alternative charity in Penge High St.

Finances

Shirley updated meeting and provided financial report.
£1560.59 bank funds available with £328.44 restricted funds of Alexandra Group (Previously Golden Oldies). Funds will be boosted by annual subs due for collection June 2014 which will assist with future event planning/insurance costs etc.

AGM Agenda Planning

Crooked Billet hall booked for 24th June and newsletter will act as reminder. This will also include AGM agenda.

Discussed need for new committee members to come forward at that meeting if

ARA to remain as active as at present. Both 'Social Committee' members stated their intentions to step down at AGM from that role after the final event of Arts and Music Festival in September.

Jane C still willing to support overall committee taking notes etc. and Lucy willing to stand as chairperson for further year if re-elected. Discussed need to encourage maybe new residents to join committee.

Lucy agreed to send e-mail to alert residents to the need for new committee members prior to AGM.

Jane C to draft short report on previous year's activities and to send to Chair for agreement/amendment prior to AGM

Also discussed other potential agenda items. Maybe someone who can talk re. restoration issues relating to the cottages.

Local Councillor has also been invited. (Dependent on election results!)

Shirley to send draft of newsletter to all for comment when agreed items confirmed

Shirley/Brian to also enquire if tea and coffee could be provided at Crooked Billet.

Shirley to contact conservation officer to ask if can speak

Sarah to enquire after a speaker.

Lucy to contact Healthwatch and see if they would be willing to attend/speak as back up.

Arts and Music Event

Jane C and Jane D confirmed this idea seems to have been met with enthusiasm from residents. Working group was formed of interested people, and has met on 2 occasions. Notes of the last meeting were shared with all committee members for their information and comment. Event date is confirmed for **Saturday 20th September** at Holy Trinity Church Hall. Need to book hall from 12noon-9pm in order to facilitate afternoon stalls/events as well as early evening music/choral/dance events. Cost of hall rental for that period will be £100, some of which can be recouped from stall rentals. May be some 'cottage based' events that take place on Sunday 21st Sept., but these would only be open to residents of the estate, whereas saturday events at the hall to be publicised locally.

Some event planning already progressing beyond ideas and next meeting to be held at Jane Cs house 28 Albert Road on Tuesday 27th May at 7.30pm.

Discussed need for young parents to consider whether anyone could attend this meeting who may be interested in helping to organise some children's events such as Kids Window Art, Pavement Art in lane. or Making Musical Instruments workshop.

Jess agreed to communicate with local young parents/babysitting group members regarding this to ascertain interest in helping with planning of this.

Sarah also agreed to see if any of her contacts interested in having a stall to either exhibit or sell their arts and crafts.

Jane D and Shirley have also produced flyer for distribution which were given to committee members present to distribute across the estate asap.

Committee agreed to funding of the venue costs, so that confirmation of hall booking can be made. Jane D agreed to do this.

Community Gardening

Sarah reported back on the planting that has taken place around the Edward Road Garages and edible bed at entrance to lane. Committee agreed payment to Sarah

for mulch (less than £30).

Big thank you from committee members to Sarah, Anna, Adrian and all helpers in keeping the communal areas colourful and tidy. Also thanks to Jess and Helen for providing children's activities/creche and refreshments to the volunteer helpers, enabling more young parents to be involved.

Jess to e-mail Anna to see if Community Gardening Dates can be distributed well in advance to assist those who wish to be involved to keep dates/time free in their diary planning

Communications

Porcupine Post

Jess and Matthew producing next edition for end of July. Items on DIY and Restoration issues/experiences would be welcomed. Jo Smith assisting in trying to get more contributors/items together. Jess and Matthew would like to hand over reins for this after next publication(new editor and designer)

Lucy to also e-mail residents for any potential volunteers for this.

Newsletter

Shirley continues to produce this helpful newsletter and as stated earlier has a June addition in draft form at present which includes details of AGM and its agenda. Committee confirmed agreement for expenditure for any costs this entails and thanked Shirley for her continued support in producing this.

Committee confirmed that they do all receive a draft from Shirley for comment/amendments/possible additions before she runs off her final copy.

Website and e-mails

Big thank you to Lucy for her diligence in ensuring e-mails sent and responded to on very regular basis and Franco for his continued oversight in updating/uploading relevant info. on to our web site.

Bromley Residents Federation Meeting

Lucy attended last meeting and feels that worth remaining members and keeping Penge area issues on agenda when relevant. Some useful people on the group experienced in various fields of local government etc. although mainly representing areas middle-south of borough.

Power Point Presentation from Chief Planning Officer of Bromley at a previous meeting was very helpful. Need to check if it got put on our own website.

Jane C to enquire if sent to Franco

Alexandra Public House

Sarah reported no further news other than owner to resubmit amended plans to Bromley Planning Dept.

Still hopeful amendments will retain g/f as pub/rest. area with a local brewery firm involved in some way. Jess mentioned another local resident who has worked as a chef for organisation called Caravan that may also be interested in developments at the Alex.(watch this space for any updates.)

AOB

Shirley reported problems with blocked sewers in Victor Road appear to be caused by residents flushing inappropriate materials down loo. Water board confirm that even items such as baby wipes labelled as 'bio degradable' should not be flushed down the toilets. (Just as we live in victorian cottages we still have many victorian pipes beneath us!) Flyer from Water board to be placed on web site and also distributed with newsletter as such problems can affect many people in one road and are expensive to rectify.

Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on **Tuesday 22nd July** at Jane Ching's house 28 Albert Road at 8pm.

Jane Ching.