

Minutes of ARA Committee Meeting held on 24th March 2015 at Alexandra Nurseries

Present

Lucy Smith
Tim Walby
Helen Millar
Linda Power
Jane Ching

Apologies

Tricia Monk
Andy Peake
Jess Farrand
Verena Hewat

Agenda

Previous Minutes Accepted

Matters Arising

- Open Gardens 2015 -Adrian Rotheray and Diane Brown have volunteered to lead on the planning for this.
- Lucy has e-mailed Councillor Bance to enquire re. any progress on Alex Pub planning application progress, and awaiting reply.
- Architectural Handbook and Conservation Guide as produced by Neil D. Coe in 2005 has now been scanned(thanks to Steve for this) and passed on disc to Franco who will upload onto ARA web site for future reference for all residents engaged in DIY and renovation of their properties on the estate.
- Traffic Speeds- Andy will update at next meeting
- Article on Cottages in Chislehurst publication- Andy to update at next meeting.

Membership/new committee member recruitment

There have not been any responses to recent e-mails and the newsletter requests for residents to consider joining the committee which may become depleted from July 2015 when a number of present committee members will be standing down. Discussed need for AGM to include item on how residents would like ARA to develop for the future.

Action Tim also agreed to approach Neil Coe to see if he would consider rejoining committee, as is another resident who has particular expertise in conservation issues.

AGM of ARA

Discussed potential dates and venues. Also discussed potential invitees or speakers. Agreed that Conservation Officer from Bromley (Robert Buckley) could be invited to a future 'extraordinary meeting' as this may take up too much of an AGM agenda.

As General Election will be over by then, we could invite whoever our local elected MP is at that time.

Other items for agenda to include Approval of Amended Constitution, ARA future, Alex Pub Development and Planning Application Approvals.

Action Jane to contact Holy Trinity re. availability of hall for AGM in June 2015
Lucy to invite our resident conservation rep. Ian Hayton to attend AGM or produce short report on activity during past year.

Treasurers Report

Helen presented her financial report as at March 16th 2015. Little movement since last meeting. 'Golden Oldies' restricted budget decreased after recent spend by Alexandra Group lunch outing. Now down to £177.80

Linda said there would be further discussion at their up and coming meeting regarding residual money and whether any agreement to spend some of this on summer planting for the estate.

Still one outstanding issue regarding an unrepresented cheque of £12.

Present balance of account £1914.44

Subs collection due June 2015

Action Lucy to contact resident AT re. unrepresented cheque to enquire if another needs issuing.

Linda to ascertain views of Alexandra Group on potential use of grant monies for summer planting.

Helen will collate necessary paperwork and printing of new membership cards (smaller format agreed) for annual sub collection by road reps.

Events

- Meet the Neighbours next event to be planned. To be held at Alexandra Nurseries. Discussed possible dates that need checking with John. May 9th or 16th Discussed pros and cons of Sat. evenings or Sunday. Will largely depend on date and time that suits Nurseries best. A flyer will need to be produced and passed to road reps. to be delivered. There are 8 bottles of wine left from Arts and Craft festival that can be used. Need to consider soft drinks/tea /coffee provision.

Action Lucy and Jane to speak with John re. availability of Nurseries as a venue for event.

Jane and Lucy to draft flyer for distribution to road reps.

Road Reps. to deliver across estate.

Volunteer needed to arrange/serve refreshments at event.

- Open Gardens Adrian and Diane have started preliminary planning for event to be held on Sunday July 12th. They have some very good ideas including involvement of children. Requesting items for a raffle. Linda wondered if one road could be blocked off for children's activities on the day.(likely to be either Princes or Victor) Need to keep eye on web site for updates.
- **Action Linda to see if baby blanket of squares from Arts and Craft Fest. could be donated for raffle prize**
- **Jane to also speak to Jane Doxey to see if Cottage Quilt completed could also be donated.**
- **Lucy to enquire of Council costs, process for possible road closure on day.**
- **All committee members and Road Reps. to support Diane and Adrian with any requested tasks.**
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- ARA Pantomime
- Franco has kindly agreed to produce another script for Jan 2016 production. These have been very popular among young and 'not so young' residents and locals over the years and big thanks to Franco for resurrecting this annual event.

- Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Alexandra Cottages during 2016
- All agreed that planning for this would need a 'working group' of interested residents to come together to co-ordinate this. Tim agreed he would be willing to lead on this.
- **Action Lucy to send out further e-mail to members of ARA asking any interested persons to contact Tim re. their willingness to share ideas and plan the events for such a celebration.**

- Street Lighting

- Tim updated committee members on progress since last meeting.
- 21 Lampposts have been identified as available from a supplier that will provide them fully refurbished. The costs of the posts only would be £300 per post plus VAT. Bromley Council can provide the Association with appropriate lamps for these at a cost of £510 each lamp. Company will reserve these lamp posts until end of May 2015 when they will require 50% deposit.
- Approx. total cost for estate to be refurbished with lighting in this way would be approx. £17000. Fund raising for this was discussed, and as a majority of committee members agreed this should be pursued following actions were agreed:-
- **Tim will contact Bromley Council to ask for further extension of deadline to fund raise.**
- **Tim and Linda to draft a flyer to be delivered to all residents of the cottages, explaining present situation and informing them of how they can donate to this fund. All donations returnable if target sum not reached.**
- **Helen will discuss with bank if ARA can be set up for internet banking to facilitate direct online transfers.**
- **Lucy to make MP aware of need for donations at his informal visit to the committee on 19th April.**
- **Tim to approach Local Estate Agents for possible donations.**

- Committee Meeting with Jim Dowd

- This taking place at Nurseries with some members of committee at 11am on 19th April to introduce him to the estate as this is part of his constituency, and to encourage him to support conservation issues in this part of the borough, and highlight the difficulties we have faced with some issues such as street lighting issue. (This meeting could not be extended more widely at this time as politically sensitive before a General Election without involving other politicians, but any future elected representative to be invited to our AGM where residents will have a chance to raise questions themselves.)

- ARA Communal Land Deeds

- These have been passed from Shirley Homewood to Jane Ching present secretary for safe keeping
- **Action. Chairperson to peruse and ensure legal relevance/status.**

- Maintenance/ownership of land around garages in Edward Road

- Recent concern received from resident regarding clearing/pruning of shrubs/trees around the garages by the private leasing company of the garages. Need clarity on how far their responsibility goes regarding some of

the 'communal gardening' area around the garages goes, and in particular to the tree in that area that cannot be removed as part of conservation area. Recognised that they may have been doing some of this work to 'open up' area as garages have been subject to recent break-ins.

- **Action Lucy to communicate with owners of garages need for conservation of trees issue to be respected in any clearing of shrubs etc. in that area.**
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- Community Gardening

No-one has come forward to take over the co-ordinator role .

Action Linda wishes to discuss this matter further at the next meeting of the Alexandra Group.

The late Joan Smith

Jane informed committee members that a butler sink planter at present at 110 Victor Road has been donated to ARA communal garden sites. It is very nicely planted up with flowering perennials/bulbs. Would be nice to place near end of Victor Road by shed if possible, if not could it be used in/near any of raised beds. May need cementing down, or live with risk of theft.

Information on service of interment of ashes at Southwark Cathedral is on ARA web site. As requested, a number of non web site user residents in Edward Road have also received notification of this.

(The Committee do want to make it clear that this will not generally be a role for committee members to fulfil and this notification should be seen as an exception.)

Action

Jane to discuss appropriate siting of this on the estate with Brian Braddon and possible assistance of Danny Monk.

AOB

BFRA.

Lucy attended recent AGM. Various planning issues discussed including Biggin Hill Airport Plans that are objected to by its local residents. Also at that meeting, a discussion ensued about a planning application for a church to be converted to a mosque near Keston.

Lucy felt issue was discussed with inappropriate views being expressed and has written to secretary with her concerns regarding this.

BFRA still seen as useful group for ARA to belong to to keep abreast of overall borough issues and to galvanise support for Penge on certain matters.

Next Committee Meeting

8pm Tuesday 19th May 2015 at Alexandra Nurseries

Jane Ching.