



ALEXANDRA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
In the heart of Penge, SE20

Committee meeting
Thursday 26 November 2015

Present:

Neil Coe (NC)
Helen Millar (HM)
Naomi Martin (NM)
Linda Power (LP)
Tim Walby (TW)

Apologies:

Ian Hayton

1. Welcome

TW passed on apologies from Ian Hayton, who was unable to attend. There was confirmation that no committee members had heard from Goli Whittaker regarding the meeting. All agreed that there was a lack of clarity over whether she still wished to be on the Committee. TW to contact.

The following Street Representatives were agreed:

TW – Albert Road and Hardings Lane
NC – Edward Road
LP – Victor Road
Goli Whittaker (to be confirmed) – Princes Road

NM agreed to circulate committee members' telephone numbers by email to aid communication.

Action: NM

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Copies of the draft minutes of the last meeting were circulated for comment and the following items were discussed further and action points agreed:

- a) It was agreed that TW should contact Cllr Colin Smith asking for better clarification on developments permitted by planners, and to request a visit to the conservation area by a planning officer to advise residents.

Action (carried forward from last meeting): TW

- b) Discussed the condition of the shed roof (which is made of asbestos) and NC advised that spraying it with PVA would extend the life of the roof and make it safer. TW agreed to contact Brian to discuss the shed roof. NC explained that he had links with GMT Restorations in Greenwich, a company which might agree to help with the work on the shed roof.

Action: TW

Action: NC

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.

3. Finance update

HM presented the November finance report. There was currently £13,733 in the bank from the Street Light campaign, which would be paid to Bromley Council on receipt of the invoice. £22.44 was available for the Alexandra Group for Retired Members. Total unrestricted ARA funds were £2,026.89.

HM explained that it would be appropriate for the costs of printing information to residents for the purposes of the Street Lights campaign to come from the Street Lights fund rather than from the general ARA funds. This was discussed, and the Committee agreed with HM that all campaigns/events etc in future should be self-funding and that it was not appropriate for ARA funds to be used, but that an exception would be made for the Street Lights campaign. There was then a discussion about what the membership fees should be used for. Currently, they were used to pay for the following:

- Shed maintenance and insurance
- Running costs of the Committee (e.g. printing)

HM suggested that this issue of what ARA funds should be used for should be discussed further in future meetings.

Action: TW (for agenda)

Helen provided an update on number of members. 132 out of a total of 185 households were members of the ARA this year. 17 members from last year had not renewed their membership this year.

It was agreed that residents who were not members of the ARA but who had contributed to the street lighting campaign would be approached to gauge interest in becoming members. HM identified residents on Albert, Edward and Victor Road to contact.

Action: TW, NC and LP

It was agreed that Helen would email those individuals who had contributed to the street lights but were not members of the ARA to enquire whether they would like to be members.

Action: HM

4. Committee membership and requests for help (recent newsletter)

It was confirmed that there had been no volunteers to join the committee in response to the request in the recent newsletter. HM would be stepping down as Treasurer at the end of the year, as previously agreed, and therefore this role needed to be taken on by somebody asap so that HM could provide a thorough handover. One suggestion was that this role could be taken over by someone already on the Committee. NM offered to take on this role instead of secretary and monitoring email account and others agreed that this would be helpful if another volunteer did not come forward. It was agreed that over the following two weeks, all Committee members would speak to neighbours to see if anyone would be willing to take over this or other roles, with a deadline of 7/12/15.

Action: All

(NB. Following the meeting, no volunteers came forward. It was therefore agreed that NM would take over the role of Treasurer instead of secretary and monitoring the email account, and that HM would start providing a handover.)

5. Street lighting update

TW provided an update on the Heritage Lighting Initiative. Sufficient funds had been raised to pay for all 18 columns in the Conservation Area. A second round of fundraising had achieved enough to pay for 14 of these to have embellishments. Given that Princes Road had been subsidised £2326 by residents of other roads, it was agreed that it would be appropriate for the four street lights without embellishments to be on

Princes Road. (NB. Following the meeting, the Council agreed that since a cheaper column had been selected, there would be sufficient funds to cover embellishments for all 18 street lights.)

LP reported that she had made numerous to contact Courts (landlords of many of the rented properties on the estate) to find out whether they would be willing to contribute, but was still waiting to hear.

TW raised the issue of Reeves, which had donated £100 to street lighting on Hardings Lane outside of the Conservation Area. Given that these columns would now not be replaced with heritage columns, it was agreed that TW would contact Reeves to explain the situation and enquire whether they would like their donation to be returned.

Action: TW

TW confirmed that Bromley Council had indicated that it would take about 10 weeks for the heritage columns to be ordered and delivered with installation to follow at a date yet to be confirmed. It was agreed that residents needed to be informed of the outcome of the campaign and the timetable for completion.

Action: TW

6. Consultations – telecoms mast, speed limits, High Street

- **Telecoms mast:** There were rumours that there were plans to install a Telecoms mast in the grounds of Holy Trinity Beckenham Church on Lennard Road. TW agreed to contact Councillor Smith to find out whether a planning application had been submitted for a mast.
- **Speed limits:** LP reported that she had heard news of a consultation to look into reducing speed limits in the area to 20mph. No one had received any further information about this and so it was agreed that this would be monitored and discussed further in future meetings as appropriate.
- **High Street:** TW reported that a team of consultants had been appointed by Bromley Council to look into improving Penge High Street. This consultation was due to end on 4/12/15. NM agreed to email all residents to inform them about the Consultation.

Action: NM

7. Neighbourhood Watch update

TW explained that Goli Whittaker had offered to take on the role of Neighbourhood Watch coordinator and had been given the details of Andy Peake (previous Neighbourhood Watch coordinator) to arrange a handover. TW agreed to contact Goli to request a Neighbourhood Watch update.

Action: TW

8. APCA update

TW reported that Ian Hayton had explained that he would be happy to provide informal guidance if residents contacted the ARA email address.

9. Panto update

The committee noted that a flyer had been circulated for the panto, and that tickets would be available at the door.

10. 150th anniversary update

The following ideas for the 150th Anniversary from the previous meeting were discussed further:

- Street Party
- Self-funding booklet with photography showing the area over the years.
- The Big Lunch

LP also reported hearing about a van that goes to different areas and shows archived film footage of those local areas. It was agreed that LP would look into these areas further and feed back at the next meeting.

Action: LP

There was some discussion about the different community groups in the area that may be able to support be involved in the Anniversary celebrations in some way, including the Penge Forum, Penge Tourist Board, and Penge Partners (which organised Penge Festival). It was agreed that TW would contact John Getgood regarding the 150th Anniversary.

Action: TW

No volunteers had come forward to coordinate an event in response the recent newsletter request. No firm plans were made. To follow-up at next meeting.

Action: TW (for agenda)

11. Snow friend volunteers

It was agreed that residents would be emailed to request snow friend volunteers – people who would be willing to help other residents clear pathways of snow. TW explained that snow shovels and salt were available. It was agreed that TW would send NM some information to be circulated by NM to all residents.

Action: TW and NM

12. AOB

Solicitor and holding of deeds for shed.

TW agreed to contact Andy Peake to arrange handing over of deeds for shed.

Action: TW

HM offered to approach the bank to enquire whether it would be willing to hold the deeds.

Action: HM

13. Frequency and dates of meetings

The committee agreed that meetings should be arranged every other month, on the third Thursday of the month, and that additional meetings could be arranged as required. Meeting dates for 2016:

- Thursday 21 January, 7.30pm
- Thursday 17 March
- Thursday 19 May
- Thursday 21 July
- Thursday 15 September
- Thursday 17 November

Availability of venue, Alexandra Nurseries, to be confirmed for 21 January.

Action: TW