

Minutes of Alexandra Residents Association held Tuesday 30th September, 2014 at Harding Lane.

Present: Brian Braddon, Steve Graham, Shirley Homewood (Treasurer); Tricia Monk; Linda Power (Mins), Andy Peake (Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator) Lucy Smith (Chair); Tim Walby.

Apologies: Jane Ching, Jane Doxey, Jess Farrand, Helen Millar and Verena Hewatt

Minutes of Meeting held 30th September 2014: received and agreed.

Matters Arising.

1. Heritage Lighting.

Noted; Council officers had not acted upon Cllr Smith's promise to arrange a meeting between officers and representatives of the ARA in relation to the council's intention to replace the lamp-posts on the estate with a modern design with no regard to the area's conservation status. The Council held the view that if heritage lighting was desirable residents should meet any additional cost involved.

Resolved:

- i. Lucy to write to Cllr Colin Smith with a request that he honour the commitment to a meeting with the ARA.
- ii. Tim to seek advice on the appropriate wording of a petition which could be circulated around the estate so that the committee would be in a position to advance an opinion on behalf of residents.
- iii. Tim to contact Katrina at Bromley Residents' Federation and Anna Taylor

In the meantime, and with the fact that it would be the 150th anniversary of the building of the estate in 2016 it was further agreed:

- i. Tim to ask other conservation area activists about possible sources of revenue for conservation projects such as heritage lighting.
- ii. Ask Neil Coe for his original booklet which it was felt had comprehensively covered heritage priorities on the estate with guidance on restoration. If not available, then member of committee who has a copy to give to Steve and he will scan it in and then Franco can make available on the website for new residents
- iii. Andy would be contacting the National Trust and English Heritage
- iv. There was some discussion about council tax bands and the fact that residents were expected to honour the demands of the conservations status of the estate.
- v. Tim suggested a photographic census for 2016 with a photo of each resident outside their house and a caption with what they do for a living/their story etc be made into a book or put online.

Noted: John Ruler, a respected local historian, was intending to write an article about the estate. Andy Peake has been liaising. Need to ask residents for their pictures and stories.

2. Damage to the Mural.

Lucy thanked Brian for assisting with the mural repairs, noted that there were still mosaics missing.

Lucy to chase Esther and Jess to find out the latest.

3. Overhanging Vegetation.

Agreed "Fix My Street" was the way forward in relation to this complaint.

4. **Goldsmiths Arms.** Noted; there has been a delay in the pub's refurbishment and re-opening.

5. Resignations.

- i. Jane Doxey has resigned from the social secretary's post which she shared with Jane Ching. Her contribution has been greatly appreciated over the last few years
- ii. Jane Ching is also leaving the post of social secretary but will remain on the committee as secretary and contribute as much as she is able. There will be an urgent need to identify others who will lead on events. These don't necessarily have to be committee members.
- iii. Brian tendered his resignation from the Committee but said he would continue with the 'shed'. Noted: Brian had been on the committee for many years and his intention to continue, albeit in a reduced capacity, was appreciated.
- iv. Jo. It was unanimously agreed to send flowers to Jo, who is unwell. Jo has given unstinting support to the ARA since its inception.

6. Events Feedback.

The Arts and Craft Festival 20th/21st September 2014.

It was generally agreed that it had been a very good day.

- Shirley reported back that there was likely to be a small profit from the day after disbursements.
- Agreed that the committee should seek feedback (a) from the stallholders and (b) from the school house. [Discussed that we should look to advertise further afield for events like this in future].
- The evening event had been a lot of fun - thanks were due to Adrian for being the M.C. The response from the community had been really heartwarming.
- Thanks were extended to everybody involved, including the dancers and their families
- A prize had been awarded to Sam for the Window Art on Sunday 21st

7. Events. Suggestions included:

i. Penge Festival. May 2015.

Agreed the committee should do something about this - perhaps a display of photographs charting the history of the estate. Long time residents to be approached to see if they are able to share any of their photographs (houses and families who have lived here over the generations), but mostly for the article in the Chislehurst Times(?). We could make this request through the Newsletter and then follow up. This was also an idea for 150th anniversary of the cottages in 2016.

- ii. **Open Gardens.** This had always proved a neighbourly and popular event and should remain on the calendar for 2015. Shirley to lead.

iii. Christmas event. If it proved possible maybe a pop up/flash choir to sing seasonal songs at some point over the Christmas week around the estate. **Resolved:** Lucy to approach Susie to see if she could lead.

8. Financial Report & Membership Report.

Shirley reported there were 189 properties of which 50 were not in the ARA and so would not be receiving ARA news. Shirley produced a balance sheet for the meeting (attached).

9. Neighbourhood Watch/Safer Neighbourhoods.

Theft of Plants from a front garden.

Andy Peake reported that he had attended a community safety meeting. Noted: that the theft of plants had coincided with damage to the lamp-post where Edward Road crossed with Princes Road. Lack of light, no doubt, contributed to the offence.

Andy had circulated relevant numbers to the committee for future reference.

For non-emergencies, call 101, for emergencies 999.

The direct number for the Police Ward mobile is 07843 065 880 (if no answer, leave a message and you will be called back).

10. The Alexandra Pub. Andy and Tim reported back that there seemed to be no reason to doubt the good-will of the brewery "Late Nights" who were working with the developers to establish the Alexandra as gastro type pub with well run short lets/studio rooms type accommodation above it. **Noted:** they had also bought up the garage next door to the dry cleaners. The plans are going ahead, albeit slowly. Parking could be of concern and we would need to see the plans.

Resolved: Lucy to email Ian Hayton and Joel Taylor to keep an eye out for these and other plans eg. Crystal Palace park.

11. Future of the Porcupine Post.

Resolved (reluctantly) that the Porcupine Post be combined with the Newsletter in future as there seemed very little community enthusiasm to participate.

12. Community Gardening. Help was needed on Sunday 12th October. Met at 11o'clock by the planters at Edward Rd.

13. A.O.B.

i. Harvest Festival at ?

Noted: that Holy Trinity (?) church would appreciate help with contributions from the community.

ii. Letter headed paper. Tim asked for this to be made available so that he could write to people rather than always have to email. Shirley to send the logo to Tim.

iii. Of note:

- * Suggestion to invite Boris Johnson to visit to whip up prospective financiers
- * Penge Tourist Board. Next meeting 7th November 7.30pm at the Goldsmiths Arms. All of Penge invited!
- * Beckenham Ladies Choir is disbanding as they don't have a director
- * WW1 plaque to be unveiled on 12th October.

- **Future Meeting Dates and Venue:**

25th November at 8pm Lucy to ask Alexandra Nurseries if they can accommodate.

Lucy/Jane C to put together dates for 2015 up to the AGM and get booked into the nurseries if possible.