



# **LONGBARN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

"Working together for our Community"

Registered Charity No. 1170309



## **Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held 24 June 2021 at 7.45pm in Padgate Village Club**

- 1. Present:** Wendy Orange, Nicola Taylor, Lynn Colter-Howard, Rosa Dale, Geoff Orange, Bob McLaughlan, Dave Pearson, Howard Klein, Richard Robinson, Paul Adams
- 2. It's been a while**  
Having not met since 10 September 2020, Geoff warmly welcomed everybody back to the table.
- 3. Apologies**  
Paul extended apologies on behalf of Katy Melia, Gareth Thomas & Raj Asani.
- 4. Minutes of last meeting**  
Minutes of our meeting held 10 September 2020 were agreed as a true record.
- 5. Matters arising**  
There were no matters arising.
- 6. Resignations**  
Paul tendered resignations on behalf of John Hill, Carol Clynes & Natalie Radcliffe, & Geoff warmly thanked them for their contributions to the wellbeing of LRA, with written acknowledgment to follow.
- 7. Feedback from Trustees' AGM**  
Paul provided feedback, & headlined our Annual Report which he will share with colleagues along with minutes of this meeting.
- 8. Financial Report**  
Colleagues had been provided with the latest statement of accounts for month ending May 2021 by Nicola. No issues were raised, tho we did thank Nicola with a warm round of applause for maintaining our accounts in excellent order; for gifting her accountancy fee back to LRA; & for establishing Gift Aid for LRA with HMRC (which generated income of £290.85 in the last financial year ~ outstanding behaviour!).
- 9. Getting back to some semblance of business as usual**  
We discussed the prospects for re-introducing our conventional events ~ Afternoon Tea, seated exercise class, coach trips, quizzes & Footloose in Longbarn. Presently (& with social distancing in mind) PVC can accommodate 28 folk in the bar, & 30 folk in the lounge. But with Government's 'Freedom Day' now postponed to 19 July, & growing numbers of Covid ill-health reported daily in Warrington, we decided to maintain the status quo & review our position at the next Management Committee meeting scheduled for 5 August.
- 10. LRA office at Padgate Library**  
Geoff explained that we have negotiated a reduction in our annual rent with LiveWire (given our limited use of the office on account Covid restrictions limiting our business). And he thanked our Parish Council for their continued support in meeting the majority of the cost.

## **11.Feedback from meeting with Kassia Academy**

Dave Pearson meets regularly with the establishment & began by explaining its new custodian, The Kings Academy Trust, & the change from New Horizons School to Kassia Academy (a wealth of material about the Academy may be found on our LRA website). Dave's assessment is that the new regime is more professional than its predecessor, & reflected it's enthusiasm to work with LRA & become an integrated part of our community, dealing quickly & positively with car parking issues associated with visitors to the site, & including extending a new multi-use games area for community use. All of which augurs well for the future, & Geoff thanked Dave for his continued commitment to the relationship with the Academy on behalf of LRA.

## **12.Land Trust ~ License to Operate**

Folk will know that our small but perfectly formed team of volunteers mow the grassed areas around Longbarn which are a Land Trust responsibility, & a damned good job they do, too. But there has been a long-standing sticking point with Land Trust, regarding the appropriateness of us cutting grass on their land (strange but true!). Geoff was delighted to announce that we have finally negotiated a License to Operate with Land Trust, so that our activity is now all above board. An essential ingredient of the License was a supporting risk assessment, & Geoff extended his thanks to one of our residents, Richard Wilson, for a famous job in completing that task on behalf of LRA.

## **13.Volunteers for grass cutting around Longbarn**

So we've now got a license. And we have a small but perfectly formed team of volunteers to cut the grass. But really, the team is too small (mowing the embankment on Harper's Road is a particularly onerous job) & we discussed ways in which we may increase our volunteer force.

- Richard reflected that many hands make light work, & offered to join the team
- Wendy suggested that we advertise for more volunteers on the noticeboards dotted around our estate (a good idea, Paul observed, & will create some posters)
- Paul will advertise similarly on our community Facebook page
- Geoff will contact Greencore (recalling they have a programme of involving their managers more in community activity)
- Paul will explore possibility of engaging with Land Trust's Green Angels volunteer programme

To assist with Paul's publicity (posters & Facebook) Geoff will provide him with a list of those areas where we cut grass around Longbarn, so that we may be specific (what, where & when) with our request for volunteers.

## **14.Overgrown trees & shrubs in Longbarn**

Another old chestnut raising its head again ,,,, our New Town housing development began in Longbarn in 1974, with landscaping emphasised throughout the development to allow maximum open space & safe tree-lined pedestrian paths. But 47 years later the trees are now massive & shrubs overgrown! Muir Housing (as custodians of the estate) have a rolling programme of maintaining the greenery in good order, but that seems to have lost traction, with overgrowth getting out of hand.

Lynn & Richard offered to join with Geoff in arranging a meeting with Muir to discuss remedial action, with Lynn kindly agreeing to be lead member of the group on our behalf.

## **15.News Round-Up**

A standing agenda item, Paul introduced the topic to give us the opportunity to share news, gossip and especially, recognise achievement and the nice things we do for each other. Paul took the opportunity to belatedly celebrate Lynn's birthday earlier in the week, on 22 June, & announce Geoff's birthday being celebrated between now & our next meeting ~ on 13 July. Paul went on to announce Padgate Library's re-opening on 28 June, following a £142K renovation (not only great news cementing the future of our local library, but including a refurbishment which will allow for all books to be contained on the ground floor, with the first floor freed up to provide for local community groups' activities).

