



LONGBARN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

"Working together for our Community"

Registered Charity No. 1170309



Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held 16 September 2021 at 7.30pm in Padgate Village Club

- 1. Present:** Wendy Orange, Nicola Taylor, Lynn Colter-Howard, Rosa Dale, Geoff Orange, Howard Klein, Paul Adams
- 2. Apologies:** Katy Melia, Gareth Thomas, Raj Asani, Bob McLaughlan, Dave Pearson, Richard Robinson

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of our meeting held 5 August 2021 were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters arising

A brief interlude discussed one of the principles of our Constitution, where Management Committee (MC) members shall continue in office until they eg, fail to attend 3 consecutive meetings without an acceptable reason. Work commitments have prevented some of us attending meetings recently, & of course work must come first. But we concluded the conversation by reflecting, sensitively & genuinely, that we just need to assess our ability to attend meetings in the context of our work/life balance &, if that means we may no longer be able to attend MC meetings on a consistent basis, then standing down is a perfectly legitimate option, as others have done over the last few months. To be absolutely clear, we're not beating folk up because they don't attend our meetings! Rather, we need colleagues to be sure they can afford us their valuable time rather be dragged in all directions.

5. Financial Report

Colleagues had been provided with the latest statement of accounts, year to date up to month ending August 2021 by Nicola. No issues were raised with the accounts per se, tho we reflected on the possibility of investing some of our Restricted Funds account, given that we have been unable to spend much of it during the last 18 months on account of Lockdown, & we gain no interest from the bank. Paul has made enquiries of NE Warrington Credit Union & is awaiting a satisfactory reply. Nicola is investigating a charity savings account with The Charities Aid Foundation. Paul will contact Warrington Voluntary Action for their insights.

6. Open Space in Burnet Close ~ Asset of Community Value?

Residents of Burnet Close have expressed concern that their green open space may at some future date fall for redevelopment, & have asked LRA if it could be considered an Asset of Community Value (drawing on our recent success in having the bowling green at Harper's Green so assigned)? Recalling the significant justification we had to put forward to Warrington Borough Council for the bowling green as a community asset (pages of it!) we concluded that the same could not apply in this instance. Tho we acknowledged that the land is owned by The Land Trust & on that basis is highly unlikely to fall for redevelopment; & in any event if the question of redevelopment were ever to arise, residents would have the opportunity to challenge planning permission.

7. Resumption of Seated Exercise classes from 15 October

Paul confirmed that both Dave & our instructor will be available to resume classes from 15 October. Geoff will confirm PVC arrangements with Bob.

8. Resumption of Footloose in Longbarn dance classes

Helen Broderick has kindly confirmed that our dance instructor is available to resume classes, but only on Wednesday afternoons (before Lockdown class was held on Tuesday afternoons). Paul will confirm availability of PVC & all being well, will then provide publicity to re-launch the class.

9. LRA Christmas Events:

We agreed provisional dates as follows ~

- Christmas Carols to be held at PVC Friday 3 December (Rosa will check availability of D'Ukes of Longbarn to join the celebration)
- Adult Christmas Party to be held at PVC Sunday 12 December
- Children's Christmas Party to be held at PVC Sunday 19 December

Geoff will convene a Social Sub-Committee meeting to finalise arrangements, including number & siting of Christmas trees.

10. Fireworks Extravaganza ~ Update on preparations for The Big Event

Geoff led a meeting of our volunteers involved in the various aspects of the event on 25 August. The plan is to hold it, once again, on the school playing field in Fallowfield Grove, on 5 November. We will have access to the school from 3pm to make suitable preparations; gates will open to residents at 5pm; 'lights out' at 7pm. A further meeting of our volunteers will be held on 20 October (7.30pm at Padgate Library) to finalise arrangements.

11. Dogs fouling our highways & byways ~ a resident's perspective

Paul brought the meeting up to speed with a resident's excellent initiative in setting up a Facebook group, 'Longbarn Against Dog Fouling (LADF),' where residents are encouraged to provide evidence (by messaging the Facebook admin) of dog walkers who allow their pets to foul our open spaces & walk away without cleaning up the mess. Already receiving 600 followers, LRA will submit any subsequent evidence of this disgusting habit, collected by LADF, to WBC seeking prosecution of the perpetrators. In the meantime Paul's son has crafted stickers carrying the LADF logo which may be affixed to lampposts around our community & Paul sought approval to purchase the finished product. MC agreed.

12. 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 herald a clutch of upcoming birthdays between now & our next MC meeting ~

- Chris Merritt on 18 September
- Rosa Dale on 27 September
- Paul Adams on 3 October
- Gareth Thomas on 16 October
- Howard Klein on 22 October

And Paul informed the meeting of a new exhibition at Padgate Library. Entitled, 'Days of the New Town,' the exhibition tells the story of Warrington's New Town expansion in our community in the 1970s, using photographs from the Warrington New Town Development Corporation archive & residents' own photos.

13. Landowners in Longbarn – Who owns what?

Geoff updated the meeting on progress with local landowners (slow but sure) to deliver a map of Longbarn which will demonstrate which landowner owns what piece of land so that eg, we know which landowner to approach in the future when dealing with residents' issues & complaints.

14. Review of meeting

Lynn led the comments, reflecting that the meeting had been held in good humour; contained matters of real interest to our community; supported by a mature debate of the matters at hand.

15. AOB

We all acknowledged the impracticality (& inconvenience ~ we said that, not Geoff!) of Geoff using his home phone number to discharge LRA business eg, residents calling to book tickets for events & trips, & agreed to the purchase of a LRA mobile phone & supporting contract for messages & calls. Howard suggested an iPad may be more suitable. Geoff will explore options & report back to our next meeting.

Paul raised the subject of a Fallowfield Grove resident's request for a planter to be installed in that vicinity. As a first port of call Geoff advised that he will seek the landowner's permission before we proceed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm

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