



LONGBARN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

"Working together for our Community"

Registered Charity No. 1170309



Minutes of LRA Management Committee Meeting held on 4 August 2022 at 7.30pm in Padgate Village Club

Present: Geoff Orange, Wendy Orange, Bob McLaughlin, Nicola Taylor, Dave Pearson, Debbie Cason, Lynn Colter-Howard, Paul Adams.

Apologies: Katy Wallace, Howard Klein

Geoff welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Dave offered clarification to the minutes of our last meeting held 23 June 2022 (para 10: Muir Housing, which will now read as follows):

Muir Housing – Dave Pearson volunteered to be our lead contact for Muir matters, as central LRA point of contact for Muir & our Muir residents. Tho that doesn't mean he'll do everything to do with Muir, & will call on LRA MC colleagues to assist as necessary. That's on the basis that if residents have Muir issues they will be encouraged to take them up with the landlord in the first instance; LRA will step in if residents' efforts draw a blank. Dave held a site meeting with Muir on 21 June, with a walk around Muir properties on our New Town housing estate, during which outstanding issues discussed at previous meetings were highlighted as needing further action by the landlord. Work highlighted in Muir's May 2014 Report had been carried out. Dave requires site maps to further show Muir work still required by reference to requests from residents. Geoff agreed that this would be provided within a couple of days.

With that clarification the minutes were agreed. There were no matters arising.

2. **Finance Report:** MC colleagues had been provided with the latest statement of accounts to 30 June 2022. No matters were highlighted, and the accounts (with thanks to Nicola) were accepted as a true record. Geoff regularly banks takings at the Cadishead branch of Barclays Bank, but the branch has closed. That inconvenience, alongside the need for a new bank account needed for LRA Bowling Club, led us into a conversation about whether we should change our bank. We concluded it's best to leave 'as is' for the time being & in the meantime, Geoff will pursue a new (Bowling Club) account with Barclays.
3. **LRA bowling green (upkeep & asset of community value):** When Anwyl Construction completed the build of Harper's Green, they laid new turf on the bowling green, built a new storage unit free gratis, & handed back the facility to Longbarn Bowling Club. LRA realised its long-term future by successfully having it secured as an Asset of Community Value with Warrington Borough Council. Sadly, in the couple of years since then, the bowling green has fallen into disrepair, & will cost a significant amount of money to bring it up to scratch. LRA has taken over the facility, with Bob taking the lead: he's drafted a constitution for our newly-formed LRA Jubilee Bowling Club; he's organised several cuts of the green; & in seeking to bring the green up to a decent standard, he's invited tenders from 5 suppliers. The clear winner, subject to contract, is Johnstone's Pitch Care. But there's a significant cost in bringing the bowling green up to scratch ~ £9,400 over a 15 month, 3-phase period of repair & nourishment; £1K in phase 1. Equally there are significant community, sporting,

health & wellbeing benefits for our people &, coupled with numerous funding opportunities, we concluded that ~

- The contractor is given the go-ahead for phase 1
- Our Trustees will be invited to decide on the larger investment costs at their meeting scheduled for 6 September. Subject to agreement,
- Paul will apply for funding to grant-awarding bodies once the bank account is in place
- Paul will invite residents' views & support in our August Newsletter
- Views will be canvassed at our residents' meeting scheduled for 18 August

4. Future Police Reports: Paul introduced the item, reflecting that this is a standing (high up the) agenda item at our residents' meetings in the anticipation of a Police presence to speak to the subject. But we seldom have a police presence; the Police Report (provided by our PCSO) is provided 1 month in arrears; it contains police activity but lacks outcomes (tho we have asked for outcomes); & the report (for Poulton North ward) seldom has items of Longbarn relevance. On that basis Paul proposed that ~

- The subject be removed from the agenda. Alternatively,
- The Police Report be posted on our website for general information
- As & when a significant Police matter arises we may then include the item on the agenda

MC colleagues concurred.

5. LRA defibrillator: Our device, located on the outside wall of Raj's shop in Pasture Lane, is presently out of order. In the meantime there is a device available at Harper's Green.

6. Improving attendance at Residents' Meetings: Dave introduced the item, reflecting that lots of residents used to turn up pre-Covid, but not so many since Lockdown ended, & we had a bit of a chat about how we might generate more interest. Lynn made a great point ~ that arguably we're victims of our own success, having dealt successfully with so many of the issues which previously attracted residents to meetings to air their grievances & feelings. Geoff suggested that guest speakers might stir residents into attending. Paul suggested that we sort of kick ourselves in the foot by issuing our Newsletter in advance of the meeting, followed by the meeting which pretty much repeats the Newsletter items. Bob suggested maybe it's time to move from 6 to 12-weekly residents meetings. After a bit of a chat we concluded that ~

- We have 2 guest speakers scheduled for our next residents' meeting scheduled for 29 September ~ let's see if that has an impact
- The Newsletter will be published after the residents' meeting
- Paul will craft a short & snappy 'highlights' agenda, which we may publish on social media & erect on our noticeboards around the community
- Paul will craft a 'complete' agenda for the meeting itself, & publish that on our website
- Scope to review the location of the meeting, later (Station House pub?), maybe as a one-off change of venue to test the water if the above actions fail to reverse the attendance trend.

7. News Round-Up: A standing agenda item, Geoff 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. Bob has donated 200 kiddies Disney books to Wind in the Willows nursery. Nice one, Bob.

8. Road Safety in Longbarn: Not much to add to the conversation we had at our last meeting. The possibility of volunteer crossing guards in the proximity of Christ Church School remains on the table. We are awaiting a reply to this & other possibilities from Mark Tune (Road Safety & Traffic Manager at Warrington Borough Council).

9. Land Trust – Renewal of Licence to Operate: Geoff advised colleagues that the licence has been signed & returned to Land Trust.

10. Review of meeting: Round table agreement that we'd covered a lot of stuff professionally & in good humour.

11. AOB: Geoff explained that our Parish Council will be holding a Community Fun Day on Bennett's Recreation Ground (Blackbrook Avenue) on 4 September, noon-4pm. LRA will be mounting a stall to showcase our activities, alongside entertaining stuff including kiddies competitions, cakes & refreshments.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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Member of National Organisation of Residents' Associations



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