



Minutes of LRA Management Committee Annual General Meeting held 16 February 2023

In Attendance: Lynn Colter-Howard, David Pearson, Geoff Orange, Wendy Orange, Howard Klein, Katy Melia, Bob McLaughlin, Raj Asani, Gareth Thomas, Paul Adams

Apologies: Nicola Taylor

1. **Minutes of last meeting:** Minutes of our meeting held 5 January 2023 were agreed.
2. **Matters Arising:** There were no Matters Arising.
3. **Election of Principal Management Committee members:** The 4 posts were elected in principle, as follows ~
 - Chairman Geoff Orange
 - Vice Chairman Bob McLaughlan
 - Treasurer Nicola Taylor
 - Secretary Paul AdamsProposed: Paul Agreed unanimously.
The positions will now be presented to residents at their AGM scheduled for 2 March, & ratified at our Trustees' AGM scheduled for 15 March.
4. **Annual accounts for year ending 30 November 2022:** The annual accounts were accepted as a true record.
Proposed: Paul Agreed unanimously.
5. **Coronation Fun Day:** At our last Residents' Meeting, we agreed to hold a Coronation-themed event on Sunday 7 May on Kassia Academy's playing field, consolidating our annual Fun Day & LRA Information Day, inviting the usual guests (Fire Brigade, Police, Army, Navy, RAF, Muir, Greencore, Torus, WBC) to have a presence. But it turns out there is no appetite from third parties to join us on that date (many are already otherwise engaged in their own Coronation events). And in any event, we've found that the school caretaker is unavailable on 7 May (so no toilets, & no power). We concluded that a Coronation-themed event, organised by LRA, is no longer viable; & we'll discuss possible alternatives with residents at our Residents' AGM scheduled for 2 March.
6. **Following on from the period of Lockdown, how can we increase attendance at Afternoon Tea, Seated Exercise Class & 'Footloose in Longbarn'?** Geoff kicked off the discussion, reflecting that attendance at our community activities has never really recovered since Lockdown has lifted. A few root causes were suggested, but we considered the overriding reason for a lower than anticipated recovery in numbers lies both in residents' concern about COVID; & that folk have simply got out of the habit of getting out of the house, having made alternative arrangements for shopping & the like during Lockdown. A tough nut to crack, & one which we concluded we'll just need to carry on beating the drum about with PR on our website & social media.
7. **New Round-Up:** A standing agenda item, providing the opportunity to share news, gossip and especially, recognise achievement and the nice things we do for each other.

- Between now & our next MC meeting, it's Katy's birthday on 11 March
- Paul headlined the the record-breaking amount of money raised for Royal British Legion during our Poppy campaign last November, when residents & local businesses sponsored poppies which we erected on lampposts the length of Harper's Road. In 2020, we raised £865. In 2021 we raised £710. And in 2022 we raised a fantastic £1,420!
- Paul thanked Dave for organising the Muir walkabout around our estate held 21 February, with really positive outcomes
- Paul explained the developments taking place with our LRA website, including the build of a Frequently Asked Questions facility. In turn he invited colleagues to send him suggested questions (with answers if possible, but the main thing is to capture the questions; Paul can fill in the gaps later)

- 8. Use & availability (times of day) of portacabin/LRA Office at Kassia Academy, going forward:** We presently rent a room at Padgate Library (generously paid for by our Parish Council). With massive thanks to Kassia Academy, we're in the process of migrating to a permanent base, taking over their portacabin. The premises have recently been cleaned by residents (thank you so much), & painted, & furniture donated by Greencore, with an alarm to be installed 3 April (our Parish Council are generously going to fund the Alarm Monitoring Fee of £380). The premises provide an office & open space, plus 2 toilets, a kitchen, CH & WiFi. Access will be 2.30-11pm Monday-Friday, all day Saturday & Sunday during term time. We'll have total access when the school is closed. *And as if that wasn't enough* Our Parish Council is donating £s previously allocated for LRA Library rent to Kassia Academy to pay for free school meals for underprivileged children. A great result for our community.
- 9. LRA Health & Wellbeing (Mindfulness Project):** Adding grist to the mill, Dave explained a recent notice he'd seen at Padgate Medical Centre offering help & advice, with a contact number (01925 815333) & contacts (Abbie Flanagan & Hannah Rees).
- 10. Friends of Padgate Station:** Bob provided us with an update (with huge thanks to Bob & his wife Sue who pretty much do all of this stuff themselves):
- We have a water butt at Padgate Station to enable Bob & Sue to maintain the planters. What a shame it has been vandalised, more than once. A new container is now in place.
 - A defibrillator has been installed
 - Bob & Geoff have been invited to a Best Kept Station event, to be held on 16 March
 - Bob is pursuing 2 funding opportunities with Network Rail: to restock our planters with plants & soil, 3 times a year; & for the ongoing refurbishment of the green at our LRA Bowling Club
 - Network Rail plan to make school visits to educate our youngsters on the advantages of rail travel (& some do's & don'ts!).
- 11. LRA Bowling Green:** Bob updated us with his plans for funding the ongoing refurbishment of the green. And reflected that this is a rather exciting development for our community which, when the bowling green is brought back to life & open to the community, will provide so many health & wellbeing benefits for our people, young & old.
- 12. Review of Meeting:** It's our custom & practice to review the meeting at the end & ask the question, 'Even better if?' We agreed the meeting was conducted in good humour & dealt with matters important to our people.

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