



LONGBARN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

"Working together for our Community"

Registered Charity No. 1170309



Minutes of Resident's Annual General Meeting held 2 March 2023 at Padgate Village Club

In Attendance Paul Adams, Dave Allen, Sid & Marjorie Charlton, Bob & Pat Colquhoun, Rosa Dale, Shirley Edwards, Janet & Bob Heap, Howard Klein, Linda McKay, Sue & Bob McLaughlan, Tony Murphy, Geoff & Wendy Orange, David Pearson, Mary Robinson, Jim Smith, Nicola Taylor, Brian & Denise Walton, Ron & Sheila Westwood, Flo Wright, Christine Mather. (27).

Apologies. L Colter-Howard. Janet & John Melia

- 1. Minutes of last meeting held 19 January 2023:** The Minutes were agreed with no matters arising.
- 2. Election of Principal Members of LRA Management Committee:** Paul explained the process contained in our LRA Constitution for the election of our Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer & Secretary ~
 - A prerequisite of standing for the 4 posts is that an individual must have served on our Management Committee for a minimum of 12 months
 - Our Management Committee elected the following Management Committee members, in principle, at their AGM held 16 February 2023, as follows:

Chairman	Geoff Orange
Vice Chairman	Bob McLaughlan
Treasurer	Nicola Taylor
Secretary	Paul Adams
 - Positions are presented to our Residents' AGM (at this meeting). Then,
 - Positions are ratified by our Board of Trustees at their AGM scheduled for 15 March 2023
- 3. LRA accounts for year ending November 2022:** With a massive thanks to our Treasurer, Nicola, the annual accounts were noted, & will now be presented to our Trustees' AGM on 15 March for ratification.

Whilst on matters money, Geoff extended huge congratulations to our residents for 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!

- 4. Realisation of permanent base for LRA - Portakabin on Kassia Academy site:** We presently rent a room at Padgate Library (generously paid for by 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 are 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.

5. **Coronation Fun Day ~ Alternatives required:** 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've concluded that a Coronation-themed event, organised by LRA, is no longer viable. And we discussed possible alternatives. An LRA community-wide celebration of The King's Birthday (to be publicly celebrated on 17 June) was suggested but we concluded that best, on balance, for individual street parties to be organised by residents as they see fit. There was universal support for a return to our conventional Community Fun Day (to be arranged for the school holidays). Other ideas put forward for consideration were a 'Picnic in the Park', with Rosa Dale adding a nice twist ~ a 'Teddy Bear's Picnic'. Both events (which may be held on Kassia Academy playing field) will be considered at our next LRA Management Committee meeting. And whatever is decided, we'll then go hunting for volunteers to help organise & run the event(s)!
6. **Muir Walkabout ~ Feedback from meeting with Muir Housing held 21 February:** Dave Pearson explained the meeting he'd organised & held with Muir Housing on 21 February (attended by Dave, Bob McLaughlan & Paul Adams (LRA); Emma Seddon & Alison Sturgess (Muir)). They'd had a collective walk around the estate, highlighting problems/issues raised by Muir residents. The following outcomes were agreed ~
- Parking issues – Plan to increase amount of parking in areas where there are grass islands.
 - Narrow turnings onto roads – Muir will explore widening to prevent larger vehicles destructing grass verges
 - Access to path alongside railway – Muir will arrange to visit with Tivoli to discuss & get a quote for this.
 - Bungalows Peasley – Order raised to have surveyor attend to look at re-rendering.
 - A Fallowfield property – Muir will check & see if this tree & laurel are their responsibility & update LRA.
 - Park/Play area – Muir will speak with Tivoli about possible funding.
- All in all great result!
7. **Road safety around Christ Church School & along Harper's Road:** Following the recent Traffic Order put out by Warrington Borough Council (WBC) to apply additional double yellow lines & associated traffic controls (after significant lobbying by LRA over a number of years, to improve road safety in our community), Geoff provided a WBC update ~
- Residents' written responses to the Traffic Order have been tremendous ~ the largest response ever received by WBC!
 - WBC will now proceed with the associated works
 - We'll provide residents with advance notice of the commencement of works on our website & social media.
8. **National Crime Agency (NCA):** Over-parking by NCA staff in our side roads is worse than ever. With local negotiation between LRA & NCA proving fruitless, Geoff has written to Home Secretary asking her to intervene & help. Watch this space.
9. **Police Report:** Howard Klein spoke to this item, explaining that Poulton North has a new Sergeant ~ Kerry Barber comes to us with a wealth of experience having served in the force for more than 20 year's. Boundary issues remain, with policing in Poulton North & South being convoluted. Howard is pursuing this with Cheshire Police. In addition ~
- All schools in the vicinity were visited by the Police during January. Main issue ~ car parking!

- Police are looking for new neighbourhood watch groups. Interested? Contact PCSO Neil Potter at Neil.potter@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
- Padgate Library has been the victim of youth antisocial behaviour. CCTV installed to deter & detect future incidents.
- Speed camera on Harper's Road 16 January ~ No activations

10. **The Land Trust:** Geoff explained that Land Trust has appointed a new officer ~ Kelly Thompson is our contact. And work on bushes & trees throughout our estate by the Land Trust sub-contractor is much better than in recent years. On the downside, we're required to sign a 'Licence To Operate' with Land Trust (to formally allow **our** volunteers to cut the grass on **their** land!). The licence is due for renewal shortly, but the rules & regulations are not helpful. We agreed a principled way forward for now, but will discuss the subject now with the volunteers who actually cut our grass ~ John Melia & Dave Allen.
11. **Friends of Padgate Station:** Bob McLaughlan 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!).
12. **Activity Zone:** Next dates for our community activities, mostly run here at Padgate Village Club, are ~
- **Afternoon Tea:** Held alternate Fridays at Padgate Village Club (2-4pm). Next 2 sessions 3 & 17 March, where we'll entertain you with tea & cakes & bingo & 'Play Your Cards Right'
 - **Seated Exercise Class:** Held alternate Fridays at Padgate Village Club (2-4pm). Next 2 sessions 10 & 24 March
 - **'Footloose in Longbarn' dance class:** Our weekly dance studio held at Padgate Village Club. Next event Tuesday 7 March & every Tuesday thereafter (1-2pm)
 - **Weekly bingo sessions at Harper's Green:** Open to all Longbarn residents, every Wednesday starting at 7pm. 5 games for £5
 - **Community Clean-Up Day:** An organised litter pick on last Sunday of each month. Next event Sunday 26 March. Meet at Raj's shop in Pasture Lane at 10.30am. 'Grabbers' & hi-viz vests provided, plus refreshments for kiddies (Thanks, Raj).
13. **Any Other Business:**
- Bob explained that the installation of a defibrillator at Padgate Station takes our community stock to 3 devices (others are outside Raj's shop in Pasture Lane, & at Harper's Green). A fourth device will be installed at Padgate Village Club in the near future.
- Chris Mather volunteered to join our lads with grass cutting when the work recommences. Nice one, Chris.
- Paul Adams reflected on this being our AGM. Residents have had the opportunity to hear about & discuss the great stuff LRA does for our community. And if anyone is interested in joining our LRA Committee, he cordially invited folk to speak with him after the meeting, or email him at lrasecretary15@gmail.com
- There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9pm