



**LONGBARN
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

"Working together for our Community"

Registered Charity No. 1170309



Minutes of Resident's Meeting held 13 April 2023 at Padgate Village Club

In Attendance: Paul Adams, Pat & Dave Allen, Sid & Marjorie Charlton, Bob & Pat Colquhoun, Sue & Bob McLaughlin, Tony Murphy, Geoff & Wendy Orange, David Pearson, Mary Robinson, Katy Wallace, Ron & Sheila Westwood, (17).

Apologies: Cllr Graham Friend, Jim Smith, Lynn Colter-Howard, Nicola Taylor. (4)

1. **Minutes of last meeting held 2 March 2023:** The Minutes were agreed with no matters arising.
2. **Saying farewell to our dear friend & colleague Chris Merritt RIP:** With great sadness we reflected that Chris, our fellow Management Committee colleague & Trustee in LRA Land & above all, a great friend to so many people, passed away on 19 March. Chris is survived by his wife Sandy, & she & her family are in our thoughts & prayers at this sad time. A super individual, a fervent supporter of LRA, a joyous man who worked so hard for his family & our community, Chris will be so sadly missed. How lucky we are to have known him.
3. Our friend & local councillor Diana Friend is presently unwell, & she is in our thoughts & prayers.
4. **LRA accounts for the period ended 28 February 2023:** With a massive thanks to our Treasurer, Nicola, the accounts were acknowledged as an accurate record.
5. **Helen's bus shelter:** After years of lobbying by LRA we were successful in getting a new bus shelter erected on Harper's Road (opposite Padgate Village Club). And during those years the most vocal of our residents, regularly chasing us for progress at our 6-weekly residents' meetings, was Helen Broderick. Bless her. How sad then that she passed away just a few weeks before the bus shelter was erected. We thought it only fitting then that we name the shelter after her.
6. **Harper's Road/Christ Church School Road Safety Scheme:** After many years of lobbying by LRA & with a few recent 'near misses' aiding our cause, happy to say that Warrington Borough Council (WBC) have now extended double yellow lines down Harper's Road to include the vicinity of the school. Ahead of implementation the WBC proposals were advertised (including in The Warrington Guardian, & our LRA website & social media pages), inviting the public to comment. WBC have fed back that they've never had such a positive response from residents to proposals of this nature, & we're grateful to residents for their support.
7. **New Trustee for our LRA charity:** LRA was established 19 July 2012 (in Geoff's front room!), & granted charitable status 20 October 2016, with the creation of our Constitution, & 9 Trustees who are all equal & who, collectively, have ultimate authority in all matters LRA. As someone who cares about Longbarn & adds much value with ideas & insightful contributions at our Management Committee meetings, we're delighted to welcome Katy Melia as our new Trustee.

8. **LRA's new office & meeting place ~ The Sheila Lawrence Room at Kassia Academy:**
 We used to rent a room at Padgate Library (generously paid for by our Parish Council). With massive thanks to Kassia Academy, we've now migrated to a permanent base, taking over their portacabin free gratis. Sadly Sheila Lawrence, a fervent supporter of LRA, passed away recently & with her family's permission, we have named our new premises in Sheila's honour. The premises have recently been cleaned by residents (thank you so much), & painted, & furniture donated by Greencore, with an alarm installed (our Parish Council are generously funding the annual Alarm Monitoring Fee of £380). The premises provide an office & open space, plus 2 toilets, a kitchen, CH & WiFi. Access is available to us 2.30-11pm Monday-Friday, & all day Saturday & Sunday during term time. We have total access when the school is closed. **And as if that wasn't enough** Our Parish Council are donating £s previously allocated for the LRA Library rent to Kassia Academy to pay for free school meals for underprivileged children. A great result for our community.
9. **Activity Zone** (For tickets (& sunflower seeds) phone 01925 820647):
- **Quiz Night 28 April.** 7.30pm for 8pm start. Hot & cold buffet Tickets £6 per person.
 - **Coach Trip 21 May.** To Chester. Tickets £10, to include 2-hour Iron Bridge cruise on River Dee with cream tea (& refillable tea & coffee).
 - **Community Fun Day. 16 July** on Kassia Academy playing field. Residents were invited to let us know of any attractions they'd like us to put on, & please do get in touch if you're able to help us on the day.
 - **Sunflower Competition.** Seeds now available. Judging takes place end of August, when your sunflowers must be visible at the front of your home so that we may measure them.
 - **Scarecrow Competition.** Our theme this year is The King's Coronation, with judging to take place at the end of June & prizes awarded at our Community Fun Day on 16 July. So there's plenty of time for residents to let their imagination & creativity take them wherever they wish. And hopefully lots of fun to keep our kiddies entertained into the bargain. Whether it's effigies or crowns or coronets or horse-drawn carriages, to enter, phone 01925 820647 (answerphone), & tell us who you are & where you live. We'll enter you into the competition. And please display your scarecrow in your front garden, so that judges can see it.
 - **Update on LRA Jubilee Bowling Club:** 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 fell into disrepair. LRA has taken over the facility & obtained grant funding to bring the green up to scratch. We have exciting plans for club enrolment, teams (of all ages & gender), competitions (Longbarn & Borough-wide), & we anticipate that the facility will be ready to use by September. We'll keep you posted with news on our website, LRA Facebook page & future editions of our Newsletter.
10. **Any Other Business:** Paul confirmed that a further edition of our LRA Newsletter will be produced in the next few weeks.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9pm.

Address: C/O Kassia Academy, Fallowfield Grove, Longbarn, Warrington, Cheshire WA2 0QQ
Email: lrasecretary15@gmail.com **Telephone:** 01925 820647 (Answerphone)

Member of National Organisation of Residents' Associations



"Working together for our Community"