



LONGBARN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

"Working together for our Community"

Registered Charity No. 1170309



Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held 30 March 2023 at Padgate Village Club

In Attendance: Wendy Orange, Nicola Taylor, Katy Melia, Lynn Colter-Howard, Geoff Orange, Bob McLaughlin, Dave Pearson, Paul Adams

Apologies: Howard Klein

- 1. Welcome & Apologies:** Geoff welcomed everybody to the meeting, with apologies noted.
- 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. Minutes of last meeting held 16 February 2023:** The Minutes were agreed with no matters arising.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 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. Defibrillator maintenance:** Bob explained that we have had to invest in a maintenance charge of £432 for the device outside Raj's shop in Pasture Lane, for a new battery & pods, which now provides cover to July 2025. On a positive note Bob explained that the device has been used 3 times & helped to save lives; & compliments another device at Harper's Green, & 2 more to be installed at Padgate Station & Padgate Village Club.

8. **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.
9. **WBC – Risk Assessment for grass cutting:** Geoff explained that WBC has invited LRA to collaborate in the production of a risk assessment to safeguard the cutting of grass on WBC land by our volunteers. Richard Wilson has kindly agreed to lend his undoubted skills in the production of the document.
10. **Mindfulness & Memory Project ~ The way forward:** Cheshire Community Foundation (CCF) has kindly provided a grant to enable LRA to provide supporting activities for those suffering from dementia & Alzheimer's Disease & their carers, but for various reasons we have yet to launch a programme of activity & right now, we don't know whether we'll be able to retain the grant & get organised or whether it will be recalled by CCF. We agreed that ~
 - * Geoff will write to CCF asking for an extension to the period of the grant's use. If that is successful,
 - * LRA will meet with WBC subject matter experts provisionally arranged already by Geoff, &
 - * Paul & Katy will draw up proposals for implementation
11. **Cost of coach trips:** We've earmarked 21 May as a potential date for a coach trip to Chester but as he's assessed costs, Geoff has found that the cost of coach hire has virtually doubled (our usual provider, Maines, are quoting £750). Conventionally, we significantly subsidise these events & charge residents £6 per ticket for our coach trips. We agreed that coach trips should remain on the list of activities we provide for our people, that they should continue to be subsidised, but that the cost of tickets should be increased to £10 per person. Of course the important thing to do now is explain the reason for the increase in ticket costs to our residents, which we may do at our forthcoming Residents' Open Meeting scheduled for 13 April.
12. **Quiz Night:** Our Question Master Bob has questions lined up & we needed then to agree a date for our next Quiz Night. 28 April was agreed, the quiz taking place at PVC at 7.30pm for 8pm start. Tickets £6 per person to include hot & cold buffet, & Katy kindly offered to help with preparing food.
13. **Activity Zone update:**
 - * Our dance instructor, Tina is on holiday for the next 2 weeks & our Footloose in Longbarn dance class is suspended accordingly.
 - * There has been an influx of Harper's Green residents at our Afternoon Tea activity, which is great to see.
14. **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 flagged that between now & our next MC meeting, it's Raj's birthday on 10 May.

15. AOB:

* Geoff advised that the contract for our use of The Sheila Lawrence Room, our LRA office at Kassia Academy, has been signed, for 3-yearly review.

* Bob & Geoff recently attended a Network Rail awards evening. We may not have won an award on this occasion but the pair famously left with a £1,500 donation towards the refurbishment & upkeep of our LRA Bowling Club.

* Paul's application to the TORUS Community Investment Fund has successfully returned a grant for £1,500, again towards the refurbishment & upkeep of our LRA Bowling Club.

* In terms of the bowling green, Bob explained that now that frosty weather is hopefully behind us, our greenkeeper will get cracking on 1 April. The facility should be available for use in September, & we aspire to have the green up to competition standard by next (2024) season.

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)

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