

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Wednesday 8 November 2017  
St. Faiths' Church Hall  
**Minutes**

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**1. Welcome & Introductions [NM]**

**2. Apologies For Absence [NM]**

Councillor Tony Speakman  
David Mitchell

**3. Consultation on Regulation 7 [NM/RL]**

RL: Too many "To Let" boards, which are up for too long, resulting in an eyesore. The council has started a consultation which is from 16/10/17 to 30/11/17. This can be accessed on the City of Lincoln website Letting Board consultation. Paper copies are also available. Monks Rd Association have been asked to join us.

Councillor Neil Murray: The Council agreed it would sort out Article 4 and then would work on To Let boards. The Council is looking to WERA to spread the word re the consultation, for the sake of Abbey and Park wards as well. It has been on the radio as well. The Labour Party will also mention it in their leaflet which is being delivered next week.

**4. Article 4 Update [NM]**

There have been some planning applications, but all have been turned down. It is important to keep an eye on properties. Please let WERA know if you spot any building work/ extra people moving in at properties that were not previously HMOs.

**5. West End Gala/The Big Lunch [SL]**

The Big Lunch on West Common at the cricket pitch, was very well attended. The cricket club ran games for the children.

The West End Gala was able to secure funding so that the activities for children were free. The WERA raffle raised £83. Thanks to Tony Speakman for doing the risk assessment and site plan. Thanks to Rob Lewis for doing the funding bid.

**6. Pop-up Café; Youth Club; Church Garden [Rev JW]**

The Pop-up Café is aiming to reach the lonely and isolated. It will run on the first Saturday of the month 11-2pm, every month except January.

The Youth Club is just starting. Its aim is to provide a safe place for secondary school age children to meet. Thanks given by audience member for this.

The Church garden is being revamped to try to address the issue of anti-social behaviour that has been taking place there. Porch doors have been installed. Funding has been secured from the Co-op for a redesign of the south garden. They also want to have an events space in the north garden, but that will take place in the future.

## **7. Street Warden Scheme [SL]**

A street warden is needed for Carholme Rd. Volunteers please get in touch with Sandra Lewis.

## **8. Anti-Social Behaviour [NM]**

It feels that Freshers Fortnight was quieter this year. The Council had 10 complaints. The Police made 8 visits (17 last year). Police and Council ASB team were out on several strategically chosen nights this year. What else has changed is the acceptance from the University and the Police that the noise has been affecting people. The Uni has added another step to their disciplinary procedure: finding out which students live at the noisy property, and then getting them to go in to the Uni to discuss it.

The Uni has produced videos of people from the local area that are being sent to students fortnightly.

Maria Lyon: Jacqueline Meyer has handled the problems well. One household has been brought in twice.

Audience member: PC Wrigley came out within 45 minutes. He responded to an email even when not on shift. The quiet students are also suffering from the noise so appreciated the residents reporting it.

Councillor Neil Murray: has mentioned problem at Carholme Community Forum. Initially his comments were not believed but at recent meetings they have been taken more seriously by the Police. Jacqueline Mayer has now got more power than previously.

NM: the Uni would like residents to participate in focus groups with students. Anyone interested please give their name to him at the end.

The Students Union want to do a one-off community project. RL suggested Liquorice Park. Alison Griffiths from Liquorice Park would like to hear about this. Councillor Lucinda Preston suggested a Spring clean-up. Rev Julie would appreciate some volunteers to decorate the downstairs hall. Jamie Bennett would like to do a clean-up of the pond on West Common, but money would be needed to dispose of the resulting waste.

Audience member: Are the committee aware of people camping in tents on the Common? George Woolfenden was aware of some, but will look into this.

## **9. Defibrillator [SL]**

Now functioning at the Co-op on Carholme Rd. Staff have been trained. Co-op will do ongoing maintenance. If anyone wants to be trained in how to use it, let Sandra Lewis know.

Councillor Robert Parker gave funds from Lincolnshire County Council to pay for this. The Golf Club have also raised money to pay for a defibrillator at their club. There is also one at West Parade Dental Practice, but it is only available during working hours.

## **10. Car Parking Update [Cllr NM]**

There was a consultation a year ago about reducing permits per house down from three to two.

Councillor Neil Murray: Have not done this yet, even though have got mandate to do this from the consultation. One problem is that there will be less income to Residents parking. However the council is looking to expand RPS into new areas eg Burton Rd and Park Ward, and then income will rise. He is asking for a timetable from the County Council. He would like to hold a residents meeting in January. Apologies, as this is due to austerity.

Maria Lyon: asked re the 4 passes that her next door neighbours have. Also her workmen were sold three books of scratchcard passes instead of a green permit. The system is being manipulated and therefore people have extra passes. The Uni needs to produce literature saying don't bring a car to Lincoln.

Audience member: Any news yet on being able to use permit in a different area. Answer – not yet.

Audience member: The Uni has great credentials, but it is well known at the Uni that if you want a car, then park in the West End.

Councillor Neil Murray: thinks the Uni should restrict the number of cars.

Maria Lyon: would like the RPS admin officer to attend a WERA meeting to have a Q & A with residents.

Audience member: could revenue from city car parks subsidise RPS? Neil Murray: that would be great.

RL: who gets the money from the parking fines? Neil Murray: goes into parking services in the county.

Councillor Robert Parker: the report shows a balance of £70,000. This has been used to fund safety measures around schools. Resources are deployed tactically eg around Skegness in the summer and around the West End near Christmas market. Top hits are Silver St and Grantham St.

## **11. Street Lighting {Cllr RP}**

The street lights seem to be going off earlier now that the clocks have changed.

Councillor Robert Parker: We need to have the opportunity to give feedback to a national study about safety when streetlights have been turned off at night.

At the moment the streetlights go off at 11pm because they have a sensor in them which needs to find the mid-point between light and dark in order to turn off. It will take 21 days to re-calibrate to midnight.

Audience member question: will you be getting in touch with the Uni because it is also unsafe for the students.

Councillor Robert Parker: we welcome views from everyone.

Audience member: we need accurate statistics re accidents and the crime rate.

GW: The Carholme Community Forum has noticed a slight reduction in the crime rate. He has reported the overgrown tree roots on Hewson Rd, which are hard to see in the dark. They have recently begun to be repaired.

Audience member: we don't have lights in the countryside. Why would the crime rate go up? We all lock our windows and doors. What's wrong with taking a torch?

SL: has spoken to the Police and they find it harder to give chase to criminals in the dark.

Councillor Robert Parker: It is also a social issue: are people not going out because they're scared, or are they going out but they are scared.

ML: People in the countryside take torches as a matter of course.

Councillor Lucinda Preston: people don't feel safe when coming home from the train station in the dark.

## **12. WERA Accounts [SL]**

WERA has £1525 in the bank

£234 belongs to the gardening club, and is ringfenced.

WHSmith gave a grant of £100

West End Gala raffle raised £83.

Thanks to Melanie Spencer for auditing the accounts.

## **13. Committee Membership [NM]**

Committee voted back in.

Proposed: Jamie Bennett

Seconded: Josie Conwell

## **14. Councillor Q&A [All]**

Audience member: Is the Brayford in the area for WERA?

No.

RL: to give background to restaurant application, the council rejected the application but the Brayford Trust and Investors in Lincoln appealed to the Government Planning Inspector. The 6 members of the Executive of City Council will make the final decision. Neil Murray and Rick Metcalfe are not eligible to vote, so therefore there will be four members. The decision will be made in the next two months. No more objections can be sent in now. There were 41 objections and 1 in favour.

ML: proposed vote of thanks to WERA committee members for their hard work.

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