

Tuesday, 23 February, 2021

Virtual Meeting, 8pm

Minutes

1. Apologies for Absence

Present: Jayne Arnold JA, Rob Lewis RL, Sandra Lewis SL, Agnes Barstow AB, George Woolfenden GW, John Taylor JT, Sarah Jenkins SJ, Kate Warburton KW, Chavan Kissoon CK.

Apologies from Mike Cancedda, will join later.

2. Welcome

Introductions from members

3. Minutes of the meeting of the 12 January, 2021.

Agreed

4. Matters Arising

- Cards left re bins on Tennyson Street/ Bedford St. However many have no numbers on them.
Action JA to make note of how many and send to SL.
- **Action - AB will get number for the traffic warden.**
- Nigel not yet posted keys for the notice board to GW. **JA to remind.**

5. NORA (National Organisation of Residents Associations) and CCV (Reg Barritt) – RL.

Unsolicited email received detailing all issues Chester had had with HMOs. They need 100,000 signatures to be able to take to the government regarding HMOs. Don't think WERA have ever been associated with NORA. Deals with exemption from council tax and business rates. Indication that if NORA went to all residents' associations, they would be able to do something. Gary Hughes has remained a contact of WERA with HMO lobby, but this has now been updated. Rob believes if it were to be put out in Lincoln, it would gain 5,000 signatures. Could send a FOI request to the council asking how much council tax revenue is lost as a result of students and what the government is doing to offset this.

Action – RL to contact council to request this. WERA happy to approve that we join NORA, £25 per year. Proposed and all agreed by all members.

6. Fundraising -SL

Issue that WERA needs to tackle. Need to pay for public liability insurance £120-130 per year. Also website registration - £14 this year but £100 next year. When hiring the church hall - £10 per hour. At present - £1400 in the bank. At present, we have no income during lockdown. If 40-50- people come to a meeting at the hall and they contribute, say £2 each, then this would help. Although this not the full WERA, as everyone who lives in the West End is automatically a member, it is a relatively easy way to fundraise. Those interested enough to come to the hall will more than likely be happy to donate £2 each.

AB – could do a WERA lottery. If people were willing to pay £4 per month for a lottery and prize, could bring in revenue. However, this is more complex and we would need a licence.

Action – ask for donations at the next meeting at the hall.

7. West Common update and Whitton's Park - GW

Decision made to keep the horses on this year. Based on the COVID pandemic and the risk of moving the horses. Lots of badgers on the common – and lots of flooding, due to their digging. They got an expert in who laid traps for the badgers, where they could come out but couldn't go back in. There will be a gate going in to the enclosure where the trap doors have been installed. There is a 4inch pipe which has been blocked and which may be causing the flooding.

The Golf Club are looking to extend their car park. However, parking for the Common is restricted by the 1985 Act to one acre (including the Grandstand). GW objected on the grounds of the fact that the proposed increased area of carparking is on the edge of the Common. The application was rejected.

The Golf Club wanted to put a sign up... saying that you are welcome to walk the course but please listen for the sound of balls and put your hands and arms over your head. It is a Common above a golf course.

The Golf Club put drainage in without permission.

Action - George to contact regarding the bridge being too narrow and not being 6 feet across.

Student has contacted about doing an interview regarding Whitton's park and a Community Brief. Looking to upgrade the children's play area and turn it into an adventure park.

Action - JA to reply.

AB - if they update the park then that will result in additional human traffic around that area. Application for a pedestrian crossing in progress by LLRA

8. Facebook page

Have been a few issues on there. Lots of people from Long Leys Road have been asking to join. Content about cats which was blocked. Man was saying he was going to trap cats and take them to the RSPCA to be neutered. A very long thread with very negative comments. Also a post about someone with dog mess which also escalated. Thanks to MC for his work in taking down the offensive posts.

Action - Kate to be admin as well as Mike.

9. Speed Indicator Device

Offered again for Hewson Road – beginning of March

Action - Paul Headland to liaise with LLRA

10. Bookswap cabinet

Bookswap near the university seems successful. WERA bookswap cabinet agreed to be placed outside Dhindsa shop. Will be opened and closed by them daily, and Sarah Jenkins volunteered to check regularly.

Action - SL to ask Tesco to fund – community book fund. AB – we could also ask Waitrose with their green token scheme.

11. Trudy's bench

In memory of Trudy Farrelly, founder of WERA. Her daughter has contacted us saying it's a shame that her mother's name is not on the website (now done), nor is her bench displayed. GW has taken it apart and painted

it, but it has reacted with the materials put on it. Needs shot blasting and coating, as it is not in good condition. Shot blasting should be fairly cheap.

Action GW to liaise with Whitton's Park renovation team to ask could they also paint it as part of their project and could it go to Whitton's park?

Action – WERA or Trudy's family to fund a plaque.

12. WERA Website committee profiles and photos

Action - profiles of committee members and profiles needed, in particular KW, MC and PH.

13. Planning Matters

- 79, Carholme Road – Section 106 confirmation – Has got a 106. Only students would be mature students or students whose partner has a job or students who live with their parents.
- Flats Ground, 1 & 2, at 7 The Avenue – Has been recommended by planning officers but does not mean it will be approved. If it does get approved, was the SDP applied and what was the outcome? Article 4 applies to the whole of Lincoln, not just the West End.
- 6, York Ave – Plan was to move 3 students in. They have now received letters to tell them what they can and cannot do.
- 5, Allison St – Plan to extend into HMO.
Agreed objection from WERA. Need clarification on what constitutes an HMO. As long as they don't extend the roof line, they can make it larger. This wants to extend. Is the objection based on the extension itself or the HMO? Rob – need to restrict the number of people occupying the property on the grounds of noise and parking.
- 13, Allison St – Same owner as number 5 Allison Street.
Agreed objection from WERA.

14. AOB

Objection to new garages on Rosebery Avenue near the horse gate, as will interfere with horse feeding, GW.

15. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 6th April 2021, 8pm, by zoom.