

Wilford Community Group

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 15th February 2010 at Wilford Social and Bowls Club

Present: Stephanie Taylor (ST) Chair
Roger Steel (RS) Vice Chair
Dave Boulton (DB) Secretary
Sheila Atherton (SA) Treasurer
Josie Foster (JF)
Brian Hardy (BH)
Bill Roughton (BR)
Frank Wakelin (FW)

Elaine Stenson (ES) Neighbourhood Action Officer
Residents: Approximately 30 Residents

Action

- 1 Apologies
Chris Allsopp and PC Nigel Brown
- 2 The Minutes of the January meetings were signed as a true record.
- 3 ST welcomed guests and visitors and opened the meeting by stating that this was a normal scheduled meeting of the Community Group but as many residents were present because of the closure of the Library we would discuss the proposed closure first after which the usual format would continue. Residents were invited to stay for the whole meeting.

Item 5 on Agenda

Quite a lot had happened in the previous couple of weeks and thanks were given to Maureen Godfrey and Maggie Hamilton for their tremendous efforts, to Dave Boulton for the posters and keeping the web site up-dated and to all those who had spent many hours collecting signatures and putting up posters also to Brian Hardy and Anne O'Riordan for their continuing support.

To summarise events so far the Editor of the Evening Post is prepared to keep it in the public eye and anyone wishing to contact the Evening Post should speak to Charles Walker.

ST, BH and Maureen Godfrey attended a Council Meeting to watch Tim Spencer hand in our petition with nearly 800 signatures. Nothing was said and so far we have heard nothing. We were informed by a resident that from the full council the petition would go to various Officers and there is a time scale by which they have to respond.

The group have been given a proposal of a way forward by the Council but this will cost some phenomenal amounts of money. If we buy the library we would be responsible for paying for the utilities, books and repairs; the estimate for running the library per year is in the region of £33 500 thousand per year. This is before any repair work is carried out on the building. It was also agreed we would require a qualified librarian even though it would be run on a voluntary basis. Training would be required for the volunteers and this was originally offered free now we have been told it will be £25 per hour per person.

The Head of Libraries has been asked if the library service would give us books on a rotation and replenishment basis, the response was in the negative.

The library building was surveyed in 2005 and the need at that time was for painting, a new boiler, new windows and doors, and other related repairs; the group have been told it would need £35,000 spending on it before we dealt with anything else. If we buy the library it was suggested we might get quotes from private firms and these could possibly come in lower than Council quotes. It must be understood that we would only get the building, all shelves and books and computer would be removed.

ST said that if we were to pursue ownership of the library a strong commitment would be required with regard to organising a rota for the day to day running.

Alan Simpson MP, although a retiring MP, was firmly behind our efforts to keep the library open and is available to us for advice.

The Council will save £40,000 if the library closes the equivalent of one issue of the Arrow.

If the library closure takes place a mobile library would visit but this could be as little as half an hour a fortnight

Final Option

The Council/Library Service would give us books that existing libraries no longer required and delivery of these books would cost us £750 per year. Would the Council be prepared to bring it up to date – NO they are not prepared to do so.

ST asked if it was worth continuing the campaign.

The general consensus was yes; particularly as we had an extension of time to look into grants generally, we should not be distracted by thinking of other uses, we must keep focused on the library. It was suggested we might combine with Beechdale who are being organised by the Liberals to keep their library open. It is a Government edict to close smaller libraries and build larger "State of the Art" Libraries, so make it a national campaign.

Other points to be noted if we take it on in a voluntary capacity

- (a) a qualified Librarian will be needed and is vital to running it voluntarily
- (b) Health and Safety – we need insurances
- (c) Everyone would have to be CRB checked because of contact with children.

We would need to pay for all of this.

ST asked how many of those present were willing to work in the library on a voluntary basis – in a show of hands 16 residents acknowledged their willingness to participate.

This would involve electing a committee and someone to organise a rota for the day-to-day running of the library.

ST would like to have an Action Group similar to that of Iremongers Pond Group (which has been tremendously successful). This group would need to be constant and keep it in the public arena and also look at funding.

Suggestions for the Way Forward

Push the Council – at the moment everyone is talking about Library closures.
Could we join the Sure Start Scheme (Child Care)
Could we use Trainee Apprentices
Would local builders be interested – potentially as advertising?

Mark Hillary is optimistic about funding from charitable organisations; Groundwork Trust work with Community Groups.

Mark Hillary and Ward Councillor Price have had a meeting to discuss how best we could be helped.

The group has achieved a success by being granted an Extension of Time.

- 4 Wilford Social and Bowls Club** – the property is in a dilapidated state of repair; fire doors are needed before the flat can be rented and a total electrical re-wire is required.

The owners, Root, will not fund any of the above and the committee feel they have no alternative other than to give a 3 month notice of closure and the end of the bowling season.

ES suggested Rosemary Smedley to come along and advise the Bowls Committee. ES also stated that The Ward Councillors could not keep providing Ward Money to fund this particular project.

5 Review Outstanding Actions

ES

(i) LINK Group – ES has not contacted Laura Morano.

AOB The Advice Centre – it has been agreed that the Social and Bowls club is an ideal venue and it is proposed to have the first session on a Wednesday in early March. It was suggested to advertise it through the playgroups/church/schools/the Wilford Community Group web site and in Drs Surgeries.

Wilford Bowls – Open Day

RS

RS has yet to confirm a date.

Details of the Sports Development Officer have been left with the Committee of the Bowls Club with regard to applying for Grant Aid. The Committee have not taken up the offer.

- 6 Nottingham in Bloom 2010** – As it was very successful last year (although only 3 small groups responded) BR is applying for pots and plants. It is free to register and we will then receive a starter pack to the value of £100. The pond group will apply and BR is willing to fill in forms for anyone else who would like to participate. The forms have to be in by May so please contact BR

Maureen Godfrey said there was an area in St Ervan Close that needed attention.

ES

There was also a complaint about the planters near the Co-op which looked very neglected and had not been replanted. ES said she would 'flag' this up.

Action
ES

JF mentioned that she had noticed the plants around Iremongers Pond had been taken. ES said she would mention this to the police.

7 Trent Bridge Rotary Club Donation

RS on behalf of the Trent Bridge Rotary Club handed SA a cheque for £100 for the Wilford Community Group funds in respect of the Bonfire held on the Rugby Field in November.

Other donations had been made to:

Headway – Nottingham
Help the Heroes
Riding for the Disabled
Wilford Sea Scouts
West Bridgford Girl Guides
Tuberculosis

8 Any Other Business

(i) Through BR Nigel Brown apologised for not being at the meeting and reported there had been 11 incidents in Wilford in the last month.

(ii) The footpath by the Coronation Allotments was well under way

(iii) The Post Office are trialling another model of Post Office
It was suggested we try again to have the Co-op provide a service.

(iv) JF was concerned at the state of the Rugby Field, it needed some repair work to a large area of grass which had presumably been left damaged after the bonfire and also referred to the unhygienic state of the pitches from the Canada Geese. This could not leave visiting teams very impressed. RS said the field was private property and that the Moderns were also concerned and were looking into the situation.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Next Meeting: Monday 15th March 2010 at 7.30 pm at the Wilford Social and Bowls Club.

Signed:

Date: