

Wilford Community Group

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 17th May 2010 at Wilford Social and Bowls Club

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

Elaine Stenson (ES) Neighbourhood Action Officer
PC Nigel Brown (NB)

10 Residents

Action

1 Apologies

Roger Steel hoped to arrive before the meeting closed.

2/3 March and April Minutes

These minutes were approved and signed.

4 Review Outstanding Actions

April Minutes - Item 5

SA said thank you to Elaine for organising the grass cutting prior to the Picnic at the Pond. ES said the grass maintenance team had been able to organise the mowing of the grass but due to the late notification it had not possible to organise the gathering up of grass afterwards.

5 Agenda and Minutes

Committee members were now aware of how important it was to make comments and amendments to the Minutes when they receive the draft copy, and, to place as an agenda item something they wished to be discussed at the meeting, rather than save it for Any Other Business. This now appears to be working well.

6 Treasurer Vacancy

Sheila Atherton confirmed her decision to resign as Treasurer but will remain on the committee. ST thanked Sheila for her time and work over the past few years in looking after the WCG finances so efficiently. Brian Hardy has stepped in to fulfil the role of Treasurer until the AGM, at which time he will put his name forward to continue in this office. SA has completed a form for a further grant of £500 and BH has sent this off. ES reminded us the application should be for £300; the £500 is only for setting up a group after which an application for further top-ups should be for £300. BH will continue to run the petty cash on the same basis as SA had in the past, which is, no money without receipts, emergencies excepted.

7 Iremongers Bridge

BR reported that new stronger railings have been fitted over the channel crossing stepping-stones but no indication as to who has supplied them. Julian Taylor is applying for a grant for a path to encircle the pond, however, the Iremongers Pond Committee would like to keep a small woodland area and loop the path around the trees and keep it as a wild area with the newly planted bluebells. It was suggested that a circular route would encourage motorbikes etc. but anti-cycle barriers could be fitted. JT is also applying for a grant to build a bridge across where the stepping-stones are at the moment. However, the Environment Agency is not too happy about new structures being built on a flood plain; as new railings have been installed over the channel crossing the bridge idea may have to be abandoned. The Pond committee and other residents are not happy about this, as it is not in keeping with the more natural habitat surrounding the pond. A local resident, who works for the NCC Transport Team, together with JT, will measure up the site with a view to giving a proper outline of works to potential contractors for tendering purposes.

BR would like a letter of support from the WCG to accompany the grant application. The committee agreed this project should have our support and DB would write a letter confirming that we back this project.

DB

8/9 Wilford Library/Asset Transfer/Area 9 Committee Meeting (Asset Transfer will be discussed later, awaiting the arrival of RS)

ST has said a lengthy report giving stats and figures as to the reasons for the closure of the library had been included in the next Area 9 Committee agenda. DB will copy the report and email to committee and residents.

ST will attend the Area 9 Meeting at the Cornerstone on Wednesday 19th May and make a statement as to the manner in which this closure has taken place such as the very short notice given to the WCG and residents, when the Council and Library Services were aware this was going to happen three years previously and we were not informed until January of this year. This makes a travesty of the word 'consultation'. BH will also make a statement about the waste of £4,000 given to us last year for longer opening hours when it could have been spent on keeping the library open. Alan Simpson MP had been very helpful and made many suggestions, but these were complex and, WCG felt, beyond their capabilities to achieve.

The Library will close on 31st August.

Maureen Godfrey, from the Action Group, could gain no clear sense about a Mobile Library but was hopeful that one would be provided.

Suggestions for a community bus to take people to Clifton Library or perhaps the No. 1 bus could be diverted to West Bridgford as it had been in previous years.

ES mentioned the L2 Local link bus; this could perhaps start in Wilford instead of Silverdale. At the moment the bus has a circular route from Silverdale through Clifton and Ruddington, along Loughborough Road into Greythorn Drive, Eton Road, Musters Road into West Bridgford, out again following a route onto Radcliffe Road and terminating at Morrisons in Gamston. The full journey takes about 50 minutes. BH will raise these questions at the Area 9 meeting.

When asking about a mobile library we need to have a clear request for what we need, such as times and where it would stop. There is obviously no clear time or site that will meet the needs of all the community. A suggestion of two stops (a) the crossroad and (b) the green in Wilford Village. Ann O'Riordon said the mobile library rota was probably currently too full to accommodate Wilford. The cost of borrowing a book from a mobile library is £5.00 per book.

10 Ruddington Lane Play Area

JF spoke on behalf of a resident, Mrs Barlow, who is concerned about the future plans for the Playing Field on Ruddington Lane and asked ES for any details she might have concerning this area. Mrs Barlow is also anxious that the hedge bordering the field be kept and, in fact, refurbished with EU money that is available for projects such as this.

ES said that at the moment funding of £50,000 each for Wilford and Silverdale was available from the developers of Larkhill to enhance Ruddington Lane and Silverdale play areas. Martin Harris had intended to work with WCG to match this funding but had to cancel this meeting and now he had taken on another role. Park Development Officer, Felicity Walker is now in charge of Parks and is willing to come to one of our meetings to answer any queries we may have.

The Council are beginning a period of consultation, which will take about 1 year. On Friday 13th August between 2.00 and 4.00 pm the first event, will be a Family Fun Day Event to get the views of parents and children; this is being organized by Play Service and Sports Development Services. SA was not happy with the wording 'Family Fun Day' thinking this would not encourage teenagers to participate. ES said this would be looked at again and see if the event could be named differently. DA suggested it might be a good idea to look at local parks that have been designed and built recently and show images of these to the children so that they have a better idea of what they are selecting. ES thought this a good idea and would look into it.

ES

ES did say that a skate boarding area was not on the agenda as one had been built at Clifton. Also there would be certain restrictions on Ruddington Lane Park because of the proximity of the properties. The park was to be developed to suit all age ranges.

SA said it would be a good idea to have promotional and publicity material out before the end of the school term.

JF asked what would be the cost of providing this new facility and ES said somewhere in the region of £100,000/£150,000.

ST expressed some surprise and disappointment that this project now seems quite a long way off. WCG had expected it to be completed this Spring/Summer.

11 Emmanuel School – Wilford Lane Crossing

DB said concerns had arisen about the safe crossing of Wilford Lane at start and close times of Emmanuel School. The bus stops are opposite each other and a safer crossing was needed.

NCT had said No to the bus route up to the school because of the yellow lines on either side of the road. A lighted crossing was suggested but BH, speaking as a motorist, did not think it a good idea as there were already a number of lights along Wilford Lane and traffic did not have a co-ordinated flow.

Rushcliffe BC would have to be approached as it was within their boundary. DB said Emmanuel School is in our WCG area.

ES said surveys had been carried out by "Safer to School" and the results were satisfactory.

A vote was taken for (a) a lighted crossing or (b) a staggered bus stop.

The majority of the committee were in favour of (b) a staggered bus stop. ST would write to Rushcliffe BC.

ST

12 New Bins for Wilford

On the 21st April a public consultation was held outside the Co-op and ES said the public had been very receptive with suggestions about where the bins should be placed. There were 10 waste bins for Wilford and Silverdale and 7 were available for various locations around Wilford. Coronation Avenue, Bee Bank, Harvester, St. Ervan Road, on bend, Main Road, near the crossroads, Rowan Drive and near the Park on Ruddington Lane. Other areas will be identified as and when more waste bins become available.

ES was asked how often these bins were emptied, generally once a week but the one at Coronation Avenue was emptied twice a week.

13 Pigeons – Vernon Avenue Footpath Bridge

The area is apparently City Council land and Chris Capewell, Team Leader, has been asked to come up with costings, ES said there was no money, but he will cost up. He will follow up our suggestions or any other proposals we might have. ES thanks us for the personal contact.

14 Klondyke Allotments

13 Sheds have been broken into and PC Nigel Brown said this was an organised crime and as a result allotment owners had been given advice from Neighbourhood Police on shed security and given smart water. An area at 15 & 17 Aaron Close to be gated off and residents are quite happy for this. It is a lockable slam gate and 15 & 17 have agreed to have keys to open the gates in the morning and lock up at night. A questionnaire to be sent to residents between 1 and 31. It was felt that a site meeting should have been held before the questionnaire. Letters have been sent to Contractors to measure up and quote.

15 Picnic by the Pond

DA said it had been very successful. There were 20 groups of people picnicking and he will be distributing photographs later.

He thanked the following people for their donations

The Ferry, Lillian Greenwood, Matthew Butcher, The Harvester, Co-op

Thank you to Roger Steel for his contribution in providing and putting up Gazebo, Banners and providing pens.

DA said he had been asked to organise a similar event next year and to help with another Picnic at the Pond later this year.

16 Social and Bowls Club Open Day

This will take place on Monday 31st May. The grant is on its way and discussions are taking place with the club with regard to arrangements.

17 Any Other Business

(i) BH mentioned that the Chair and Treasurer would not be at the June meeting. RH to be asked to chair the meeting and to discuss the Asset Transfer in detail.

(ii) Neighbourhood in Bloom – BR would be receiving the plants on Tuesday, mixed bedding plants and shrubs. Maureen Godfrey to plant an area around St Ervan Close and Billie Starkie to plant near Bell Lane.

(iii) Delivery of our newsletter had been a fiasco but had been refunded a cheque for non-delivery.

(iv) Agenda item for June meeting – Asset Transfer

(v) A resident, Gwen Derry, reported that her fence and hedge had been severely burnt. PC Brown said that unfortunately he did not think anyone would ever be apprehended for this offence, however, a police presence is being concentrated in Wilford and Clifton. Numerous burglaries, sheds and garages have been broken into, cars stolen and police operations are ongoing.

(vi) A Volunteer Event was taking place at the British Legion in Clifton on Thursday 1st July celebrating people who have been nominated by friends or family for those who have helped in the community. BH proposed that Dave Boulton be nominated for all his time and effort he has given to the Wilford Community Group

(vii) ES said that Youth Worker Angela Mills, who is employed by St Wilfrid's Church and Emmanuel School, would not be returning to her role in September due to a lack of funding. She would be greatly missed.

ES had spoken to Vicar Phil Marsh who indicated that in the Autumn the Play Group would be housed in the school's Victorian Building together with the After School Club.

ES asked if the WCG would invite Phil Marsh to our meetings. ST said he was welcome to any of our meetings and had, in fact, some time ago, had a meeting arranged with him but he cancelled at the last minute and has not been in touch to rearrange.

(viii) Asset Transfer –RS said Mark Hillary has been asked for more details and they would be able to talk in more detail at the June meeting.

(ix) RS said flyers had been posted around Wilford Area about the Open Day at the Bowls and Social Club. He would email DB with details for the website and the same to ES for Silverdale.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Date of Next Meeting: 7.30 pm on Monday 21st June at Wilford Social and Bowls Club.

Signed:

Dated: