



Hampshire Lakes Residents' Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 1st July 2023

Present

Francis Walker-Vice Chair, Sam Dauncey-Treasurer, Diana Duckworth- Membership Secretary, John Paine - Secretary, Joan Russam, Janet McCombie, Keith Hall.

In the absence of the Chair, Francis Walker, Vice Chair, welcomed visitors to observe the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Jenny Hydes and Brian Branson

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2023

Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated to members and they were approved by the committee and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

The Chair raised the topic of solar panels which had been discussed at the last meeting when we had agreed to pursue the matter with Graham Cox at Anchor HQ. This had not happened so far but he confirmed that he would do so.

4. Report on meeting with local management

Jenny and Francis had met with Debbie for a meeting in the previous week and he reported that progress was being made as regards parking. There was now a location schedule up and running which now provides the information as to who parks where and therefore also highlights the spaces available for visitors to use. The plan is to mark spaces available for visitors with yellow paint. There will also be 4 spaces in the large car park allocated for residents and suitably marked. There is also a plan to mark penthouse spaces with a red marking. These spaces are a "nightmare". They are formally part of the lease for the penthouses and are nominated accordingly.

In association with parking there is also the ongoing proposal for new signage.

Security in the road-side car park was another issue discussed and this has now been cordoned off although it will be available if required for visitors to large events.

There was also discussion about ongoing work around the village. One issue was the bent lighting post which was caused by a visiting van whose owner is refusing to take responsibility. Also, a fence that needs repair and the bridge handrail which has been outstanding for some time. Manhole covers are an ongoing concern as well.

On other topics there was discussion about drivers and buses. It was agreed that we should pursue this issue and seek an improved service. Comparison was made with the situation at Bishopstoke where they have a functioning programme on a monthly basis and in addition to vans have the use of a car. There was also some discussion about the recent proposed arrangements for washing cars. |

One final topic is the question of whether or not we pursue the possibility of joining Neighbourhood Watch. Membership would probably need to be on an individual basis with as many residents participating as possible. This would involve the need for an organiser from amongst our membership.

5. Treasurer's Report (SD)

30 June was the end of our financial year.

The HLRA has cash assets of £3833.90 and we hold £346.04 on behalf of the Bridge Club, making a total bank balance of £4179.94.

Our outgoings during the year (totalling £804.20, £82.50 of which was offset by contributions from committee members) covered the website, the clock in Cottons, greeting/condolence cards, a new residents' welcome gathering and a subsidy for the Xmas tea.

6. Membership Secretary's Report (DD)

There is one new member who has joined and who is present today.

7. Working Groups

a. Finance Group (FW JR SD)

Francis reported on behalf of the group as follows:

We are still awaiting Anchor's report for the year that finished in March.

Although the figures have been promised there is always a delay and last year they were not available until September. The other item this week is that the Government lowered the energy cap. This has no direct impact on us but will have an effect overall in Anchor's energy supply arrangements which we hope will work through positively during the year.

b. Bistro and Social activities (JR)

Joan started by summarising recent events, notably the Jazz in the park evening which was well attended and enjoyed by all. She went on to report on forthcoming events, including the Caribbean evening in early August. Also a river trip for afternoon tea at Hanley. She also spoke of an extra barbecue event arranged by Debbie in late July.

On the question of the Bistro, the planned meeting with Debbie had been cancelled because Debbie was off sick. It will be rearranged.

However, Joan did outline the topics which the group were hoping to tackle with Debbie in due course. These included a review of prices. A recent estimate suggested that margins were high by outside standards bearing in mind that there were no overhead costs in terms of rent or rates.

The other topic was that some people wanted to attend events without having to pay for a meal. For a variety of reasons, the group felt that this was not a practical position to take and therefore were not proposing to recommend it.

She also commented on the recent visit by Penny (Chair of the Residents' Association at Bishopstoke). Apparently there the residents are allowed access to the Bistro when closed for meals. This means that they can use the facility for running events of their own. She had also mentioned that they were able to take their own wine into the Bistro and pay corkage. In many situations this resulted in a significant saving. She proposed to take these topics up with Debbie in the coming week.

c. Gardens (JMcC)

Janet opened by commenting on the effect of the recent dry weather on the lawns. She commented on the fact that where the lawns did not need cutting the team might be used for other purposes. However, this is not possible because they are not gardeners and are contracted only to look after the lawns. The blades on their mowers are raised and are taking off just the tops of the grass. She was very pleased with the way the edges were being kept.

She also spoke of the ongoing topic of tree surgery. Debbie had apparently wanted to have Tom to do the job, but Michael had obtained a quote from another organisation who were approved by Anchor. It was not known when the work would take place.

Otherwise the main concern was the weather and the need for rain

Following her presentation there followed a long discussion about the pond.

There was consensus that the pond was too overgrown with bullrushes and the surrounding area needed attention. Michael is aware of the situation, but has concerns about the wildlife and the practical difficulties of maintain the surroundings because of the deep slope.

d. Wellness (KH)

The MOTomed device arrived this month, the Wellness staff were trained as well as a staff member for Willow Gardens. The device has been well received and is being used by a number of residents and non-residents.

I demonstrated to 5/6 people during the Big Brew on Thursday.

The request to have the Wellness facilities open for 12 hours 7 days a week is continuing through the Anchor approval process.

This week Debbie wrote the 'Operation Plan' for the Centre, detailing how it would operate, this has been forwarded up the Anchor chain of command.

It will be finally reviewed by the Health and Safety advisor and will then HOPEFULLY be accepted by the Anchor board.

Hopefully a new instructor will be starting this week as well as a Wellness Centre cleaner.

The Big Brew event raised £500.00 for SSAFA, and we have had several very positive response emails from SSAFA headquarters; they were very impressed with the event and the response from the Residents.

e. Power & Energy (FW BB SD)

Francis had nothing to report.

f. Infrastructure and Buildings

In the absence of Brian, there was nothing to report, but there was news about the trials at Bishopstoke and Denham for EV chargers. It was understood that there had been a very small uptake at both venues.

8. Any Other Business

a. Keith reported that his month we have had 205 unique visitors to the site who viewed our pages 939 times.

We have had a request from Bishopstoke to see whether we would be able to assist them in having their own website.

b. Diana thanked Emrys Parry for setting up the Volunteer Driver scheme which is much appreciated. Keith reported that This month Emrys has organised 21 journeys at

a cost of £93.50 to those people who have used the service. That means the HLVDS has saved our Residents a staggering £467 in taxi fees!

Diana also asked whether she could attend the meeting with Debbie regarding the buses and drivers. Francis agreed.

c. Sam raised the question of ink usage on the Lakes News printed for us by Anchor. It was agreed by all that the recent issue was particularly bad and the extra cost must be significant.

9. Date of Next Meeting: Saturday 5th August 2023

This concluded the formal meeting and the Vice Chair invited questions and comments from the guest members present.

There were 22 members in attendance and several topics were covered.

The question of acoustic panels for the Bistro was raised and John explained that the proposed provider had failed to submit a quotation despite frequent repeat requests. After some discussion it was agreed that we should look for an alternative potential supplier and Joan agreed to look into it.

A question arose following the success of the Big Brew event as to whether there was scope for doing something similar occasionally for other charities. After discussion the consensus was that it would be possible should there be an appropriate opportunity. It was particularly felt that doing it in the Summertime was ideal although doing it later in the year would certainly be feasible.

The question was raised as to whether or not members of staff should be required to display a parking permit in the same way as residents. There was no information available and it was agreed that it would be looked into.

A member raised the question of seats dotted around the village might be useful for people who walk around but may need to sit down at intervals. It was agreed that this would be considered.

There was a question about finding a replacement driver. There was no information available, but as the current driver was off sick it was unlikely that recruiting a replacement would be inappropriate.

There was some discussion about the availability of outside water taps. The only solution was for residents to have outside taps installed in their own properties, but of course at their own expense.

