

NORTH WEST FARNHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 26th March 2024

Present:

Richard Gunner (RG)
Dave King (DK)
Penny Marriott (PM)
Vivienne Miller
Anne Pullinger (AP)
Julie Russ (JR)

Apologies: Paul Grindley

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising:

The minutes were approved with the following corrections:

Under Coxbridge: DK went to the Coxbridge exhibition and they **“were not able to say”** (and not “they did not want to say”).

Under Tree in Beavers Road: “She has the tree pruned by 25% over 5 years.” Should say **“every 5 years”**.

“AP said she has a friend who works for the RHS” should read “she has a friend who **volunteers** for the RHS.

The tree in question has not yet been pruned.

Sue Adcock has confirmed that she can give a talk at our Autumn Meeting on 10th October about the human centrifuge.

It is unknown if PG has made enquiries about placing an advert in the Herald to try and encourage people to attend our meetings. DK will send him an e-mail and find out. RG said he could place an advert in the Herald announcing our AGM, nearer the time of the meeting. Before that he could send some publicity to the Herald about our website, if PG has not done so. AP suggested sending information to Vantage Point and JR suggested doing the same with Roundabout.

DK said there had been an exchange of e-mails about setting up a Whatsapp Group but it was felt that it was not suitable as the content is not serious enough.

Treasurer’s report: (RG)

There is £146 in the current account and £4,317 in the deposit account. The interest per month is now 4 or 5 % per month. We therefore have money if there is something worth spending it on. DK asked RG how many standing orders have been placed from members. RG said it is very difficult to get people to set up standing orders. Nowadays some people go through charity partnerships but RG said NWFRA should stay with standing orders. RG will send an e-mail to the Committee to remind them to set up a standing order, minimum ‘£5, for their subs.

Planning, Fields and Other Matters: (DK)

Bishop’s Square:

Planning permission has been granted, subject to 2 A4 pages of conditions. Permission is for a 5 bedroom house, single storey at the front and double at the back. There has to be a separate access from Old Park Lane, the existing access cannot be used. Other conditions include a local agreement to pay £5,000 as they are within 5 km of the Thames Basin Heath Special

**DK
RG**

RG

Protection Area, all materials must be approved and a proper tarmacked entrance in place before constructions starts, and construction must start within 3 years. VM said the original application was for a 2 bedroom house, which changed to 4 bedroom and then 5.

Old Park Lane Development:

Trevor Free has produced a petition which has been circulated and has many signatures. It will be handed in to Waverley and provide evidence that many people are strongly against the development. Access is one of the main issues and also the drainage is atrocious. Trevor Free has been in touch with an engineer about the latter. DK has noticed that the swale at Abbey View is usually dry. The pipe within it is only 14 mm in diameter which is insufficient to take the water away and instead the water bypasses the swale. The question was asked: "If the swale was working properly would it make any difference, where is the water going to go?"

John Willacy has written a long letter full of complaints about the planning application (WA/2023/01467). Also, Gleeson have submitted many new documents recently which are also on the website. AP asked if DK could send a copy of John Willacy's letter to the committee and he said he would. DK advised the committee to put another objection on the Waverley website before 11th April, after reading John Willacy's letter. There are much more suitable sites for building new houses than the Old Park Lane site.

DK

Coxbridge:

The last document required before construction can start is the Archaeological Report and also the access needs to be sorted out. All conditions have been met except number 19. The water supply must have been sorted out but Thames Water originally said the sewers would need updating. Now they have changed their mind and say the sewers are adequate. The committee wondered how this could be the case.

44 Beavers Road

It is now possible to access the extension. DK said the extension is not tile hung and it sticks out like a sore thumb. AP said the owners have sold it and will be moving to Hindhead. The existing garage has been taken down and AP does not know if a new garage will be built.

Footpath News (AP):

AP has tried to find out where the new footpaths on the Coxbridge Development would go. She had a look to see if SCC had submitted any objections to the footpaths. She also asked a Ramblers Footpath Secretary if he had received any comments about the footpaths but he is away at present and will reply to AP when he returns.

In a letter from the Countryside Access Team of SCC, dated 25 October 2019, it was stated that "there is no direct access onto the rights of way network and the connectivity, other than to Public Footpath 8 Farnham, is limited." They therefore made a couple of suggestions to "improve connectivity, to increase the quality of the rights of way network and increase recreational enjoyment."

These were to have a new link provided between the development and Public Footpath 1 to the north which appear to be in the same ownership. This link would be beneficial to the wider community, whether it was a permissive or dedicated right of way. Secondly to improve the connectivity of Footpath 167, as currently it runs along the verge of the A31 and it could provide a good off-road alternative route into Farnham. The letter goes on to say "If it is within the gift of the landowner and the developer (again same landownership) then it would be great to see a link through the field directly from opposite the southernmost corner of the development." AP said she would try and find out where the entrance to footpath 167 is on the Coxbridge development.

AP

AP

Tim Devis is a footpath secretary and SCC should contact him to get his views on the Coxbridge footpaths. AP will continue to pursue the matter of footpath 167 and any other "new" footpaths and will inform the committee when she has any further information.

DK

Communication with members, etc:

DK

JR asked DK to send her the most up-to-date list of members' e-mail addresses. DK said they were all blind copied and JR said she would always send blind copies so that e-mail addresses are not revealed to other members. We need to point people towards the website so they receive information and DK asked how this could be done. RG asked how many hits the website receives and DK said he could look it up. It is free to send news from clubs and societies to the Herald and Vantage Point and RG suggested that we send something to both. Items have to be sent to Vantage Point by the 1st date of the preceding month. AP said it is more important to send it to Vantage Point than the Herald because it is free and not everyone buys the Herald. JR thought it was important to send information to both because if you pay for something you are more likely to read it. Vantage Point is circulated to Farnham and Villages. RG will place an advert in Vantage Point once DK has contacted PG about placing an advert in the Herald.

RG
DK

DK asked what should be done with some of NWFRA's money. He mentioned that there used to be a flashing 30 mph speed warning sign, but it no longer works. DK asked SCC what they were going to do about it and if they were going to up-date it to show the new 20 mph limit. He got no reply and so asked about it again and SCC said the sign was not needed so he asked if cost was the constraint. If so then NWFRA could make a contribution towards it and he asked if the committee agreed that we should contribute. The committee agreed. RG looked up the cost of a 20 mph flashing sign and the price ranges from £250 to £750. DK thought that the last sign cost about £1,200. DK will wait and see what the council says before we take any action.

VM asked if the Community Speed Watch which was in progress recently in Castle Street was anything to do with NWFRA and was informed that it was not.

DK

Any other business:

VM asked if the Community Speed Watch which was in progress recently in Castle Street was anything to do with NWFRA and was informed that it was not.

AP asked who is responsible for filling in potholes in Waitrose car park and was informed that it is Waverley.

A provisional date of 12th June was suggested for the AGM but DK will e-mail PG to see if he can attend then before the date is confirmed.

PM DK

PM said she would contact the Parish Secretary to book St. Francis Hall for the AGM, once DK has confirmed the date with her. She will also book the Hall for the Autumn Meeting on 10th October. She will let JR know about the bookings when she has checked availability.

JR

Closer to the date of the next meeting JR will send a list of actions arising from this meeting to the committee as a reminder. The actions do appear in the action column of these minutes.

JR

Date of next meeting: Monday 3rd June at 2.30 pm at PM's house, 20 Larkfield Road. JR will invite David Beaman and Graham White to attend well before the meeting date.