

West Cornforth Residents Association

Notes of Committee Meeting held Monday 24th April 2006

Present: S. Pennick (CH), J. Pennick, J. Chalk, D Harrington, I. Eltringham, S. Eltringham, I. Barton, R. Barton, C. Lindsay

Apologies: T. Wells, J. Harrington, E. Chalk, S. Dodsworth.

Minutes Read & Agreed Upon

Matters Arising

Gravel on Verdun Terrace - recently supplied by Lafarge was discussed favourably; it had settled down well. Chair recently spoke to Lafarge manager Lisa Marshall and thanked her for all her help. He mentioned that we would be grateful for one last load to finish off areas where the gravel was spread thinly and we have written to her asking for this including a 'thank you' card on behalf of the West Cornforth Residents Association.

Flower beds - Comments were made about the flowerbeds dug out in front of No.s 3 & 4 Verdun Terrace and the Chair offered help for anyone wanting to do similar. RB said that they might pose problems further down the street as the grass was "holding up the kerbstones".

Vehicle access - The group discussed possibility of preventing vehicles from driving over the grass further down Verdun Terrace. TW said earlier that he would be able to make some lockable posts designed to prevent access as his firm manufactures them. These could be unlocked for emergency services if required. Agreed that this was a good idea along with a road sign stating "private road" or similar. JP to make enquiries about signage.

SBC maintenance - SBC had removed a lot of overgrown trees next to Reading street bungalows to open up the views after the Chair and another resident Mr Bowerbank brought the matter to the council's attention. Roots from felled trees were also dug out between Verdun Terrace and Coronation Terrace.

Gardening competition - this was discussed and it was agreed that it should act as an incentive to residents of the whole village to improve their own gardens, promote healthy living and community pride. We had contacted various companies such as Woolworth, B&Q, Focus, Boyes, Wilkinson's etc. Boyes & Wilkinsons kindly donated vouchers to the value of £40. The Chair had also arranged to meet with the chairman and clerk of Cornforth Parish Council on 25/04 to discuss the project.

AGM - The group were reminded that the year end accounts would need to be finalised before the end of May and a copy sent to SBC if we were to qualify for their annual £200 grant. It was agreed that we would hold our AGM at the next meeting to enable us to prepare the accounts. The chair asked residents if they had any suggestions as to where they would like to see the money spent. Agreed that more flowers/bulbs should be planted around the area and also that the metal fence to the south end of Coronation Terrace could be painted and flowers planted underneath.

Traffic calming - Durham County Council had painted "SLOW" signs along Station Road following a traffic survey carried out.

Pit wheel memorial - pictures of the pit wheel being cleaned and painted were circulated and thanks given to Banks for their hard work and support. The wheel and buggies are being stored in their yard until quotes have been obtained for a brick plinth to mount it on. The project is being conducted by the R.A.O.B.

North-East Guide to grants book - was circulated and discussed. Chair said that anyone was welcome to borrow the book to see what grants were available.

Metal barrier - north of bus shelter on Station Road; residents asked if it could be removed because it appeared to serve no purpose. SP to make enquiries.

Compost bins - Chair let everyone know about the subsidised compost bins that DCC were promoting and urged everyone to get one to reduce the amount of green waste.

Correspondence

JP read out various letters from SBC regarding forthcoming training courses open to residents associations. JP asked if anyone was interested to let her know and she would make the necessary arrangements.

Other business

Video Conference Suite at Cornforth House - was now operational and residents of the village had been invited to go along to Cornforth House to use the system.

Cornforth Partner - The chair requested for submissions of news and anecdotes relevant to the village.

The Community Centre - was in line for £60,000 funding to go towards a new central heating system. The football pitches were almost ready; a meeting was being held at the CC on 28/04 to discuss coaching and teams with all interested parties.

The group were pleased that we seemed to have achieved a great deal in a comparatively short timescale.

Next meeting(s)

The next Meeting including the AGM will be Wednesday 17th May at 7p.m.

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm