

West Cornforth Residents Association
Minutes of General Meeting held Wednesday 19th June 2006

Present: S. Pennick(CH), J. Pennick, J. Chalk, E. Chalk D. Harrington, J. Harrington, I. Barton, R. Barton, I. Eltringham, T. Wells, C. Lindsay, T. Linton, G. Lowe

Steven Dawson - SBC

Apologies: S. Eltringham

Minutes discussed and agreed on from the previous meeting.

Matters arising

Area North of Coronation Tee - Volunteers had begun rebuilding the stone wall adjacent to Station Road and had removed the weeds and planted various bedding plants. Chair discussed our activities with owner of end property and volunteered to paint gable end wall. Resident was very pleased and said he would provide the paint.

Comments were made about cars etc driving over the grass verge in front of Thurston Grange in order to access Station Road. After a period of many years had killed the grass and eroded the topsoil. Various methods of prevention were discussed such as planting shrubs etc. Chair had arranged with street scene workers for the topsoil to be replaced.

It was noted that in October 2005 the area was brought to the attention of SBC officers and it was suggested by one that widening the road could be an option.

Station Road bus shelter - Perspex shelter had been erected and everyone agreed that the area looked much better. The road markings had not yet been done by DCC and there was no bus timetable on display for travelers.

Street lights - Various street lights from the village were reported to HAL as being out of action, these were fixed within two days. We had also reported streetlight number 412, between the two railway crossings on Station Road, because it was still obscured by trees despite it being reported twice previously to DCC. It was noted that, in recent years, this small stretch of road had become a notorious blackspot, being the scene of two road fatalities involving village children, so it should be considered a priority to keep it well lit. JP to pursue.

CCTV - An additional CCTV camera, facing northwards, had appeared on the existing camera post just off the High Street. There was no public information available regarding it's arrival. JP to invite Andrew Aitken from SBC Chilton Depot to a future meeting for an update on the role of CCTV in the village.

Miners Monument Project - A resident had stated that the old log steps beside the proposed site of the monument were currently very unsafe and that it was only a matter of time before somebody fell down onto the main road below. Since the reopening of Thrislington Allotments the pathway was again in regular use. BB had mentioned to the Chair that it may be possible to replace the steps during the proposed building work for the monument but permission from the responsible authority would need to be sought. Chair stated that Parish Council regularly strimmed the grass along the pathway so would make initial enquiries with the Clerk. The telegraph pole is to be moved by BT later this month.

Metal posts to the front of Verdun - J.P. had written to both DCC and SBC regarding planning

permission for lockable posts. There had been no reply from SBC but DCC stated that so long as residents were in agreement then there should be no problems. T.W. still enquiring about the posts with his employers

Grassed area to the rear of Verdun & Coronation - I.E. had spoken to Mr J Talbot and Mr G Garthwaite of SBC when they were in the area, regarding the proposed trip fence and re-grassing of the area etc. She was told that SBC would not be carrying out these works. Upon hearing this J.P. had tried to telephone Mr Talbot to clarify the situation but was unable to contact him. It was agreed to write to Mr Talbot via recorded delivery because we had not been advised. It was noted that this had been the first Summer in which the grass between the trees had been cut; without the residents first needing to complain.

Correspondence

We had received a letter from SBC regarding a point that had been raised at a recent meeting of the Sedgefield Residents Federation. They had been looking at the possibility of designated non-drinking areas within the borough. Our group discussed this matter and whilst accepted that there was an issue with drinking in certain public places, felt that there was currently enough legislation to allow the police to deal with it. However, resources were not always available to enforce it.

Any other business

Old scrapyard site - still in the process of being cleared.

Mobile Skatepark - D.H. mentioned a mobile skate park, that was touring various locations within the borough throughout the summer, and wondered if it could be a possibility for our area. Agreed that although a good idea in principle, our group didn't have the resources or manpower to get involved in this type of provision. S.D. from SBC said that he thought that hiring a skate park from SBC may cost around £1,000 per day although KoolKash grants were available through SBC. He advised us to confirm this with SBC leisure department. The Chair stated that the Cornforth Partnership/Youth Project already made use of the skate park in 2005 and it was very well attended and that he thought they would be doing the same in 2006.

Railings on Reading Street - It was pointed out that the brown paint on all the metal railings, running parallel with the steps, on Reading Street had flaked off and looked neglected. The Chair also stated that the public seat between number 16 - 31 was in need of repair. It was agreed that we should contact SBC to bring the matter to their attention.

Chair reminded members that The Salvation Army were holding their Summer Fayre on Saturday 24th June and The Community Centre theirs on Sunday 9th July. The summer newsletter would be published in mid July so please inform anyone looking to include articles.

Next meeting(s)

The next meeting will be Friday 21st July at 7p.m.

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm