

West Cornforth Residents Association
Minutes of General Meeting held Monday 21st August 2006

Present: S. Pennick (Chair) I. Barton, R. Barton, E. Chalk, J. Chalk, I. Eltringham, S. Eltringham, J. Chalk, E. Chalk, D Harrington, J. Harrington, C. Lindsey, J. Pennick

Apologies: Steven Dawson- SBC

Minutes discussed and agreed from the previous meeting.

Matters arising

Miners Memorial Pit Wheel - The RAOB had informed us that there would be a Dedication Service planned for 7th October at Community Centre. Mining Memorabilia would be on display at the Community Centre on 7th and 8th October courtesy of Durham Mining Museum along with a presentation, buffet, and Ferryhill Town Band will play. All building works have been carried out by local tradespeople including Mr M. Thompson.

Proposed Picnic Area - Land to the north side of the Community Centre building had been cleared of weeds etc and it had been suggested that a picnic area and a Mothers & toddlers play area would be an ideal project. We understood that there was funding of up to £20,000 available from various community grant sources. The group agreed to make further enquiries.

Daffodil bulbs - Last year the Chair and JP donated a sack of daffodil bulbs which were planted around Coronation and Verdun Terrace. All comments about these were very favourable therefore it was suggested that the RA should repeat again in 2006. The group agreed to purchase 5 x 25kg sacks of naturalizing bulbs; costing £92.50. Chair asked for volunteers to assist with planting.

2006 Gardening Competition - The competition was judged by Thinford Nurseries and the prizes had been awarded to the winners. The results and photos were displayed on the Cornforth website and would be displayed at the Village show and in the Autumn newsletter.

Thrislington Allotments - DCC has written to all allotment holders stating that their restriction on the keeping of poultry and the growing of fruit had been lifted. JP had contacted DCC and was told that there was a waiting list of would-be allotment holders and the vacant gardens would be allocated shortly.

Metal crash barrier - Further to our request, DCC had removed the old iron barrier south of Coronation Terrace.

Station Road - 'fly-tipped' branches left there by DCC workers when cutting back overgrown trees near streetlight 412 are still in situ.

Ground Maintenance - Further to our request, SBC had removed some trees which were overhanging the fence, north of Coronation Terrace. They had also been in the area thinning trees and bushes from flower beds. The group discussed the level of maintenance given to various areas of the village. We understood that the grassed areas in the West of the village were cut 10 times per year whereas it was understood that the village green gets 16. JP to ask Parish Clerk for a copy of their ground maintenance contract (an agreement with SBC as they carry out the works) to clarify this. Public space at Robert Square is very overgrown as is the land next to the Doctors surgery.

Parish Council Meetings - Our Chair had been attending their meetings each month and had on a previous occasion asked for a regular Parish Surgery to be set up, so members of the public could talk to their Councillors and discuss any problems/issues etc - this has now been agreed upon in principal. The council were also asked if they would consider erecting a village notice board however their chairman would not agenda it for discussion by the full council because he felt that the notice board would be a target for vandalism.

Lockable posts - still under discussion and it was suggested that instead of posts we use two large planter barrels instead that would be filled with plants etc. Possibility of asking residents for donations as these would be costly but would benefit everyone.

Private road sign - JP to enquire with SBC and SE to enquire at her place of work.

Correspondence

Letter received from SBC stating that C Marshall from Tenancy Participation was leaving his post to start a new job.

Any other business

Car crash, railway crossing - It was stated that during the course of the month there had been another serious incident when a car had left the road and crashed through the fence of the old scrapyards; no other details known at this time.

Village Show - Chair reminded members that Cornforth Village Show was being held 9th and 10th September.

Payment of invoice for hire of hall - The Salvation Army had informed us to say that their invoice for the hire of the hall was still outstanding. JP to chase SBC.

Path on Station Road - Chair and BB had been cutting back and clearing the path of grass which had grown over the tarmac. Volunteers requested.

Flowers on Verdun Terrace

Chair also wished to announce that all flowers, plants and tubs at the top end of Verdun Terrace had been purchased by individual residents and many positive comments had been received from visitors to the Salvation Army.

Next meeting(s)

Next meeting Monday 18th September

Meeting closed at 7.45 p.m