

JMC Meeting held Thursday 9th January 2014

Members Present

Jane Davies – Chair, Paul Townley – Treasurer, Councillor Ian Lewis, Councillor Anita Leech, Sheila Henry, Ken Williams, Jenni Jones, Sandra Camello, Iris Coates, Pauline Murphy, Lesley May- Minute Secretary

Apologies

Ron Abbey, Michelle Gray , Val Reisenman.

Minutes of Last Meeting

These were agreed as a true record of the last meeting

Matter Arising

Ken Williams asked if there was any progress with looking at using light sensors for the building when closed. Paul said he had contacted Ben Parker but was still waiting for him to respond. He had also done research into the subject and he estimated that it would cost about £1,000 to buy the lamps (£50 each) and have the system installed. But said he would like confirmation that he had the right information. Pauline Murphy reiterated her point that even if the system was installed it was expensive to maintain. Sheila Henry said that the landlord of the building (WBC) would need to give permission for any alterations to the building and said that she would contact Ben Parker and ask him to look at the idea. Pauline asked if a 'Green Grant' could be used to purchase the system.

Ian Lewis asked what was happening with the clearance of the bonfire site as he had received complaints that this had not been done.

Correspondence

Nil. The point was made that due to electronic mail very little posted mail was now used.

Treasurers Report

Paul said that very little had happened since the last meeting apart from The Christmas Party, which had been very successful, and the Autumn Club. He had paid for the Minibus to have a safety check and had taxed it for 12 months.

The balances are:

- Current Account £34779.78
- Deposit Account £18179.15
- Minibus £2782.09

Senior Play Leader

No report

Youth Society

Ian said that the volunteers had been trained and had received their CRB checks. The weekly trips to Moreton, while Leasowe Club been closed, had only lasted for four weeks, due to the lack of interest. When asked how many were in the society he said that at the last meeting in Leasowe there were approx. 20 young people

Art Club

Iris reported that her numbers had dropped because of illness. As she had retired she could no longer afford to subsidise the Club, as she had done in the past, so had started to charge members. Most of the money went towards the room rental. It had been hoped that a few people with mental health issues would attend but due to their lack of helpers this had not happened. Iris hoped to distribute leaflets and boost her numbers

Autumn Club

Tina said that The Club was now geared up after Christmas.

7 Waves Radio

The Council had given permission that road outside the Centre could be named in a competition run for the three primary schools in the area and Pauline had set up appointments to speak to the Head Teachers of the schools. As the road was referred to a 7 Twickenham Drive problems had occurred in post arriving at its right destination. The competition prizes would be a tour of 7 Waves Radio and a recording session, a family voucher for free swimming at the Leisure Centre for a month and Tina had offered to give a free family meal. Councillors had been asked to act as judges but they said they wanted the people who were involved in the result to judge. Sandra said that they had a poor response to a competition that they had run with prizes, and had been advised to ask teachers to put a note in children's' bags so that the parents would be aware of what was happening.

7 Waves were now partnered with Mersey Media, a commercial firm; the past three years had been a long financial struggle for 7 Waves. The station had lost advertisers as other radio stations had become more aggressive with their advertising prices. The Mersey Media Marketing and Training department were based in 7 Waves Production Room. John Storey had been unable to attend this meeting but hoped to be at the next meeting to introduce himself and the firm

Men's Fit Club

The Club had started meeting again this week, after the Christmas holidays. Numbers were reduced to nine. Ken was in the middle of selling his house and buying a bungalow in Moreton. When this had been completed Ken would be applying for a grant for the Club. Iris asked if the people with Mental Health problems had turned up but Ken answered no. Tina mentioned that Tuesday was a problem day for the carers and suggested that Ken talked to the men that attended the Autumn Club.

Councillors Reports

Councillor Ian Lewis

Sadly Tony Kelly, the chair of the Allotment Society, had died suddenly, Pauline mentioned she had received mail for him. Legally the Allotment Society had to name a charity that would receive any assets (debts would not be transferred) should they close down and the Leasowe Community Centre had been named.

Ian had sent a survey to the estate asking the residents for their concerns.

A planning application to build 200 houses (mixture of 2 to 5 bedrooms and business units maybe built) on the Burton site would be made this week. Anita said that 10,000 posters had been put up advertising the open evening but only 100 people had attended. Pauline said that there was a covenant on the bowling green that would prevent building if it was still in place. Ian said the Council wanted the land for economic use and if a housing planning application were granted then this would set a precedent for future house building. Another negative would be the additional traffic created, initially with construction vehicles and finally with residents vehicles.

The Council had asking for 4 volunteers to be trained in case of future floods in the area. A meeting would take place at the end of the month.

Councillor Anita Leech

Anita told the meeting about the opportunity to take local youths on a trip to the Youth Zone in Bolton. A Youth Zone would be built in Birkenhead in a building next to the new Fire Station. Building will start in about 12 months, despite the Youth Parliament having voted against a Youth Zone. Anita said the Merseytravel Youth Scheme would be launched soon to help with travelling costs. Jane Davies was concerned that it would not help young people to be taken to view a marvellous youth centre, which would not be built in their area. Sheila Henry said that a Youth Zone had to be built in a central position. The point was made that since the Youth Society had not been running, even with free transport, the scheme to take the young people to the Moreton Centre had failed due to lack of interest after only 4 weeks, showing that young people did not want to travel out of their home area. Pauline asked why the money for the trip could not be invested in Youth Activities in the Estate and wondered how it was to be funded and who had made the decision. Ian said he felt that if the youths did not want a Youth Zone then they should be consulted as to how the total of 4 million could be spent more sensibly. Jane made the point that the estate does not even have a Youth Worker and more money should be spent on the youth in the estate. Pauline asked who had made the decision of the Zone and Trip to Bolton and why the decisions had been made.

In conjunction with Age UK there would be a blanket testing at the Grosvenor Ballroom and faulty blankets will be replaced. Tina would be asking the members of the Autumn Club for theirs so they could be tested.

There had been complaints about litter in the area. Anita was visiting the schools to ask what they were going to do (Eco Warriors have been set up in the Wallasey School). The Council had seen that more rubbish bins were needed in the area.

Invigorate were giving half price membership throughout January with free taster sessions and free early morning swims (7.15am at Leasowe Recreational Centre)

Work was due to start on the car park area. United Utilities have already started work on the sewage flood issues. Sandbrook Road area had flood problems and Anita had asked for capital funding for work on this and other roads where this problem existed (Ian had received feedback on this problem from the residents survey that he had done),

A community led, self-funding 'drop in coffee morning' was being held every Tuesday 10.30am at the Millennium Centre for adults with children suffering from disabilities.

Toys had been sent at Christmas to 70 people.

No decision had been made over Fernleigh, whether to sell, or demolish and sell.

Pauline asked what had happened about the land at the back that had gone to auction.

Anita said the reserve price had not been met. She had asked what was happening but had no response yet.

Councillor Ron Abbey

Ron had sent his apologies; he was at a Merseytravel meeting

WBC

Sheila said that a film company wanted to film (not a documentary) on the estate for about 6 to 8 weeks, but they were having trouble getting permission from the Council. The company would be using the café for food and drink and there would be jobs as extras (at a fee of £50 per day) for local people, so it would be good for the area. She asked the Councillors if they could pressure on the Council to allow the filming to go ahead as the company needed to start filming at the end of the month

There were places available on the next Health and Safety Course, the usual fee was £400 but the fee for this course would be £100 per person. Tina would be funded by the JMC who would also fund Mandy 50%, the balance being settled by her firm. Ian said that he would go and would sort out his own funding

As the JMC were responsible for the Community Centre there were certain Health and Safety Regulations which have to be met by them when the building is open. The use of the booking forms could help but Tina said that these were rarely filled in. Sheila could not do these duties herself but it was part of her job to ensure that they were being done. Pauline said that it was a massive responsibility for any volunteer to take on. After discussion it was decided that Sheila would compile a list of what needs to be done and a separate meeting would discuss how to comply with these regulations. Ian said that a rota needs to be made of what we are prepared to do and what will fall back on the Council, people on the estate may be prepared to take on some of the work.

Sheila said that the Job Centre would pay half a salary if the JMC wanted to appoint an 'Centre Manager' but Paul said that in total it would be about 7k that would have to be raised to fund an employee. He said that the website will be up and running very shortly and included on the website would be booking forms (that could be emailed in) and it would be pointed out what the responsibilities are for hiring the venue.

It was decided to have a Housekeeping meeting to discuss these issues on Wednesday 12th February at 2.15pm.

Any Other Business

Pauline asked the councillors how were the Council going to cut down on sea defences. Ian said that there would be no cuts on present sea defences but places like Heswall Hills where there was no sea wall there would probably be no additional spending

Jenni mentioned about the dog fouling in the area. Ian said this was a matter that had been raised on his residents' survey and he had contacted the council team involved. It was thought that money had been given to the LDT to tackle the problem and this would be looked into. (Paul had been given certain matters to raise)

First World War Commemoration

Pauline had already started on a joint venture with Simon Very, the community rep at Wallasey School, who she would invite to a JMC meeting.

Purchase of Website Name

The name 'leasowecommunitycentre.co.uk' had already been agreed by the JMC and it was agreed to purchase the name. Paul said that having the website would help with funding issues. He would speak to the website advisor about an email address and how to maintain the site.

- Tina asked if 7 Waves could help with the closing of the main doors to retain the heat in the Centre
- Ian said he had sent an email about permission for the film crew and had received a reply that the matter was in hand. He also said that Vodaphone could donate money to the website via a text message
- Concern was raised again about grants and the lack of communication between the groups of people who were using the JMC name without informing the Committee
- Pauline said that Mersey Media were applying for four grants.
- It was mentioned that there should be a separate item on the Agenda –Funding.

Time and Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 27th February 2014 at 10.30am