



JMC Meeting Held Thursday 13 April 2017

Members Present

Jane Davies Chair, Paul Townley (Treasurer), Mary Quigg, Councillors Anita Leech, Ron Abbey and Ian Lewis, Danny McGarry, Tina Amis, Sheila Henry, Jenni Jones, Pauline Murphy, John Storey, and Lesley May

Apologies

Councillor Treena Johnson

Approval of Last Minutes

Minutes were agreed

Matters Arising

Lauren had picked up some useful items from Jenni at LDT

Correspondence

See The Building Lease

Invitations

The Allotments

Gary and Kevin, representing the Leasowe Allotments, had been invited to the JMC. They had been with the Allotments for just over 3 months and wanted to integrate with people in the area. Jane said that she thought that Treena had mentioned having a presentation about the fruit and veg that was grown there.

Anita said that there was a problem with the Community Allotment, it had been looked after by older people and had been left untended. Kevin said that people had until 22nd April to clear up and then a digger would come in and turnover the area. Anita had met with schools and mentioned the community allotment and if they would take over the beds. She also said that if the beds were raised it would make the beds more accessible to older people and people who had disabilities but they would not be suitable for people in wheelchairs. Gary said that the existing 10 beds could be cut down into 35 beds. Friends of Yewtree may take over caring for the beds.

There had been problems caused by poor workmanship and it was hoped that maybe the original workmen could be found and asked to make repairs. The path was so bad that it meant it was not wheelchair accessible. In the greenhouse the top of the shutter had been badly fitted plus a window was broken

Jane suggested that the allotments could be used to train adults and children and the Community Centre to be used for theory training sessions

It is hoped, with help from schools, that a sensory garden can be planted.

Jenni said that Neil Coffrey had tried to set up bee hives but the idea had never taken off.

Danny said that the Adventure Playground had an allotment at Wallacre, about 6 years ago, and had planted £1700 of fruit trees but the pears, gooseberries and berries had been nicked by children. It was a bit dangerous (behaviour wise) to take children to the allotments and at the moment the Addy was working on growing a sunflower competition.

Jane, as Chair welcomed Gary and Kevin as members of the JMC representing the allotments.

Treasurer's Report

Paul reported the balances, as of last night were

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|-----------------|------------|
| Current Account | £22,502.97 |
| Savings Account | £34,853.71 |
| Minibus Account | £ 2,664.81 |

Paul had made an application to the Burbo Bank, for funding the Autumn Club and their decision will be made in July. The Council had agreed to pay half funding until August to give time to look at funding for the Club

John Storey had confirmed that the balance of the £1500 loan would be paid soon but they were experiencing cash flow problems. The rent was a separate issue. John said he understood the Council were pleased about the Great Escape room being used and would take over the utility bills for the room and just a peppercorn rent would be paid. Mary said, that to close the matter and in a gesture to rebuild the relationship between the JMC and Wirral Radio, a nominal amount be paid and then draw a line under the matter. She had put this proposal to the Council and Wirral Radio but Wirral Radio had not responded to either her or Jo Burrell. Mary said that it was time to move on and the Radio makes some payment for the use of the Centres room. Ron said that he supported Jane and is also annoyed that WBC are trying to give rooms away and it should be a remuneration decision left for the Council to decide. Jane thought the rent be given to the JMC as Wirral Radio had moved in without an agreement on rent.

It was decided that Joanne act as mediator and discuss this matter with John Storey to see what he thought a fair rent should be. The discussions about the Great Escape have been minuted so Mary asked John to formally reply. The JMC needs income and requires a gesture for their past occupancy and a weekly rent for the room to be agreed. The JMC had never approved the use of the room. Sheila said we needed details from the council as to what was agreed

The Building Lease

Your Housing wanted to relinquish the lease on the building to the Council as they were moving out of the Leasowe Area since their split with LCH. Wirral Radio had expanded and needed more room for their academy work and also the Wirral Respite Alternative Provision scheme, which has expanded. John said that the radio was only a small part of what they do.

The Councilors had been to the Station and talked and the Council were going to write to the JMC about the proposal from Wirral Radio to take over the lease on the whole building

(Mary took over as Chair of the meeting).

Ron clarified the position of the Councilors' – they had no vote in any decision that the JMC makes. Anita had contacted Steve Markham and asked him to write to Jane by the Tuesday evening preceding this meeting. John Storey said that asking to take over the lease was a business decision and he would be quite happy to give a presentation which would back this decision and ultimately increase community provision and create four jobs.

Sheila said that the building was owned by the Council and Your Housing had been given a sub lease for it. Mary asked what the time scale was on making a decision and Sheila replied that there was no time scale for the Council. John said they needed to know by July, the end of the Summer Term, if alternative arrangements need to be made. The matter of the lease had been 'brought to the table'

by Your Housing and Sheila said discussions were still ongoing and things could change rapidly on a day to day basis.

Ian said that Your Housing had not given much notice and asked whether they were selling properties in the area and want to move out ASAP. Sheila said the lease cannot be sold; the building belongs to the Council. The lease is up in 2023 so the lease can be reassigned but not sold. John asked if the presentation could take place in the Radio area as he needed a screen and projector but it was decided to hold it in the Autumn Club room as the JMC have all of the presentation items that are needed.

Health & Safety issues

There were no outstanding issues

Reports:

Senior Play-Leader

The member of staff who had been sick, Jackie, had now returned to work. Now the Addy was constantly open the numbers had increased and the previous week there had been 105 children.

The Copper Jar had chosen the Addy as the recipient for their fund raising and donated £105. This was being used to have an Easter party later on that day.

Debbie Layfield, the Community rep. From Tesco had been down to see Danny and it was hoped that Tesco will be helping the Addy.

Danny had sent the quotes (for two thousand pounds) to repair the damaged play equipment to Mark Newman but he hadn't heard anything. The JMC had offered one thousand pounds towards the repair costs.

Lighting the playground was a Health and Safety issue and the Council should pay these costs.

Youth Society

Lauren had sent an email. She had started a full time job plus they were no longer receiving any backup from the Youth Federation and with changes to personal circumstances, the decision had been made to close. There was a problem due to the lack of volunteers for it to carry on. Monday 24th April will be the last meeting

Jenni asked that the items that Lauren had taken from LDT be returned.

Danny was still running a club for the 13 to 18 year olds and is being asked for more nights.

Ian asked if the Hive in Birkenhead was being used by youths in Leasowe but Jane said parents did not want their children going to Birkenhead of a night

Autumn Club

The Club is investigating all possibilities

Tina said they were busy fund raising by car boot sales, craft sales etc. If anyone had other fund raising activities she would be grateful. They had secured half funding from the Council for up to and including July.

Tina was the only paid member, the other volunteers worked just for expenses. Anita said that it was important to have sustainability and in the future maybe Tina's normal wage might not be covered but Tina said she had another job which would cover her. Sadly another member of the Autumn Club had die

Wirral Radio

Pauline said they had people with learning difficulties coming in on a Friday for dance classes. It was to help them not become isolated.

The Radio had a lot of bookings, as a Media Partner, coming up in the summer months e.g. Tranmere and the New Brighton Festival on 28th and 29th May.

The Radio had been helping with the anti-social behaviour youths to try and prevent further trouble. The Police did not have the staff and the Community Support Officers (CPSO) had been stoned at one point. Graphitti in the area has increased. Nine children had attended the first session and the following week there had been eighteen. They wanted an area of their own and their latest idea had been for a container – Ron said this was not feasible and John agreed. They had been trying to educate the children that they could not always have exactly what they requested.

Mary suggested that they connect with Danny as that was what he was doing and he was going to bring in professional people in to assist and deal with things. Danny confirmed that he had been dealing with anti social kids and he had involved the Councillors. John said that they had been trying to help but would now steer the children over to Danny.

Anita had written to the police about the mini motorbikes with children as young as 6 years old riding them. The police do not have the resources and have been moving them on from the Woodchurch and Lingham Road area. LCH have asked their residents to individually report incidents to the police. Pauline said that the Radio reports everything but there had been no co-ordinated response. The police work on a system similar to points – the more you complain the more likely they will respond. After a question from Pauline LCH said they have measures that they can use with their residents.

Leasowe Community Homes

Mary said they were now a part for the Prima Group. Prima is the group and Pier Housing is part of the Prima Group. They were one week in and so far so good. There is a Group Board and LCH have their own Board which is skilled based and includes skilled tenants. Their first meeting will be on 21st April

Anita said the staff has integrated and the LCH staff has more benefits. Ron said that tenants would be going on scrutiny and from there they can move onto the board. The Constitution needs to change to allow this. There is a new computer system

On the Prima Group website are details of Community Accreditation, which takes place over 3 years. This is a community tool and will start in June this year. It will make the community stronger and it is hoped to train 120 people each year.

Mary is attending Feeding Birkenhead, which links in with the Neo Cafe

The Council is being totally automated, E Citizen, and all of their information will be online Tenants can register online for payment of Community Tax; this is a mini Council project being piloted in Leasowe. This may, in the future, be followed up with text messaging to people who are late with their payments

Leasowe Development

Jenni said their Easter Egg hunt would be taking place later on in the day. The minimum age would be 8 years old and it would be a scavenger hunt. It starts at 4.00pm and finishes at the Addy, where a spread had been put on.

A community litter pick would take place on 25th April at 10.30am.

Tom Lonsdale, who is involved with the Friends of the Park Group, was starting gorilla gardening (using unused area's to grow plants) and Mary and Jenni would be meeting him to talk about a scheme for the flats, which had worked successfully in the past.

Mary was looking to appoint a Community Officer and would be interviewing for other posts.

Wirral Borough Council

Sheila's job is now part of the Neighbourhood Team, which has moved to Public Health department led by Fiona Johnson. Sheila had met with Jenni about the Wirral Involve North West, which is 'connecting people to support the local community'. and she will meet with the Chief Ex. about this. The Council are still paying the Centres cleaning bill, at the same rate, until next year. The only other centre receiving the 'cleaning grant' is Gautby Road Centre.

Talks are still going on between Wirral Radio and the Council on the allocation of the utility bills, sorted by Ben Parker, between the Community Centre and the Radio

Councillor's report

Councillor Anita Leech

Anita said she was now in daily contact with the police over the anti social problem. Wirral Change has a call centre involving Mencap. They are the first point of call and it then runs on a 'triage system'.

Tranmere Rovers new site is now up and running. The car park will be ready later this week; some residents have complained about parking in the adjacent roads. There were also complaints about the siting of the community pitches but it will be a long job to move these pitches and so they will not be open for the new football season. It is hoped to have a 3G football pitch so that it can be used all year.

The Boxing Club's building has been vandalised. LCH gave the Club 6k for a new boiler and the Club are fund raising to carry out improvements. One of these events will be a Sportsmen Dinner at the Leasowe Castle. In another event people will be doing sponsored abseils. Mares Tail weed has been found and it is being tackled to help prevent it invading the allotments,

The bus stop has been moved (by Holy Spirit) and traffic slowing measures will be introduced in the new financial year

Any other business

Jane thanked Mary for taking over the chairing of the meeting.

A presentation will be made by Wirral Radio on their proposal of taking over the whole building lease and an EGM called, before the normal May meeting, to discuss these proposals

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Presentation
EGM

Friday 28th April at 3.00pm
Thursday 25th May 2017 at 10.00am
Followed by JMC meeting