

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING: Thursday 16th November 2023 7.30PM
Richings Sports Park

(KEY: BC: Bucks Council; IPC: Iver Parish Council; RPSC: Richings Park Sports Club; RPRA: Richings Park Residents' Association; IGNS: Iver Good Neighbour Scheme)

PRESENT: Cllr. Graham Young (Chair), Cllr. Wendy Matthews (IPC, BC), Joyce Young (Minutes), Julia Hill, Helen Pennie, Nick Jones, Arun Gaur

APOLOGIES, Tina Heath, Ged Weston (Vice Chair), Jim Skinner, Shantanu Tandon, Gurmail Dhokal, Kam Khatker, Kavita Deva,

NON-ATTENDEES: Sue Barber, Maureen Atkinson, Rav Hayer, Kam Patel

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes were agreed as accurate and were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

All matters arising are on the agenda.

Events

Richings Christmas (Children's Christmas party)

Volunteers include – Wendy, Tina, Jean, Helen, Arun, and Graham and Joyce (who can't be there on the day). This has now been advertised on the Richings Park Facebook pages as well as the roads and the Richings Park What's app groups. Niki very kindly did us a poster.

The entertainer is booked, and a deposit paid, balloons by Mindi are being provided free of charge and Jas the face painter can come, although we don't know the cost.

Kam was talking to the lady about pizza delivery, but Joyce hadn't heard anything so far. She will ask Kam. Wendy will organise serviettes.

ACTION Joyce / Kam

Joyce has set up a spreadsheet for tickets, and is taking names, addresses, email addresses and number of adults (limiting to two adults) and children (with ages), she is also checking whether subs have been paid. The spreadsheet will note who needs to pay on the door and there will be subs envelopes for collection of this.

So far 48 tickets have been taken – about an even split with children and adults. Some have expressed an interest in donating presents who do not want to come to the party. At the end of next week (Nov 24th) we should have an idea of final numbers and then push the 'donating presents' part.

Simple poster to be done asking for donations to be left at, Lotus Back care, possible Costcutters (Malik to be asked) and other businesses, Joyce will ask Kam to liaise with shops and businesses who may be happy to be drop of points. Graham will get posters done, Joyce to ask Niki to do a cut down version – Donate your present here.

ACTION Joyce / Graham

Graham has contacted Heathrow about the grant, and he should hear if he has been successful this week - £800.

Christmas carols at the shops.

Date agreed to be Saturday 16th Dec from 4.30pm for about an hour when it is dark.

Also good for businesses who may still be open. Graham will ask Malik if Costcutters would like to take part and if so, could they heat up mulled wine and we will provide mince pies. Joyce to see if we can get a local choir along and will source Song sheets. If we can't get a choir, we will provide music and have a sing along.

Also possibly ask the What's App group if they know anyone who may like to come along and lead the singing. We need rigid paper cups (Costco) and serviettes. Also, a table for the wine and an igloo to keep it warm. Hopefully weather will be good.

Kam to be asked to speak to the other shops

Smartville

Ani from the Community Board has been in touch with Graham, and it seems there will be a match funded grant.

There were 3 Just Giving donations as of yesterday. £500 from IPC.

Need to think about Community fundraising but this was deferred as an agenda item for next year.

Graham is still looking into whether Smartville could be a Charity Commission subset of the Residents Association? Perhaps we need to advertise the Just Giving page on street and RP

What's app groups – especially after any local criminality. Tony has done a leaflet that highlights what is happening and how Smartville can help catch the criminals.

Heathrow

The CAA haven't yet agreed the new air space modernisation as they think that there has been insufficient community engagement after one area were told one thing by Heathrow and then this proved to not be true. It is looking as if it will have to go back to a central agency as different airports were interpreting it in differing ways, and it would cause problems to a cohesive approach.

Wendy said we need to be aware that some flights would come directly over us.

They discussed cargo issues, and that HGVs are parking in places they shouldn't – Wendy has a list of these including the access road to Thorney Park and other side roads. Please let her know if you see HGVs parked where they shouldn't be.

Highways update, verges, pavements and roads

Wellesley Avenue is nearly completed now.

Bollard replacement is on the horizon, hopefully soon.

Syke Ings and Syke Cluan are now on the long list for resurfacing, but this will probably not be until 2025/6. We are only allowed one road per ward per year.

Thorney Lane South pathway has a lot of Fix my street reports, but we need to keep reporting.

Speed limit signs will be taken down – the 40mph will be removed and it is expected that everyone knows that where there are streetlights then it is 30 mph.

We could put reminders up that is it 30 mph as a Residents Association - to be agreed when the signs are changed.

Agenda item for January

Please continue to report problems on Fix My Street frequently to increase the chance of action being taken.

Kingfisher Gardens / Gardening team

Joyce has a Teams meeting with Arif Hussain on the 27th Nov and Graham will be there as well.

Let's see what he says.

Treasurers and membership report

Shantanu sent around membership figures for the roads and a spreadsheet of those who have paid. Now includes Bank Transfers.

Membership was down 10% this year. What should we do about this?

It was suggested that we need to put it together with 'What do we do with the subscription funds we have in the bank?' as they probably go hand in hand.

Graham thought we had about £4000 in the bank, but he would check the exact figure. We need an amount every year to cover liability and event insurance and the cost of the web site and email hosting.

Joyce suggested we investigate what we should do with the money at the beginning of next year. Agree an amount that we should keep annually but use the money for major projects.

What projects would support the Community so that residents wanted to pay to be part of it?

Julia suggested we should ask your road What's app group members why they aren't a member? Be prepared to use the answers to make a change.

Suggestions included; an interpretive board for the Residents Garden, mature trees to replace those vandalised or which died, Smartville and other ideas.

We have managed to get through the Centenary year with no cost to the RPRA and all from grants.

We need to investigate the insurance liability we have for physical areas we are responsible for – Residents Garden that is owned by a trustee fund but eventually would be the RPRA responsibility as well as Kingfisher Garden.

Agenda item for January ACTION Graham / Julia

Planning and enforcement

House in Bathurst has put up new 6-foot-high security gates that seem not to comply with planning regs. This has been reported by Neil Pennie and Tony Hill. The contractors have also restricted access to the road, but this should be finishing soon. Wendy advised them to write to her about it and she will investigate further.

ACTION – write to Wendy

26/28 Somerset – still hasn't made the verge as it was before building works. Legal at Bucks are on to this.

Fourells Paddock appeal is Jan 16th and will take all day. IPC has asked Graham to represent their views that it is Green Belt and should not be developed. Bucks will support this, and Graham will talk about the area being blighted by overdevelopment and that it is not acceptable development. Graham noted that the development will increase the residents of Richings Park by 5%.

MSA – no news other than a lot of letters have been written objecting to the sale of the Green Belt by Bucks Council.

Ridgeway data centre. There has been a presentation to the IPC and formal planning should be in before Christmas. It is likely to be passed as it isn't on Green Belt and should reduce HGV movements.

Thorney Business Park. Notice for the demolition of the buildings at the rear of the site has been approved for a data centre. This is the first part of the development which will probably include housing at the front of the Park at a later date. Application for a data centre is already in. Some big businesses have already moved out although it was unknown exactly which ones.

Woodlands Park data centre was refused.

Parish and Unitary council updates

Neighbourhood Plan

Part two of this is now under discussion at IPC. Meeting held this week.

Discussed the possibility of making vulnerable open spaces into a Community Asset, namely Thorney Park and Kingfisher Garden. Graham has written to the anglers to see if they would like to come and discuss this with us in the new year.

Agenda item January

Lyndsey Beagle who lives in St Leonards Walk has written to IPC about the state of the St Leonards mound – an open space owned by the Parish but being used as a toilet by night car sleepers. It needs a lot of work doing to maintain trees, cut down dead Ash trees and to be turned into the open space that can be used by residents. The committee supported her stance and Graham will write on our behalf to support her concerns.

ACTION Graham

The Christmas lights at the Park are very unsatisfactory as they have been wrapped around lampposts rather than hung.

We may not get lights on the Christmas tree in the Residents Garden, but Wendy isn't sure of the reason. The contractors say there is no power, although there always was, as it was taken from the Parish owned lamp posts. She will investigate and get back to us. **ACTION Graham and Wendy**

Bucks have no money although they are unlikely to go bankrupt. Bucks has grown significantly and is now the 4th largest County in England. Census data from 2021 is now out.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 19th December 7.30pm at the Sports Club. This will be our Christmas 'do' and there is no formal agenda. We hope everyone can come and celebrate Christmas with us.

Thursday 11th January 2024 7.30 at the Sports Club

Around the table

The culvert on Old Slade Lane between the farm and the motorway bridge will be mended by National Highways, who have instructed agents to deal with it as the stream floods. Although it is a private road it is owned by them.

Wood lane is plagued by flooding at the bottom by Mansion Lane and the part near the Red Lion roundabout.

Report on Fix my Street

Tree have been received but are very small specimens and need a lot of support.
Discussion on other options for trees.

59 Richings Way is causing obstructions on the pavement and will be reported as they take no notice of complaints.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm