

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING: Wednesday 13th March 2024 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, Shantanu Tandon, Tina Heath Will Goddard

APOLOGIES Kam Khatker, Kavita Deva, Arun Gaur, Nick Jones, Ged Weston (Vice Chair), Jim Skinner, Gurmail Dhokal,

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes were agreed as accurate and were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

The bench may be difficult to move as the legs are set in concrete and to cut them off will reduce the height of the bench. Still been complaints about people sitting in the garden and drinking – coming off the train. The police can't deal with it as it is a private garden.

Need to get some quotes for removal – Graham will ask Gem at the Parish if he knows any contractors. Shantanu will ask his builders.

ACTION Graham and Shantanu

Four items were added to the Agenda; Smartville, Charity status, Projects, Iver Villages together,

Heathrow

Local Focus Forum – Noise forum

Both forums met last month. Graham is sending out the minutes to the committee.

Next Local forum is meeting at the Sports Club on Tuesday from 6 to 8pm. Anyone can attend with sandwiches available from 5.30pm.

Noise – there was a consultation on slot allocation, and they were asking for public input. Closes on the 8th March. We are very likely to get direct flights over RP.

Heathrow have been asked by CAA about the effectiveness of their Action Plan although no one has seen any consultation about this.

Third runway team has been disbanded.

Passengers passing through LHR are spending less than at other European hub airports and they plan to speed up security and check in – you will be able to check in at any desk.

There is an air quality project report at the Local Forum meeting next week – monitoring and reporting although Heathrow say it is traffic that causes the most pollution and ignore the fact that traffic to the airport contributes to that.

Highways update, verges, pavements and roads

Highways have taken some bollards away at the shops but have yet to replace them. They are available and we will wait to see when they are installed.

They have also ground out the stump and a new tree will be planted – provided by Highways and probably a native 'Rowan type' tree.

Verges and grass cutting – Bucks have written to the parish to see if they would like to take over the grass and hedge cutting and will give the Parish £17,000 to do this. It is generally felt that this is an inadequate sum so Parish will probably refuse the offer.

The verge on Thorney Lane north should be reinstated after the new path has been built.

Wendy noted that they found that the drainage was inadequate and emergency funding was obtained to upgrade the drains so they could get to the soakaway across the road.

The working party on signage has met and quotes obtained for new repeater signage on Thorney Lane North. This is being deferred to the next meeting.

Working party Members, Ged (lead) Nick, Helen, Joyce

Kingfisher Gardens / St Leonards Mound / Residents Garden

The meeting with Councillor Hussain in January also with the manager of the Community Boards present. She has asked another staff member to look into funding streams that may be available. Joyce has been in contact with her, and they have a Teams meeting with Wendy and Graham on Friday.

There is also some communication with Colne Valley Park who are still maintaining that it is safe to open the garden and it is felt that they are still confusing Hemlock with Water Hemlock.

Wendy is trying to get a risk assessment from the Country parks dept.

St Leonards Mound – There have been three quotes for removing the Ash trees, two around £12.000 – to climb and fell and one around £6.000 to cut and fell. To be agreed at committee next week (Highways and Open spaces)

Opening up the site – Kam has spoken to the church, and they are unhappy about opening it up too much as it will be noisy in the church and the hall.

The council are only removing the dangerous trees so there is not really any other option. It won't open it up completely.

Will has spoken to the Scouts in Iver Heath who are keen to get involved in helping clear the land – there will need risk assessments due to what may have been going on in there – possibility of faeces and drug paraphernalia. The Parish will take this on.

Some communication with Richings Way residents who liked the idea of an adult gym.

When it is cleared, we can survey residents. (AGM discussion?)

ACTION Graham

Gardening team – just about to start mowing and Neil is drawing up a rota, always need more volunteers.

Treasurers and membership report

Membership – Currently around 247 paid up members.

Currently, 127 PayPal, 91 cash, 27 DDs and 2 cheques.

Finances

Accounts will be ready by the end of this week, ready for the AGM.

Insurance - Still unsure about our responsibilities for liability for our managed areas as well as events we hold by Graham. Hopefully he will get a final answer soon.

Graham

ACTION

Should we talk to Jonathan Sykes? He indicated that he owned the road outside the railway station and would be happy to help us.

ACTION To be agreed

Working group has met to discuss projects, Report in additional agenda item.

Wendy (lead) Shantanu, Will and Kam.

AGM

Date set for Tuesday April 16th at 7.30pm at the Sports Club.

Graham writes a chairs report. To include thanks for any contribution to the Park, also list of Stewards and their address and contact email. Each steward is allocated an individual email address. To include some information about projects we are suggesting with an option to vote at the meeting and via street Whats app lists.

Also to include; What do we do? Campaigns, fundraising, events, community cohesion, HGVs, Crime, ANPR/Smartville, Planning, gardening team.

Notices to be ready for delivery from 1st April. To include membership envelopes for all those not paying by Pay Pal. Joyce will circulate the list of PayPay payers by street to each street warden, they will not get an envelope.

Suggestion that we perhaps we have a 'Get to know each other' at the end of the formal meeting.

Events

Next event is Saturday March 15th the annual litter pick with Iver and Iver Hath competing to get the most rubbish.

Noted that a lot of rubbish is already being picked up and bags appear regularly by the bins – will we have any rubbish to pick up? Bucks is doing this after being alerted to rubbish by Will and his wife.

Equipment has been ordered and is ready to pick up – Julia offered to do this.

Post litter pick at The Swan at 3pm for sandwiches and chips – A £300 grant has been obtained from the Parish for this.

Meet at the Residents Garden at 1.00pm.

Summer Ball Shantanu has provisionally booked Friday 12th July at the Sports Club but so far has had little response from the events team about organising it. He will try again.

Suggestion from Niki that it is linked to a family event before an adult event. **ACTION Shantanu**

Planning and enforcement

Large Scale Fourells Paddock appeal was granted as it was felt that it did not impact enough on the Green belt and that it contributed a large amount to housing stock (31 houses) in Bucks. The owner stated at the hearing that he now intends to sell the property to a developer.

Ridgeway data centre. Waiting for Amazon to do something

Thorney Business Park. Still waiting for Section 106 agreement to be finalised

Woodlands Park. Was refused by the Secretary of state and refused Leave to Appeal by the High Court

Court Lane. Refused by Bucks will now go to appeal.

Link Park. Back to either a hearing or an enquiry, to be agreed with the Planning Inspector.

Seven Hills Road. Still on going.

Cemex - Meeting last week with Wendy Tina and Graham. They are sitting on a lot of stone with no buyers. Can't move forward with the extension to the Golf Club as there is a covenant on the Pump House. The Golf Club does not appear to be cooperating with them.

HGV lorries have been seen turning round in the drive to the Pump house and going East, which they should not be doing. Let Wendy know if you see this happening.

Sutton Lane traffic lights improvements should be done soon. Responsibility of Slough Council.

Parish and Unitary council updates

Community Board meeting last week where it was noted that there will be around £43,000 not used on the area which will go back to Bucks. This was raised as a major concern by the group and also noted that the need to provide a 50% match funding was a contributory factor in this. The concerns fell on deaf ears by the Chair of the Committee.

Election for a new Parish Councillor it tomorrow. Richings Park and Iver ward. Please vote.

Parish is finding it impossible to hire a new clerk, so there will be a reorganisation of the roles with the present officer. There will be two deputies who work full time and a part time locum for the legal requirements.

In the budget today it was noted that Bucks will get a sum of money through a devolution package.

Do we want to register Vulnerable open spaces into a Community Asset, namely Kingfisher Garden and Thorney Park ? **AGENDA item**

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9th April 7.30pm at the Sports Club.

Iver Villages together

Will contacted this group to find out more about how the three wards can better work together. Leigh Tugwood the coordinator would like to come to a meeting to discuss it – suggested a later date, probably after the AGM. (Agenda item for May – **ACTION Joyce**)

There are 4 residents associations, Iver, Iver Heath, Richings Park and Iver Lane.

Talking about using the Evreham centre for events and building communities.

Will has been involved in Repair cafes in the area and has added this to the list of possible projects for the Residents Association.

There was a discussion about the safety of repairing electrical goods which Will clarified. It includes PAT testing, indemnity insurance etc.

Repairs could involve fabrics and other areas, recycling, trading. They need volunteers as well as fixers, it was suggested we could use the Sports Club?

Is this something we want to take on as a Residents Association?

Smartville

We need a post from Tony that we can circulate on our street WhatsApp groups to seek contributions. Graham to contact Tony and about the publication of the web site.

ACTION Graham

There have been small personal donations to Smartville and another camera installed near Costcutters.

Another possible in the Poynings. May need to try and raise donations in that street.

Although we received no funding from the Community board as this is now not their policy, there have been two successful fly tipping prosecutions thanks to the cameras.

The PCC also turned down our application for funds.

One camera costs around £1.000.

Charity status.

Graham has been trying to contact Flackwell Heath RA as they have charity status for their constitution. He was given a possible contact number by Tina and will try again.

Projects

Wendy has circulated information about the possible projects.

Mobile book swap – could use some Iver Community Libraries funds for this.

Suggested - perhaps use a telephone box? Tina has one.

Notice board opposite the station

Mature tree planting

Repair café

Some costings have been done for these and more details will be available for discussion and voting at the AGM.

The signs project has been deferred.

Interpretive board for the Residents Garden – more discussion needed, and possible designs done by Colne Valley? Deferred to another meeting.

Around the table

Culvert across the bottom end of Old Slade lane is on land owned by National Highways has been surveyed as it is not draining. National Highways are going to clear it.

Big pothole by St Leonards – Apparently the clearing of FMS only refers to waste reports not Highways ones. Please keep reporting.

Wildflower patch on Richings Way – will be reseeded this year and hopefully look better than last year.

Residents notice board by the Parish Council notice board by the Residents Garden needs maintaining – the Parish should do this. Comments to be made in an email to the clerk at the Parish Council.
ACTION Julia

Syke Ings – pavements have been temporarily mended but will be resurfaced at some time as they are on the Council list.

Wide hedge on Bathurst – reported again last week – Helen to report again to Wendy who will chase it up.
ACTION Helen / Wendy

Litter bin on St Leonards Walk – apparently now been found in the bushes but it doesn't seem to have been replaced. Report on Fix my street.
ACTION Julia

Reminder that it is Friends of the Colne Valley AGM on Thursday 14th March at Denham Country Park. – all welcome with a walk around at 5.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm