

FINDON VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity 267009

Findon Valley Residents Association AOM

Friday 23rd November 2007, Free Church Hall, Findon

Apologies – Cllr Reg Green, PCSO Shauna Bowen, David Morgan.

Introduction

The meeting started at 7.30 pm. The Chair welcomed all present, and in particular, Tim Loughton MP, County Councillor Colin O'Neill, Cllr Graham Fabes, and Steve Murray of Dial-A-Hubby. He then recorded a vote of thanks to the FVRA Committee for their hard work, and the support they had given him as Chairman.

The Chair stated that confusion had arisen between the title of the Annual General Meeting (AGM), and that of the Autumn General Meeting (also AGM). It was proposed by Ms D Denham, and seconded by Mrs Windsor, that the name of the Autumn meeting should be Autumn Open Meeting (AOM); passed unanimously.

The Chair thanked Leroy Bryan, President, for his support during the year, and invited him to speak.

President's Address

The President thanked the Chair and the Committee for their work, and stated that, if anyone had concerns, they should advise the Committee accordingly.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM – Friday 27th April 2007

Congestion in the Service Road, Kings Parade. Since the erection of the sign stating, "Unsuitable for HGV's", there had been a decrease in the number of these large vehicles entering and blocking the road. The Chair stated that NCP had now taken over monitoring the parking, and had been seen in the area on a regular basis.

Cissbury Court. Further action was required to address the problems. The FVRA had asked the bus company to remove the advertising from the shelter to improve visibility from Vale Road. HGV parking was under discussion.

Durrington Cemetery. The Chair stated that there had been no further reports of vandalism.

Buses. The Chair stated he had written to Stagecoach requesting that low access buses should be provided for the Valley, and asking about the extension of the evening service. He read out the bus company's response, which indicated that low level buses would be provided as vehicles were replaced, and stating that, due to financial restrictions, there were no plans for an evening service at present.

Dog Waste Bins. It was noted that there were 21 bins in the Valley, including 15 on the Gallops. The Chair passed the correspondence to Cllr Graham Fabes in the hope that he would be able to facilitate the provision of additional bins. Cllr Fabes stated he had been trying to obtain more bins in the Offington area for a number of years, but would continue with his efforts. The Chair stated he had a number of Poop Scoop Area signs available, which could be collected from PC Help.

AGM Minutes. The minutes were proposed as correct by Mr J Harrington, seconded by Mr C Barnard; agreed.

Mobile Phone Mast. The Chair reported that permission for the erection of the Mast was granted on appeal, although FV could decide on the external colour (suggested brown for the pole and green for the equipment).

Bonfires. The FVRA had contacted the Council, and had arranged for the by law to be published in the Findon Valley Directory. Bonfires should not give rise to a Statutory Nuisance, and anyone lighting a bonfire should consider other residents in the Valley, particularly at week-ends.

Noise, West Side of Vale Avenue. The Chair stated he had contacted the organisers of the charity event which took place in Vale Avenue annually, in aid of St Barnabas Hospice. A donation had been made on behalf of the FVRA of £250, and the event had raised nearly £1,500.

Membership. The Chair thanked all collectors. There were now 695 paid members, 92 new members, and 268 unpaid members. Outstanding roads included Greatham Road, Hazelhurst Crescent, Hollingbury Gardens, Longmeadow, and Sullington Gardens.

Pelican Crossing, Kings Parade. It was noted that this had now been completed.

Second Crossing near Surgery. It had been promised that the provision of the crossing would be included in the budget for 2008/09.

PCSO Shauna Bowen's Report. The report had been distributed to the meeting. Any incidents should be reported to Crimestoppers, on 0845 60670999.

Events Committee. The Chair reported that a second committee to focus on future events had been formed and met monthly. Arrangements were in hand for the Late Night Shopping Evening in Kings Parade from 5.30 – 8.00 pm on Friday 14th December. The Events Committee would soon be starting work on the 2008 Fete which was planned to take place on the Gallops.

Planning Officer. The FVRA was still seeking a Planning Officer, and the Chair asked that anyone interested in taking on that position should contact him. The President was currently undertaking the role.

A24/A27. The Chair stated that the Mr David Morgan's report was contained in the Autumn Newsletter.

Vice Chairman's Report

Vice Chairman Brian Oliver reported that his first task since election at the AGM had been to renovate the Notice board outside the Library. He had also been seeking the provision of dropped kerbs, and the improvement of the junction between Lime Tree Avenue, Cissbury Drive and Cissbury Avenue and also the junction outside the Free Church Hall. Officers had indicated that they hoped work on the kerbs would take place during the current year (to April 2008) and the President had reported that engineers had actually been on one site that day, although there were other areas area requiring work. It was also hoped that the priority would be changed at the junction by the Church, to make the roads safer, and Mr Oliver stated he would be urging action on the prioritisation in conjunction or shortly after the kerb work. He added he had been instrumental in organising the closure of the Service Road in Kings Parade for the Late Night Shopping event, and thanked Heather Kingston, Council, and Dan Witcher, Highways, for their help in obtaining permission for the closure. The Chair thanked Mr Oliver for his report and for his support over the year. It was pointed out by a member that there were no dropped kerbs in Offington Lane by the power station, and Mr Oliver stated he would note details after the meeting. There was discussion concerning the speed limit through the Valley, which the FVRA were seeking to have reduced from 40 mph to 30 mph.

Steve Murray, Dial-a-Hubby

Mr Murray gave an interesting talk. He confirmed that, whilst staff were not tradesmen, they had all been CRB checked and were willing to undertake any reasonable task. The organisation also undertook some work free-of-charge in deserving cases. Their service was not the cheapest, but was quick, and there was feedback to the community. The Chair thanked Mr Murray.

MP Tim Loughton

Mr Loughton stated he had been seeking to improve the road situation, and received weekly reports from Highways. He hoped they would meet with local people about the new crossing in Warren Road in the near future, as the changes that had been made were not sufficient for safety purposes. He advised that a new system, Scoot, was being tried out by County Hall whereby traffic was monitored by camera, and the lights adjusted accordingly. He hoped that Highways would also meet to examine the situation when the system was piloted fully. He stated that, following the extensive representations of the community with regard to the downgrading of Hospitals, particularly Worthing and Southlands, he was cautiously optimistic that the PCT would produce a solution other than one of the three options so far put forward. The final decision was anticipated around February; if it was not acceptable, it would have to be challenged. Mr Loughton then referred to the proposed Post Office closures, and, although Findon Valley was not affected yet, other Post Offices in the area were. He asked those present to sign a petition objecting to the closures. The President raised the issue of two bedroom bungalows in the Valley receiving planning permission for extension or demolition, thus reducing the number of properties suitable for retired people, and Mr Loughton stated that the permission was granted in accordance with Government policy for more housing, which meant that developers were generally given planning permission for any relevant project. Ms Rosemary Hook raised the issue of the closure of a footpath by Lynx Way, and Mr Loughton stated it was a County Council matter. Ms Hook also referred to the difficulties being caused by forceful Big Issue sellers in the area; the Chair responded that the problem was in hand. Anyone experiencing difficulties should ring the CPSO who would attend and move the sellers along. The Chair thanked Mr Loughton.

Cllr Colin O'Neill

Cllr O'Neill referred to the difficulties of maintaining all public services within the budget allocated by the Government to the County, which was set at the minimum. Matters arose which had not been budgeted for, but had to be dealt with. The Council tried to maintain a reasonable level of Council Tax. Action had been taken to deal with parking issues, particularly around the Vale School. He stated that many issues that were raised cost money to resolve. The Chair thanked Cllr O'Neill.

Cllr Graham Fabes

Cllr Fabes stressed the need to report anyone who was building without planning permission. He stated that, if anyone had any queries with regarding to building, taxis or licensing for pubs, they could ring him on Worthing 264193 at any time, and he would look into the matter.

Any Other Business

None. The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.