

NORTH CRAY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2015 at 7.30pm at Wychwood, 29 Parsonage Lane

Present:

John Harrington	President
David Cook	Chairman
Jean Gammons	Secretary
Geoff Waldmeyer	Treasurer
Irene Waldmeyer	(Membership Admin.)
Nik Carter	(Webmaster)
Jacky Cook	(Newsletter Editor)
Mick Doughty	
Cllr. Don Massey	
Chris Moon	

1. **Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence.** David welcomed everyone, with a Action special welcome to John after a long period of ill health, and to Chris who had been invited to attend as a potential new committee member. Michael Heath had sent his apologies. David then reported that Jan and Rupert Brun had had to resign as they had moved away, adding that our Constitution allowed four officers and eight ordinary committee members. This meant that we now had two vacancies and, ideally, to balance coverage throughout the NCRA area we should seek people from say The Grove and its vicinity. Jean suggested that we invite Mrs Christine Moon, our **CM** enthusiastic new Volunteer in The Grove. It was also suggested that Tony Morris, our **JH** Volunteer in High Beeches, be invited to join us.

2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 10 June 2015.** These were taken as read and agreed.

3.	Matters Arising All action had been discharged; but see also:-	
<u>Min.4.2</u>	<u>Use for surplus funds</u> David reported that no ideas had yet come forward from his appeal for ideas the last AGM, and said that he would now develop a suggestion, eg an event at the Scout Hall. Don said how important it was to support the scouts, and Chris undertook to ask Bob Chapman, the scout leader, to contact David to discuss what might be possible. See also 5.4 below.	DC CM
<u>10.1</u>	<u>Dog attacks in the Meadows</u> Jacky reported that she had put a piece about this in the <i>Newsletter</i> , and that there was now a notice near the lake alerting dog owners to possible attacks on the swans.	
<u>10.2</u>	<u>Residents of Old Maidstone Road (Bromley)</u> Jean reported that she had explained our position to those residents who had attended the AGM. She would now continue to do what she could to help them through the informal liaison group linking the NCRA with the Chislewick Residents Association (Bromley).	

	<u>10.3</u>	<u>Ruxley Close</u> Don reported that he had taken all the action he could on their litter problems etc.	
	<u>10.4</u>	<u>Bonfires in Parsonage Lane</u> David reported that he had written to the complainant.	
4.	Treasurer's Report		
	Geoff distributed a copy of his Report, which was <u>noted</u> . He said that although not all the Collections were in yet, the indications were that there would be a significant increase in members.		
5.	Secretary's Report Jean reported that there were just a few updates to her Report as given in the recent <i>Newsletter</i> . These were:		
	5.1 <u>Honeydale Farm, Little Haven Stud Farm and Little Acre Farm</u> Recent major earthmoving work at Honeydale farm in connection with the polytunnels had caused serious noise problems for nearby residents. Mick said that he had approached Bexley on this, and things were quieter at the moment. Jean added that she had also, several times, asked the senior planning officer to make a visit and report back on the situation, but his promise to brief her by the date of our committee meeting had not been kept. Nor had she yet received a reply to her several emails about Little Haven and Little Acre. It was <u>agreed</u> that she should now raise these concerns with the Head of Development Control.		JG
	5.2 <u>Heritage Land/heritage assets</u> Jean reported that Mick had raised with her his concern in the light of the recent Little Acre Public Inquiry that there was a lack of clarity about what protected/or failed to protect our Heritage. Together, they had formulated a list of questions for Bexley's Strategic Planning Team, which resulted in them being invited to a meeting with the Team to discuss the proposed Local Plan. This had proved very informative and helpful. Other pressures on the Team had delayed their work on the Local Plan; but further public consultation was planned to take place in March 2017. The Team had also drawn their attention to the important Proposals Map for Bexley. This showed in a very clear way areas of Green Belt and Heritage Land, and a copy had now been purchased for our use (circulated to the meeting).		JG MD
	5.3 <u>Housing Bill</u> : Jean reported that this was still going through the Parliamentary process. It was clear that it was focusing on brownfield land; but to date there had been no specific exclusion of brownfield sites in the Green Belt. She had asked our MP, James Brokenshire, to do what he could to remedy this at the drafting stage.		
	5.4 <u>North Cray Scouts</u> Jean reported that they had asked to become members of the NCRA. Her recommendation was that we make them honorary members. This was <u>agreed</u> , as it was so important to encourage our local scouts in this way. See also 3/Min 4.2 above.		JG IW

6.	Councillor Massey's Report	
6.1	<u>Bridge over the Cray, Bexley Village</u> : Don stressed that, although some people had complained and said it was unnecessary, this was Work that <u>had</u> to be done. It was recognised, however, that it would have an enormous impact on users of the North Cray Road. After completion, usage and weight would be carefully controlled by monitoring and Enforcement action if necessary. Asked about the possibility of an additional U-turn in the North Cray Road, Don said that he had tried hard in the past for this, without success; and it would not be provided during the bridge Works. In response to concern about speeding along the North Cray Road, Don said that this was a Police matter.	
6.2	<u>Garden waste</u> : Don said that there had been a very high sign-up for this new optional service; but in the course of setting it up there had been many problems to overcome, eg the need to obtain extra bins and to distribute them and a walk-out by the contractors. However, the service was now up and running. Don added that as regards recycling, Bexley was the best borough!	
6.3	<u>Sale of Open Spaces</u> : Don reported that the Public Cabinet had now agreed that four of the proposed sites should be sold (another could not proceed because of a problem with dene holes), and the next step before any final go-ahead would be consideration by the General Purposes Committee. The remaining 22 spaces on the list had still to be looked at.	
6.4	<u>Boundary Commission Review</u> : Don reported that Consultation had closed on 16 November and all Submissions were now on-line.	
6.5	<u>Bexley's Budgetary position</u> : In closing, Don stressed that Bexley needed to save some £30m over the next few years to balance its books, adding that it was likely that there would also be a 29-30% cut in funding from central government. So, the need to save money remained - and the Challenge to Bexley goes on!	
7.	Other business	
	7.1 <u>Support of the Metropolitan Police's Christmas Tree project</u> : David and Jacky reported that the NCRA's gift of several toys had been taken to them. Nik confirmed that there had been no complaint about the use of our funds (around £96, 25p per member) for this purpose, indeed one member had congratulated the NCRA on what it had done.	
	7.2 <u>Repeated water leaks in Parsonage Lane and consequential road closures</u> . David outlined what had been going on for many months, a problem that was still awaiting resolution by Thames Water- and one that has/and still is causing serious problems for residents close to No. 29 and for all other road users. It was <u>agreed</u> that his efforts as a householder to get resolution should be supported by a letter of complaint from the NCRA to Thames Water.	DC
	The meeting closed at 9.35pm	

