

NORTH CRAY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 20 December 2017 at 7.30pm at Wychwood, 29 Parsonage Lane

Present:

John Harrington	President
David Cook	Chairman
Jean Gammons	Secretary
Nik Carter	(Webmaster)
Jacky Cook	(Newsletter Editor)
Mick Doughty	
Michael Heath	
Chris Moon	

1. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence

David welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending, and reported that Geoff and Irene Waldmeyer had been unable to attend due to illness.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 14 June 2017. Taken as read and agreed.

	3. Matters Arising		
	Min.4.2	<u>Use for surplus funds</u> David reported that the proposed presenter of an audio visual presentation had not been able to undertake this in September as planned because of family problems. He said he was now looking at a date in April 2018 for this social evening.	DC
	Min 7.2	<u>Water leaks</u> David updated the Committee on the continuing saga of his problems with Thames Water about the leaks outside his house. Nik suggested that he ask for a bacterial count in case of water contamination.	DC
	6	<u>Proposed school at 48 Parsonage Lane</u> David reported that there was no news about what might happen next following the Inspector's dismissal of the applicant's Appeal.	

9.2	<u>Fishing in the Meadows</u> The Committee debated whether or not more signage, and say fencing around the lake to prevent dogs from attacking the cygnets, would help. Don advised that the factors that needed to be addressed included (a) what measures needed to be taken (b) the cost of more signage/fencing and (c) what would be permitted.. Michael undertook to speak to Patrick English and the Friends of Footscray Meadows about this.	MH
4.	Treasurer's Report As Geoff was not present, Jean undertook to circulate a copy of his Accounts when she had received this from him.	JG
5.	Secretary's Report	
5.1	<u>Orchard View</u> Jean reported that the application to build three houses on this sensitive Green Belt site had been Refused by the Planning Committee on 14 December. Trying to overcome Planning's Recommendation to approve it in just three minutes had been a formidable task! Don advice was that if the applicant Appealed then Jean's submission to the Inspector should focus on the development's supporting infrastructure and vehicle movements. Nik offered to log the latter.	JG NC
5.2	<u>Planning Committee Meetings</u> Jean pointed out that we would be losing Don's expertise in May 2018, and she would not be around forever. As only one member of the Committee (Mick) had had the experience of being a second Speaker, and no one else had attended these meetings, she offered to provide a Brief for the Committee on what was required.	JG
5.3	<u>139 North Cray Road</u> Jean reported that this had escalated from an Enforcement issue about an unauthorised use of the land for a Used Car business to one where a renewal of the planning permission for six houses on this Green Belt site (granted in 2014 but not acted upon) had been applied for. Mick and Chris, her 'Green Belt buddies', had kindly agreed to help her with this one.	JG MD CM
6	Don Massey's Report Don reported that Bexley remains the No. 1 borough in London for recycling. This was due to the commitment of both the Council and residents. The once controversial issue of residents paying for garden waste collection was now bringing in to Bexley's funds £1.4m a year! Fly-tipping was increasing in Bexley, but there was no easy solution of this problem. Bexley was on-course for a further underspend; but it faced several challenges such as Homelessness. However, it did have a Reserve Fund, and a grip on its Finances.	

7	<p>Bexley had been working hard towards “Self-sufficiency”.</p> <p>The coming year would bring new boundaries for Wards. The new St Marys and St James Ward linking North Cray and Footscray with Bexley Village and Coldblow would have two councillors in future and these would be known after Local Election in May. The Polling Stations would remain as now, and there would be a better balance as regards voter numbers.</p> <p>The Draft London Plan had not yet been agreed, and so had no planning weight at present.</p> <p><u>NCRA's NewsMails.</u> Don said that with so much emphasis on Crime, these could suggest that North Cray was not a safe area. Nik said that he had been discussing with Jean his need for more input to help make them more interesting for members to read. Here, Jean stressed that Nik really did need input from the Committee.</p> <p>Questions were then invited:-</p> <p>Nik asked whether there was to be an improvement to <u>broadband reception</u> in Parsonage Lane. Don said that this was not a Council issue but “networthyness” and digital improvement was the aim.</p> <p>Michael mentioned the proposed <u>Park Run in Footscray Meadows.</u> The Friends of Footscray Meadows had been approached. They had looked at environmental issues and had some concerns; but were looking at this as a trial Run.</p> <p>Don closed his Report by saying that he was looking forward to being able to spend more time with his family in future, and he thanked the Committee for all its support and kindness. David then thanked Don for all that he had done to support us. Jean added that she had particularly appreciated Don's straightforwardness, frankness and openness when giving us his advice.</p> <p>Other business</p> <p>7.1 <u>Weatherley Fencing:</u> David expressed concern about tree cutting along its Parsonage Lane boundary and the new inner fence that had been erected. Jean assured him again that she would be looking at the Conditions imposed back in 1989 and, if she found that these has been contravened, then she would seek an Enforcement visit.</p> <p>7.2 <u>Jacky and David's planned move out of North Cray in 2019</u> David said that the Committee should start looking for new people to join it, and that proposals were needed.</p> <p>7.3 <u>Leafield Lane</u> Tony said that a new gate had appeared and a fence had been built. He asked whether anyone knew the reason for this. No information was forthcoming.</p> <p>7.4 <u>Red lorry marked “Recyclings” running up and down Parsonage Lane</u> David reported that Jean had told him about seeing this coming and going in the direction of the Old Maggot Farm. Jean explained that a few weeks ago she had seen it emerging from this empty; but on 16 December she had seen it heading in that</p>	<p><i>All</i></p> <p><i>JG</i></p> <p><i>All</i></p> <p><i>JG</i></p>
---	--	---

	<p>direction full of what looked like builders waste. She intended to seek an Enforcement visit in case some unauthorised recycling activity was taking place, perhaps involving asbestos material. Meanwhile, Nik undertook to help her monitor the situation.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.30pm</p>	<p><i>NC</i></p>