

**Attendees:**

John Orr (chair); April Rennie; Nicky Johnson; Bill Fuller; Donna Coventry; Rebecca Brown (Community Action MK); Barbara Willis; Paul Seabourne; Paul Serboe; Cliff Green; Ron Ellis; Sam Hearney; Cassandra Pearson; Kirsty Rennie; Wayne Clements; Nikki Noyce; Jenny Morris , PC Robin Childs Thames Valley Police , Terry Baines

Apologies: Carly Wright, Lisa Anderson

**Action  
by whom**

**1 Welcome and introductions**

John opened the meeting, welcomed members and introduced Robin Childs from the police force and Rebecca Brown for those who didn't already know her and visitors from Fishermead Residents Association.

**1a Minutes of the previous minutes**

Had been approved by email by the chair and were available on the Facebook page for those who had access. If you do not have access to the page, please contact April or Nicky and they will provide you with a printed copy.

**2 Safer Streets**

PC Robin Childs from the Cambell Park South team was introduced who attended at very short notice.

He reported that a theft warrant had been executed today and although no arrests had been made, enquiries were being taken forward.

PC Robin Childs emphasized that any information reported to the police on even seemingly insignificant matters were used their intelligence gathering and often proved invaluable in executing their duties. He appealed to the members to be vigilant and pass on information and report any suspicious activity.

Questions were raised about the probability of simply displacing criminal and delinquent activities from the actions of the present crack down on Coffee Hall. Across-Woughton working group was suggested. The police would be happy to support any such endeavour.

Feedback of recent activity by the police on the estate was requested. PC Robin Childs reported that there was an increased number of front line officers but fewer PCSOs in the area. He will get the crime figures and report back to the group. Access to Thames Valley alerts could be received by text and email. Sign up on the website. You could also get the crime figures for any one postcode from the national police website.

### **3 Neighbourhood Watch**

Robin recommended getting involved in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme as this identified areas of concern. If reported to the police, they could put us in contact with specialists for the area of concern. An example is burglary prevention, where an office can come and survey your home and identify areas of weakness. For the police it is a good source of intelligence and community interfacing.

Colin our regular neighbourhood officer will be taking this forward. The more people who buy into the scheme the better the results are. An appeal was made for co-ordinators. Cliff, Barbara, Cassandra indicated an interest in this, more volunteers were needed. Ron Ellis was the main co-ordinator, please contact him if you would like to be a co-ordinator for your street. A target of 60 members of Neighbourhood watch was hoped for.

It was reiterated that intelligence from residents was always welcome. 2 major drugs hauls had been made in Fishermead because of residents involvement. All reports could go in anonymously or be reported through the lead in the neighbourhood watch. The intelligence gathered would increase access to resources for the area.

Robin was thanked for his input.

John will be dispersing forms to sign up to Neighbourhood Watch.

### **4 Constitution amendments**

Some small amendments to the constitution had been made including:

- The addition of a code of conduct;

- Raising hands to speak at meetings;

- FaceBook and social media sites are now covered;

- Raising the number of signatories needed on the bank account to be two signatories out of three.

The juniors will have their own, appropriately worded constitution. They have now had their third meeting and very successful 1<sup>st</sup> event. The Junior Residents Association will have their own account linked to

our account.

A vote was made for Ron Ellis to become Environmental Officer. The vote was carried.

### **Treasurer's report**

The Association presently holds a bank balance of £1941.60 in credit. Of this, £467.97 is held for the football team and £384.02 for Street dance but they have an invoice still to be paid. Our reserves stand at approximately £900.

## **5 Parking (destroyed verges)**

Ron is currently taking up the issue with the council. Hannah O'Neill and Steve Coventry are also supporting us in the issue. Ron is currently awaiting information from them. Hannah will be sending the plans for the new parking sites to John as soon as she receives them. Work had been noted by residents of men measuring around the estate for parking.

It was reported that the man that was previously parking on verges is now parking on top of the bushes. He has yet to make the repairs to the grass that he damaged on the verges.

It was noted that the enforcement team at VOSA has a facility that can be used to report business vehicles. Infringements can result in heavy fines for the company.

A suggestion made of either wooden posts or boulders that could be used to protect the verges as enforcement of the local bylaws is difficult and unpopular.

It was noted that with the transient population on the estate that Landlords often do not inform the new tenants of parking restriction and HIMO's often have more cars than can easily be accommodated by the parking available.

## **6 Bushes/Environment/Rubbish**

The amount of rubbish outside houses and around the estate was considered unsightly. Again a cause for this was the transient population. As new tenants moved in, old furniture and other debris from the previous occupant was just moved outside the house and left. Private landlords are not informing tenants of recycling provision or waste disposal. It was agreed to convene a meeting and invite the private landlords on the estate. This would be on the agenda for the next meeting. Research into the identity and contact details of HIMO

landlords could be done through the council website.

Leaflets with information could be obtained from Andy Hudson at the council.

In the meantime, the monthly gardening session could be used to make a collection of rubbish. Serco would be contacted to help with the removal.

Bushes had not been cut back on all roads. Colne and the paths between the streets still needed to be done. John would email Andy Hudson to action this.

Raised beds:

it was noted that some vandalism had occurred on one raised bed. 9 of the 12 had been filled. Extra earth had been ordered and was standing by the beds. It was hoped to build a lower bed at the entrance to each road.

Residents were invited to plant the beds.

A suggestion was made for the Charles Warren Academy and Rainbows to adopt one each, some residents were against the school getting a bed, they felt it should be the drop in and rainbows. Some residents had requested more. John would look at obtaining more funding for this.

It was agreed that Tinkers Bridge would enter 'Britain in Bloom'.

## 7

### Events

Mother's Day was at the end of March. It would involve a pampering day. Volunteers were required, also beauticians/hairdressers/etc who could make donations of time and/or money and give-aways. Please contact Cassandra.

Street Dance now had two sessions: 3.45 to 4.45 for the younger group and 5.00 to 6.00 pm for the older group.

A small donation is to be made to the New Arts and Crafts session that is to occur each Thursday in partnership with Woughton Community Council. The first session had been busy and popular. Residents were reminded that the sessions were open to all ages, both children and adults, and people with skills were needed eg. Knitting, tapestry etc

CRBs (now called DBS) were being funded by Woughton Community Council. Please contact April for the number to book your DBS appointment. This needs to be done within the next week. ***Post meeting note: Please contact Janet Welch at Milton Keynes Play Association on 01908 263 033, she will make an appointment***

A commemoration of the balloon event 25years ago was suggested by Wayne Clements Releasing red balloons from each separate estate in unison on a day in summer. A vote was held and carried to participate

in the event. Wayne would take this forward.

Rebecca Brown made a brief presentation of the Energy saving initiative, 'Less is More'. Timers for sockets were given out. A total of around £500 so far was noted.

A nature walk on 15<sup>th</sup> March was planned. Meeting in front of the shop at 10.30 the walk would go over to Walton nature reserve. Please contact Rebecca for more details.

It was noted that the estate was 40 years old this month. It was also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WW1. April would look into the possibility of holding a street party. The British Legion were advocating poppy planting to commemorate WW1. John and Donna Coventry would look into this.

A coffee morning was planned for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March to raise money for Street Dance. Donations of cake were requested.

## **8 Trips**

Suggestions were needed for the weekend away in summer. Once a decision had been made, payment by instalment could start. Please pass suggestions to Cassandra.

A door knocking exercise would be carried out to gain suggestions/participants and to spread the word.

It was agreed to mount a suggestion box on the wall of the meeting house to gather suggestions and comments from residents. The box would cost approximately £30. April to speak to Nicky Fulton for permission .

## **9 AOB**

Terry Baines, Chairman of Fishermead Residents Association gave a brief presentation requesting collaboration from Tinkers Bridge Association in protesting cuts to the services. Fishermead and the Woughton Communities were now grouped in the same funding bracket.

Next Meeting 27 March 2014 7.30pm

JO/nj