

Attendees:

John Orr (Chair); Ron Ellis; Cheryl Wales; Rebecca Brown (Community Action MK); Wayne Clements; Paul Hurcombe; Donna Coventry; Bill Fuller; Barbara Willis; Jean Gates; Jenny Morris; Vincent Pretorius; Carly Wright; Marisa Anderson; Julia Bandy (Woughton Community Council); Hannah O'Neil

Apologies: April Rennie; Kirsty Rennie; Cassandra Pearson

**Action
by whom**

- 1 Welcome and introductions**
Julia Bandy (Woughton Community Council); Donna Coventry (Councillor); Vincent Pretorius (landlord) and Hannah O'Neil (Councillor) were welcomed to the meeting and introduced.
- 2 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.
- 3 Chair's report**
Only one suggestion for a trip had been received, so events co-ordinators were looking at a trip to Yarmouth. *Post meeting note: Residents have mentioned they would like trips to other places besides seashores. April consulting with people and spoken to WCC re funding for JNRS to do their own trips with adult supervision.*
The chair was waiting for information on the Regeneration MK programme.
Leaflets from the library service had been dropped at all houses. *Post meeting note: The leaflets delivered were incorrect, new leaflets were delivered 25/04/2014 so will be put through doors shortly.*
Tinkers Bridge had been registered in 'In Your Neighbourhood' and 'Britain in Bloom' and they would be setting up a visit to Tinkers Bridge.
The door knocking campaign had not happened due to lack of lead up

time. More information gathering was needed. It would be happening at a later date.

We were unable to get Serco to be involved in the clean up day, but they would be involved at a later date. A group of volunteers had gone through the bin cupboards and removed rubbish in the frontage of houses in Buckby and Bascote on the date arranged. 4 vanloads of rubbish had been removed. The action had been gratefully received by residents.

Some residents had not been able to use the cupboards since moving into their properties and it was seen as an issue with the way the council were handing over badly maintained and un-cleared properties.

The Mothers Day and Easter events were well attended and feedback from them had been good.

No headway had been made with the parking issue.

Street dance is continuing to be a successful venture. Cheryl and Wayne have been helping with the Arts and Crafts session. More publication is needed for this and adult volunteers.

There is an ongoing issue with fences that have fallen down across the estate, both side and back fences. Some fences for some houses are being reinstated but not others. This may have something to do with the tenants being regarded as vulnerable, which is down to the discretion of the officers involved. This is being chased with the council.

It was noted that the guttering on council houses was in a very poor state and that the responsibility for this lies with the council as the landlord.

The council regards it to be acceptable for parents with children to reside in a one bedroom house, with the parents using the living room as a bedroom. The residents association considered this to be unfair and unhealthy. Donna Coventry and John would get together to draft a complaint to the council about living conditions and the housing shortage.

4 Financial report

The finances of the association were in a healthy state. Monies were being awaited from grants that had been approved. If more detail is required this is available from Carly.

There would be a match funding starting in May with Local Giving.

4.1 WCC funding

5 Julia Bandy

5.1 Carnival and Marshalls: There would be a carnival court on 23rd May. Candidates for Queen and 2 princesses were being sought. Candidates should be within the age limit and living in the Woughton Parish. The Carnival is desperately seeking people to marshall at this event. There is a training session on 21st may from 6-8 at Woughton Council offices. Please ring the office on: 01908 395681 to volunteer.

5.2 Parish annual meeting: There will be an annual parish meeting on 27th May. The emphasis is on grant aid, tinkers Bridge is invited to display photos of events that have been funded and to find out what grants are available for the coming year.

The decision on the cinema club is pending from the Junior residents. Woughton Community Council is keen to support them in this.

5a Donna Coventry

Donna gave information about the launch of the new Civil aid Corps Cadet force on Saturday 26th April 10am to 2pm at the central library. A flyer was handed out. More information and contact details could be found at: www.jointcivilaidcorps.org.uk. This particular type of cadet gives aid in times of disaster. There are two age groups 12-18 years old and 18+.

6 Estate clean up

Although the clean up with Serco didn't happen, a walk about identified 16-17 spots of consistent fly tipping. The council have pledged support in cleaning this up.

Dredging still needs to be done in the ditch at the back of Colne. There is still a lot of rubbish tipped here and between Colne and Hatton too. John and Ron will look at the history of the emails and requests sent to the council and decide on action to take.

Leaflets will be provided from the council to educate people on waste disposal/recycling/bin days and how to deal with bulky waste.

It was noted that only a few landlords instruct new tenants on how to deal with waste. The association will put together a 'welcome' pack that will give this information and could be handed to new tenants.

It was noted that damaged bin cupboard doors will be mended/replaced if they are reported to the council or housing association involved. A walkabout will be organised where the state of the cupboards could be logged.

7 Estate security

7.1 **Neighbourhood watch:** Neighbourhood watch was being set up. The visual signage and working with the police were a good opportunity to signal to would be vandals and criminals that we were

watching out for each other. John has forms to join the scheme. Please contact him for these.

7.2 Alleyways: Money had been allocated some years ago for the alleyways, but there was no evidence of it being used. The alleyways are the responsibility of the council as it is not owned by the residents.

8 Events

8.1 Father's Day: A BBQ and football match between fathers and sons was being organised for this.

8.2 Event co-ordinators: As Cassandra is stepping down, we are desperately looking for event co-ordinators. Please contact April or John if you would like to volunteer.

9 Food bank

The Jesus Army currently helps people on the estate if they know about them. April and Jenny have given them some information. The council food bank has a limit of how many times you can approach them for help.

It was suggested that the Residents Association could form their own food bank for people on the estate and it was agreed generally. John and April will be taking this further. John will also talk to the Jesus Army to find out about possible collaboration. *Post meeting note: April has started a food bank, two loads have been delivered. All donations can be delivered to April. Residents can contact me for her. Please speak in confidence to April if you need assistance.*

It was noted that there is a soup kitchen between 5 and 7pm on Fishermead. They can also help with small amounts of clothing for those sleeping rough.

There is a facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MKunwantedfoodgiveawaytonededmk/> Here people advertise their unwanted food items and it is then accepted by someone in need. It is a closed group so only those that are registered can see posts and donations being offered and obtained.

It was also noted that allotments were available at Woughton for people to grow their own food.

10 Next meeting:

29 May 2014 7.30pm

JO/nj