

Attendees:

John Orr (Chair); April Rennie; Kirsty Rennie; Ron Ellis; Cheryl Wales; Rebecca Brown (Community Action MK); Paul Hurcombe; Barbara Willis; Carly Wright; Jack Wood; Amy Wales; Jenny Hathaway and Gideon Clark from Jesus Army. Nicky Johnson (notes).

Apologies: Cassandra Pearson ; Wayne Clements ; Jean Gates ; Donna Coventry

**Action
by whom**

- 1 Welcome and introductions**

The chair opened the meeting and welcomed members. A warm welcome was extended to Jenny Hathaway and Gideon Clark from Jesus Army.
- 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**

Street dance and Arts and Crafts continued and were well attended. £110.77 had been raised from the Disco to continue these activities.

The 2nd Estate Clean Up had been successful in clearing half of the longest road on the estate, Colne. Bin cupboards and car ports had been cleared of rubbish; bushes and grass had been cut back.

The chair had attended the Parish Council Annual General meeting where new chairs had been elected and the Annual meeting for a public brief on the coming year. The Parish Council have almost completed taking ownership of the meeting place and some open areas which were intended for future allotments. From November they would be taking over the landscaping of the area. They hoped to be able to partner community groups in keeping the area tidy. This may be something for the Residents Association. To date the grass cutting

done by the council is poorly done with strips and clumps of grass being left in cut areas. No pruning back has been done this year.

The junior residents association is going from strength to strength. A full set of minutes can be found on Facebook. They are currently working on a project to set up a cinema club on a Saturday afternoon.

Two residents have started keeping honey bees on a piece of land near the estate. They have made an offer to donate one hive to the Residents Association. The honey sales could contribute to funding for events and equipment for the Association and the project could be looked on as an educational venture. If anyone wishes to see the bees and become more involved, they are welcome to contact Nicky or John.

The council is still not maintaining the housing stock. Two residents had floods in their houses caused by un-cleared guttering.

It was also noted that although a bin cupboard and car port is mentioned in the tenancy agreement, some tenants have now had these removed by the council. The council has not reduced rent or replaced them. Tenants who leave the rubbish out on collection day are having to deal with torn rubbish sacks which have been attacked by animals and debris from trees and birds on their cars. In an informal survey it appears that 50% of the residents wish to re-instate car ports and bin cupboards.

An estate action plan for a five year period needs to be drawn up and used to prod the council into action. Items that have been promised that have not gone forward:

Car parking spaces

Back Alley clearance

Trees cut back (this item affects many residents who cannot receive TV signals because of the foliage. Tree roots are)

Survey of dead branches on trees.

Landscaping (grass cutting poorly done and irregularly)

There is no clear responsibility within the council presently as there has been yet another reshuffle of staff. Eventually when taken over by WCC, a dedicated officer will be appointed.

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Financial report

The residents association bank account is not showing the grant monies which have been allocated although they have been put through. John and WCC are investigating. £3500 has been approved, of this £1000 was used for the Mothers day event, leaving £2500 for the rest of the year. John will be donating his £250 as a parish councillor and April will be appealing to the other councillors for

donations.

Community first, a source of funding until now will be wound up next year.

A health check is underway which it is hoped will release Community first monies.

5 Father's Day Event

Progress has been halted on this as funds are not available at the moment. It is envisaged that there will be a bouncy castle, football, cricket and basketball as well as a BBQ on 15th June.

6 Fun Day/Dog Show

Volunteers are needed for this. The judges from last year have agreed to act again this year. This year it is hoped to have an agility class. Donations have already been offered. There will be a BBQ, Bouncy castle, face painting, music and Arts and Crafts. The application for the use of the council land has been put through.

7 Estate Clean Up

The 3rd Estate Clean Up will take place this Saturday, 31st May at 11 am. Please check the Facebook page for updates. It is hoped to clear the rest of Colne and start on Hatton.

8 Seaside Trips

Funding has been requested for these and it is hoped to find the outcome on 12th June. With funding the cost will be approximately £5 per head. Prepayment options are available from Carly.

Three quotes have been received for trips to Skegness and to Weymouth.

9 Food bank

Some donations have been received. Confidential information on people who could benefit from these is requested by April.

10 AOB

The manager at Tesco has alerted the Residents Association that a move has been made to move the Tesco Express on the estate to Ashlands where they are building new facilities. It was noted that the post office is a necessity here on the estate.

It was noted that there is a lot of criticism of the police on the Facebook page. There has been a lot of success by the police in dealing with bike thefts in the area. One person has been arrested following confidential information and bikes returned. The PSCOs have also attended the junior residents association meeting this month and enthusiasm for and by them was shown. They gave a talk on 'Stranger

danger' and it was decided to only go on litter picking projects when they were wearing high vis clothing and two adults were present. An interesting fact was revealed, that lampposts have individual markings and if you were lost, giving the marking on the nearest lamppost would mean that the police could contact the council and find out where you were.

An appeal was made for knowledgeable people in Drama; cooking or Tennis was made. The Junior Residents would like to start clubs in these subjects and needed people to inform them.

The date of the Woughton Carnival is 28 June. Street Dance will be taking part.

The council is currently suffering a short fall in pink sacks. April will source some. Cassandra keeps a stock of doggy poop bags for purchase and also pink sacks normally as the Drop In is no longer open every day.

Tinkers Bridge is running approximately 9th or 10th in the Less is More campaign.

Britain in Bloom will be visiting the estate on 3rd July.

Santandar has offered a volunteer group for projects. This brings with it a donation of £280.

Raised beds building is waiting for funds. The herb bed in Bascote is presently full of herbs for picking. Fruit trees and raised beds in the community garden are getting damaged by children playing.

The British Legion is pushing for people to plant poppy seeds. Ron will harvest some seeds from his own poppies. Poppies would look nice in beds front of the shop. The planting done by the Arts and Crafts was very successful.

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Next meeting:

26 June 2014 7.30pm

JO/nj