

## **OLD HATFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 10 Park Street, Hatfield**

**Present:** Andrew Starr (Chairman), Letitia Hutt (Treasurer), Steve Roberts (Minutes), Margaret Stephens, Nanette Mitchell, Lis Meyland-Smith, Constance Elliot. Janet Giblin. Bernard Sarson (WHBC) Peter Clegg (GCE - Part time).

**Apologies:** Lottie Prescott, Chris Goward, Dennis Brooks, Beth Scott, Ken McGuiness, John Penney.

#### **Gascoyne Cecil Estates' position re Loga Pradhaban**

Peter Clegg outlined the stages of the Salisbury Square development. Phase 1 is a new row of houses in Arm & Sword Lane opposite the existing houses, in 2016. Phase 2, commencing 2017, is the development of Salisbury square, including the demolition of the block containing Loga's shop. GCE has offered Loga a temporary site in York House, with the Estate fitting it out suitably. He would then be able to move into a unit in the new development as the anchor tenant. He had also been offered compensation if he wished to terminate his tenancy, which would be much higher than the legal minimum. None of these offers has been taken up so far. Conversations between the two parties are always amicable, but the Estate has strongly advised Loga to employ a professional adviser. GCE has 2 alternatives: 1. Wait until Loga makes clear his requirements or 2. Impose a Compulsory Purchase Order, which the Estate would do only with great reluctance.

In the meantime, several major food retailers have expressed serious interest in opening a store in the new square. They are attracted by the idea that they would be opposite – and in full view of – the station, which would ensure a good footfall.

**Action: GCE**

#### **Jacob's Ladder**

Restoration work will be undertaken by Herts County council. Peter Clegg explained that the left hand bank, looking from the bottom, belongs to GCE, while the right hand bank belongs to HCC. GCE will clear vegetation from their bank and also re-point the wall at the top. The trees cannot be cut back for "health & safety" reasons.

**Action: GCE**

#### **Events/Noise**

The next major event in the Park is the Eastern Electrics Festival on 1st August. Residents will receive a letter inviting them to a meeting to outline arrangements for managing, stewarding, etc. And arrangements for residents access permits during road closures.

**Action: GCE**

The new Tannoy at the station is very loud. Andrew has talked to staff about this and their response was that they "had had some complaints." If the situation does not improve, Bernard should be informed and he will pass this on to the Borough Council's Environmental Services. Noise from the Great Northern is continuing to cause problems, especially for residents of Arm & Sword Lane. Bernard will find out from the Licensing Dept what the pub's music licence covers. [Bernard has since done this and has suggested that residents keep a log with times and dates and times when the pub manager was contacted. The Council can, if necessary, install a meter in one of the houses to monitor sound levels]

**Action: BS**

## **Summer Picnic**

All going ahead. The Owner of the dog grooming parlour in Stable Yard is keen to be involved in the dog show although there is a feeling that she views it as more serious than the fun events we have also envisaged.

**Action:Sub-committee**

## **Notice Boards**

These are now ready. Bernard will establish whether the Mayor is available to “unveil” them at the Summer Picnic. [This has now been arranged].

**Action:BS**

## **Parking**

Letitia has met with WHBC and was informed that the parking schemes in Old Hatfield will be reviewed in April 2016. It may be possible to extend parking restrictions to Saturday – if this is what residents want – and to make more residents’ spaces in public parking areas. It is unlikely that restrictions would be extended to evenings and Sundays as this would be too costly to police. The Council will hold full consultation with residents. OHRA will organise a meeting of interested parties and maybe arrange a survey, so that a “united front” can be presented to the Council.

**Action:Letitia**

## **Blooming Old Hatfield**

Ongoing. Prizes will be awarded at the Summer Picnic.

## **Cricket Match**

There seems to be some difficulty raising a Residents’ team, although communication from the organisers is somewhat lacking.

## **Gazette**

It was felt this should be published just twice per year.

**Action:KM**

## **Community Interest Company**

There was a meeting of a small sub-committee several months ago. We need to seek thoughts of residents about this. Steve has found a charity, the Plunkett Foundation, which gives help and support to people trying to set up a community shop or similar community activity.

**KM/Sub-committee**

## **Any Other Business.**

We need some posts on which to mount the notice boards, and also some labels to identifying them as OHRA. There are sufficient funds available to cover this.

Next meetings: Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> September, 31 Church St. Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Dec TBA

