

MINUTES

Barden Residents Association AGM

Wednesday 23rd January 2019

In Attendance

Mark Hood (Chair), Angela Clark (Vice-Chair), Lucy Athey (secretary), Fran Long (treasurer), Megan LeGoubin, Jo Young, Martin Coulstock, Diane Morgan, Greg Fox, Felix Wenzel, Matt Sargent

Approval of Minutes & Apologies

Angela Clark (Vice-Chair) called the meeting to order and the previously circulated minutes from 20th November 2018 were agreed. Apologies from Claire O'Shea, Alison and John Cackett, Gill Sargent

Treasurers Report

Fran reported that £280.44 is currently in the account to carry forward. Funds were spent on the prize for the Christmas window. We also collected more subs and gained new members at the Christmas social held in The Nelson Arms before Christmas. A donation to the 1st Tonbridge Scouts was discussed and we agreed to donate £100 to cover rent of the hall and use of their electricity. **Action:** FL to do a bank transfer, LA to find out bank account details.

20mph

Mark updated all on the progress of the 20mph zone; he had contacted Michael Payne our KCC councillor who has confirmed that designs should be completed within the next few weeks and they envisage the changes will be implemented by a contractor within the next three months.

The 20mph will not be policed but surveys do show that just the presence of the signs will bring down speeds. LA asked if we could have a competition to have a child-designed sign as in the Meadow Lawn area. **Action:** MH to contact KCC re the signage.



Anti-Social Behaviour/Crime

Following the distressing news of the mugging of a young man at the skate park MH has contacted PCSO Mary Coe and asked about the cctv on River Walk and in the park, she confirmed that the cameras are all working. She also said there would be a heightened police presence in the area. AC commented on how the lack of lighting is an issue in some areas in the park, MH informed us that another row of lights is due to be installed along River Lawn (which is to be funded by contributions from Assura who are building the Medical Centre).

Restart a Heart Training/Defibrillator

Restart a Heart training is organised by Kent Fire & Rescue who could come in and teach residents basic first aid, paediatric first aid and CPR, free of charge. Greg suggested that as well as being useful it could also increase footfall to our meetings. AC suggested that this could be run nearer to the summer, perhaps utilising the green area on River Lawn for an open-air event? Diane Morgan works for the British Heart Foundation in Tonbridge and said that she could offer us help with this. To be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.



MH suggested we raise funds to have an AED (defibrillator) located in Barden, perhaps at the shop or the pub. The cost would run into thousands so we would need to fundraise and find sponsors. AC said that the new medical centre may have their own defibrillator when they are opened. We need to contact Assura to find out whether they are intending to have one and then discuss at a future date.

Jumble Trail

We need to find out more details of how SARA organised theirs, Date pencilled in as Saturday 29th June.

Action: Mark Hood to contact Susan Bevan. Lucy to post on the Barden facebook selling page to gauge interest.

Rights of Way

Fran Long updated us on rights of way around Barden Lake as the paths around the lake are not actually on the “definitive map” which means they are not protected from future development. We need to ask people who have used the paths for over twenty years to fill in the paper work needed to get these registered. **Action:** Fran to post the necessary forms online, Lucy to share on the website. Fran to ask Claire if she would mind collecting forms at the shop.

Summer Competition

MH proposed that we hold another Barden in Bloom competition this summer, to be judged in the beginning of July. It was agreed a small team of judges work together including Fran, Lucy, Jo. As in previous years we will choose a winner with the most impressive planter, hanging basket or windowbox (rather than the whole garden). Children can also enter by planting up an old wellington boot. **Action:** MH to ask Coolings if they could donate a voucher as a prize. Lucy to also ask Tonbridge Pool if they could donate a family swim.



Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground

MH has been contacting TMBC to keep the lighting maintained in the skate park area of Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground, and also asking them for updates on the repair of the bridge to Tonbridge Pool. He has received a helpful update from Andrew Young, the engineering manager for TMBC: SE Water are hoping to have their pipes moved under the river by Easter 2019, TMBC will also have the abutments of the bridge structurally inspected when the Environment Agency drop the river level at the end of March – then they can hopefully confirm if they are suitable for a replacement bridge.

Lime Tree Pollarding

Residents have contacted the council regarding the lime tree outside 36-46 Avebury Avenue. The council reported that all three large lime trees along the river walk between the Avebury Avenue bridge and the dentist on Barden Road have all been examined. They are afflicted with honey fungus which could potentially cause the death of the trees but the council are going to pollard them to begin with and monitor their condition (rather than just cutting them down).

AOB

- Village Green Application for River Lawn; 18 months ago over 40 people completed forms to confirm their usage of RL as part of the Village Green Application. This week Mark has heard back from KCC who are starting the public consultation, any objections must be made by March 15th. TMBC are opposed to this and have challenged KCC. If the application is successful then it is unlikely that TMBC will be able to build on the land. Barden Residents representatives will need to attend a meeting with KCC at a future date.
- The pavement between Gladstone and Northcote is in very poor condition after being damaged by lorries when the flats were being built. This is dangerous, particularly for disabled residents and those with pushchairs. KCC have confirmed they are holding the developers to account over the repairs after being contacted by a concerned resident.

Next Meetings

Meetings usually alternate on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to enable as many people as possible to attend and are held at the Scout Hut in Lambert's Yard (unless advertised being elsewhere).

The next meetings are;

Tuesday March 19th 2019

Wednesday May 22nd 2019