

Loughton Residents' Association

Minutes of Meeting 27th May 2010

Held at 5 Weldon Rise

Present: Barry and Elaine Anderson, Ray Williams, Mike Jones, Anita Hancock, Rob Wills, Simon Kirkman.

Apologies: Irene Barnard, Lyn Rose, Janet Cooper, Maggie Kirkman

The purpose of the meeting was to review the outcome of the AGM which took place at Loughton Baptist Church on 11th May 2010.

Simon opened the meeting saying that as no Committee was elected at the AGM we needed to seriously consider the way forward for the LRA. According to the existing constitution, if no committee is elected the LRA should in effect be wound up. It was generally agreed that this was not what we wanted, but we cannot change the constitution without first appointing a committee.

Simon said he would stand as Chair again in the absence of any other alternative, but on the basis that we should aim to increase the number of active members to the committee to enable a more equitable spread of tasks.

Anita suggested a possible way forward would be to wind up the existing LRA, and immediately reform a new LRA with a less restrictive constitution.

Ray made the point that the LRA is effectively a group of residents/friends who have the interests of Loughton at heart and therefore could potentially operate on a more informal basis.

Mike made the point that as a body representing Loughton residents there is a need to maintain a formal recognised structure in order to deal credibly with external organisations.

In general it was agreed that it would be of benefit to have more "hands to the pump" so that tasks can be delegated to a broader spread of people when dealing with activities such as the Newsletter, planning issues, grant applications, promotion of LRA website, etc. Anita volunteered to handle the organising of Newsletter distribution in the future.

It was suggested that we should meet more frequently, every two months, to enable better continuity in planning our activities. We should meet again in July, date to be agreed, and Ray suggested we should all bring one friend/acquaintance/neighbour who would be interested in joining the committee. At this meeting we will determine our organisation and agenda for the year.

This part of the meeting closed and we then discussed the planning application (10/00809/FUL), submitted for three houses on the School Lane/Pitcher Lane site.

Letters of objection have to be submitted to MK council by 10th June latest.

A letter will be sent on behalf of the LRA.

We also referred to the Parish Council Meeting scheduled for 21 June at Greatholm , when senior planning officials will be present to explain planning policy for Loughton. We would like the entire LRA committee to attend, as this will be an opportunity for us to have our say about the preservation of the Loughton Conservation Area.

The meeting closed at 10PM