Loughton Residents' Association

Minutes of Meeting 31st March 2011 @1930hrs
Held at All Saints' Church, Loughton

Committee Members Present: Mike Jones, Simon Kirkman, Rozi Rowcroft James, Andy Sargent

Apologies: Barry Anderson, Elaine Anderson, Janet Cooper, Anita Hancock,

Welcome & Introduction: SK welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Review of the Constitution: Peter Todd was thanked for joining us for this part of the discussion and for drawing out some points on this.
If we'd like to be recognised by HMRC as a charity for tax purposes, we would be better to adopt the small unregistered charities standard constitution as this is more likely to be recognised. It also encourages people to give money if they're able to gift aid their donations.
Additional risk is liability vs the cost of protection of liability. If we were to have a fun day or such like, we would need to get public liability insurance. It could be limited in the constitution by saying liability is limited to certain members of the Committee. However there are thousands of unincorporated organisations in the public arena. It's doubtful that it's worth the cost and effort of incorporating, but we should bear this in mind should we host a public event.
There is no legal reason to make the proposed changes to the constitution. Irrespective of this we will launch a consultation period, including posting a copy of the Small Unregistered Charities Constitution on the website, with a view to changing this at the AGM. If this is approved at the AGM, then we would be able to register with HMRC.

Peter Todd left the meeting at 2005hrs

Minutes from the previous meeting: Agreed

Matters arising:

1. **Job descriptions for officers:** HAve now been received and incorporated in the Annual Newsletter. RRJ to circulate them for further comment.

2. **Review of Constitution:** see above

3. **Planning Issues - Weldon Rise:** The development control panel took place where various discussions took place. SK suggested that there should be a planning application to build the receptor ponds, along with a legal agreement between the land owner and the Parks Trust. It will take about two years for the receptor site to develop a viable ecosystem. AS will provide MJ with a review of the meeting.

4. **Character statement on the Conservation Area:** SK has looked at MBC website for information on this and has looked closely at the Woburn Sands

character statement. With the current budget and resource restrictions we remain concerned that this will not be a priority for the Council. We would like to use the Woburn Sands statement as a model for producing one for Loughton. Suggested that we take this forward into the 2011/12 LRA agenda. The Loughton Parish Council has had a similar discussion, and will be sending a question to the MKC Planning Committee asking if they would take the work of a third party (MKC / LRA) as a basis for the Loughton Character Statement. SK will speak to Jen (clerk to the PC).

Newsletter Review: Done! Should be with the printers on April 1st. It's 52 pages (sightly less than last year). The plan is to deliver this in the week commencing 18th (SK to check that this is when it will be available for distribution). SK will look at the existing distribution plans to look at the walks for delivery.

At the AGM we will agree dates for all 2011/12 meetings, then publicise these around Loughton. Part of our agenda for 11/12 should be to look at being "more public".

MJ and BA to link up to make sure all advertisers who've paid for internet adverts have been uploaded onto the website.

Feedback: The basic idea is to have a way of people getting in touch with one another with. MJ will pull something together using a blogging template.

Delivering for the NAG: Request from the NAG to ask if we can deliver their newsletter with the LRA Newsletter. Anticipated this will be A4 folded to A5. Agreed we're happy to do this so long as its available by the 18th April.

Venue for AGM: Confirmed as All Saints' Loughton.

Speaker for AGM: SK spoke to Mike Flood, but he cannot commit to this. Please contact SK with ideas.

Agenda for AGM: SK would still like to stand down at AGM, but is happy to stand as Deputy Chair

AOB: we've been contact by someone from LG about people parking around Edy Court and is becoming dangerous. SK has contacted the Council who said they are doing a consultation, the outcome of which will be known fairly soon.

Left only turn from Knowle Gate: it was going to be removed but is now going to stay.

There are four places available on the Parish Council, forms are available from the Parish Clerk - visit loughtonpc.org.uk

Planning application for Pitcher Lane to removal / pollarding of trees for vehicular access.

The meeting closed at 2140hrs .