



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 26th February 2014
Venue – Elsie Fischer Room, St Lawrence Church

1. **Present** – Ian Brooks (Chairman), Cllr Catherine Dann, Cllr David Payne, Cllr Edward Lavery, Karen Spink, Alison Holtorp, Jackie Redrup, Linda Laurie, Keith Barnard, David Harper (minute taker), Andrea Gohil, Jean Marr, Jean Gibson, Dev Chadha, Deesha Chadha, Anthony Pitchers.
2. **Apologies for Absence** – Irene Groom, Chris Groom, Ian Murray, Elizabeth Beggs, Alison Akerman, Carolyn Derecki, Cllr Michael White, Cllr Raymond Graham, David Stephens, Dympna McDermott.
3. IB welcomed everyone to the meeting; he raised the issue of the threatened closure of Eastcote Post Office.
4. **Approval of Minutes** The Minutes of the 29th January were agreed other than to correct the spelling of Deane Way.
5. **Matters arising from 29th January meeting:**
 - Christmas lights – the £500 billed for last year’s lights has been paid. For 2014, the ERA or any other suitable organisation should apply to the council; CG will follow this up if nothing is forthcoming by June. **ACTION:CG**
 - Baskets and troughs of flowers – awaiting an update from CG in due course. **ACTION: CG**
 - Blackhorse Public House, disabled access – IB has spoken to David Stephens and to Cllr Catherine Dann on this matter. KB has also had an unofficial chat with the council and will let DS know the outcome. As a conservation planning decision, any complaints should be referred back to the council. **ACTION: IB**
 - Memorial flowers in Elm Avenue – there has been broken glass on the pavement (from the photo of the dead boy) for over ten days now (as at 29th January) and it is difficult for motorists to avert their attention from this “shrine”. DP said that it appears no decision on this and other shrines in the borough would be taken in the near future. It was suggested that we should go directly to the council leader and/or take the matter to HARA. IB agreed to consult HARA in the first instance. **ACTION: MW**
 - Deane Way and Farthings Close state of roads – all that has been forthcoming from the council is that these and other roads are “on the list to be done”, but with no timescale. CD said that any potholes in Deane Way would be repaired; this whole issue has been taken up to council leader level. IB thanked DP and CD for all their efforts in this regard. In the same vein, CD reported that the service road behind the library towards the Ascott pub is indeed private. **ACTION: DP/IB**
 - AGM speaker and possible donation to Colne Valley Park – Stewart Pomeroy has agreed to give a presentation and ERA will be giving a £100 donation at the AGM to the Colne Valley Trust. **ACTION: IB**
 - RSA catalyst application comments – DC will send the application to Nick Denys to tidy up. She will then draft a letter (nominally from IB) within the next two weeks. Local schools need to be contacted to get them on board; IB would give DC contact details for Northwood School, possibly also for Haydon School. **ACTION: DC/IB**
 - Flooding at Old Forge – CD reported that, although gullies have been cleaned, there has been a re-occurrence of flooding. Thames Water has been chased up and it appears that tree roots are causing a blockage in the pipes; this should have been resolved on 20th February. **ACTION: CD**

5. New resident issues: The threatened closure of Eastcote Post Office had been raised with IB. It is unclear what current plans are and where it might go if the present building is vacated. JR agreed to do some more research into the matter with the caveat that, as long as we had a post office facility in Eastcote, she wouldn't be fighting for retaining the existing office. **ACTION: JR**

6. Committee Reports

6.1 **Planning** – JR distributed her latest report. She has revamped the entries to show new planning applications since the last report first, followed by existing ones. The reference to 187A Field End Road in the last minutes should correctly refer to 186A. JR and Lesley Crowcroft proposed a short piece for inclusion in the next newsletter on the current state of play regarding 150 (Initial House) and 186A Field End Road and the Esso Garage. LL would like the article in two weeks or so. **ACTION: JR**

6.2 **Police Matters** – IM was unable to attend the last meeting of the police committee; the next (and last) meeting will be on 19th March. **ACTION: IM**

6.3 **Transport /Road Safety** – IB had nothing new to add. The flashing (or otherwise) of the Cheney Street speed sign was again raised. Apparently it does work, but its position so close to the Bridle Road junction makes it largely ineffectual.

6.4 **Parks Report** – KB reported:-

- The bad weather has made any work in the parks impossible and volunteer sessions have had to be cancelled. Two more trees have fallen, so will need removing.
- In Eastcote House Gardens, repairs to the dovecote are still awaited. A temporary dead hedge, using arisings from the former hedge behind the south wall, has been constructed in front of the Jubilee orchard; this will protect it from builders' machinery until work is completed there.
- A land drainage system is being drawn up to improve conditions under foot in the area.
- The next community picnic will be on Saturday 7th June from 11am to 4pm.
- The council is placing notices in all parks and open spaces informing residents that the scattering of ashes and installation of shrines is not permitted on their land. Here, DC raised the point that, in the Hindu faith, ashes are traditionally scattered in open areas.
- There will be a bat walk on Thursday 1st May and a history walk on Sunday 27th July (booking essential for both).
- An archaeological dig will take place between Friday 27th June and Tuesday 15th July.

6.5 **Health and Community Voice** – EB (not in attendance) reported:-

- Dr. Raj Bathula, Stroke Consultant at the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit at Northwick Park, gave a talk on the two types of strokes that affect the body. One is called ischaemic and the other haemorrhagic. Northwick Park Hospital has the largest and busiest Stroke Unit in London. NW London has Acute Stroke Units at Hillingdon, Ealing, St. Mary's and West Middlesex Hospitals.
- Dr. Bathula concluded by referring to the fact that his Acute Stroke Unit has already won a number of awards in its short life and to the close involvement of patients and families in the Unit, including the presence of patient representation on the Stroke Board. Many questions were asked and the audience gave a sustained applause.

Royal Brompton and Harefield Foundation Trusts

- Plans to sell the underused Hospital buildings in Sidney Street, SW3, have a lot of opposition from different groups within the area although, if sold, would generate a large sum of money. The Royal Marsden, and an alliance of 32 residential and church groups, is endeavouring to oppose this quite strongly.
- The concern of Community Voice is what impact this would have on any plans for Harefield; information is being sought on this.
- Concerns were also expressed on the data that will be forthcoming when patients' records will be shared between a broad spectrum of medical experts. It was felt that there had not been sufficient information given to the public about this and that they should contact their GP before 1st March if wishing to opt out. Patients will be able to opt in again at a later date but, if they let that date pass, opting out will then be impossible.

6.6 **Webmaster** – No report.

6.7 **Finance** – Nothing to report.

6.8 **Road Stewards** – As one of the road stewards in the south of Eastcote has “called it a day”, it was planned to do a leaflet drop in the area. With the AGM announcement prominent on the front page of the spring newsletter, there should be no need for a separate sheet advertising the fact.

6.9 **Newsletter** – LL said that the spring newsletter would run to 16 pages; articles from KS, JR and AH were awaited. Our printer has the equipment to produce colour photographs but, because they are few in number and of relatively small size, LL thought the benefits would be marginal. She would ascertain the relative costs of producing the newsletter in full colour versus black and white. DH suggested that, space permitting, and going down the colour route, it might be possible to print some larger photographs of the area in the newsletter in future. **ACTION: LL**

6.10 **Other Reports** – There is a meeting of the Ruislip Lido Management Advisory Group on 11th March at 7.30pm, which CG will be unable to attend.

7. **AOB** – There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th March 2014 at the Elsie Fischer Room, St Lawrence Church, starting at 7.30pm. PLEASE EMAIL/PHONE YOUR APOLOGIES AND REPORTS TO IRENE GROOM .