

MINUTES OF LANE HEAD SOUTH RESIDENTS' GOUP MEETING HELD ON 16th FEBRUARY 2015

- Chairman – Ann Lowe, Deputy Chairman – Denis Eubank, Secretary – Pat Grundy, Treasurer – Howard Cooper, Minutes Secretary – Marie Cooper
- Number of attendees 27

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Dr. Chris Miller and Mark Champion from the Wildlife Trust. Apologies were received from Councillor Grundy, Alan & Jean Woodcock and Gill Dickinson. The meeting started with an announcement by Ed Thwaite (LENDF) regarding the recent fire at Lowton Social Club which had started in the wooden decking outside but had then damaged the front of the property and upstairs function room. The back room is still usable but currently all the gas and electricity services have been cut off. Unless this can be resolved the Pensioners' Party for March will have to be cancelled.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January, which had been sent out by email, were proposed, seconded and agreed as a true record.

LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST: Dr Miller and Mark Champion gave a resume of the work which is currently being carried out by the Wildlife Trust and Natural England on the moss. Photographs of the area were passed round. The initial work is colonising scrub renewal with eventually the water table being raised steadily to stop the area drying out. This will encourage the moss to grow. The birch trees are being removed as they take the water out of peat and are a relatively recent colonist of the moss and peat land area. This is an important site for Marsh Gentian which is incredibly rare and the site needs to be cleared of bracken and other grasses in order to encourage the Gentian to grow. Local residents voiced their concern regarding the felling of the trees and gave the benefit of their knowledge of the area. It was proposed that a site visit be arranged to include Councillor Houlton, local residents and the Wildlife Trust.

MATTERS ARISING: The Chairman has spoken to a number of people regarding the planned Garden Visits, however, after discussion it was decided not to organise a visit this year but wait until next.

UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES

Winwick Lane: The next meeting with Andy Burnham, Councils and the Highways Agency is due to take place at Leigh Town Hall on the 6th March 2015.

Haydock Island: Improvements to the island are currently underway and a diagram was passed around showing the plan for the upgrading of the island and motorway junctions.

Mount Tabor: The dumping of manure by a local farmer was discussed. Councillor Houlton would like an email explaining the problem and he will try to deal with the matter. Kathleen Johnson reported that the application for Village Green status for the area is going ahead but will require a lot of planning and preparation.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Treasurer gave an update of the current bank balance.

DATES FOR DIARY:

Monday 23rd February – Darts, Dominoes and Hotpot Supper. Tickets £4.50.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

Litter Pick: Concern was expressed again regarding the amount of litter in the area. Tidy Britain is located in Wigan and it was suggested that perhaps a letter be sent to them informing them of the

problem. LENDF is also going to write to the Council regarding this issue. It was proposed that Saturday morning 7th March a litter pick be organised. An email will be posted giving details.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The AGM will be held on the 20th April at 7.30 in the Red Lion. Any person wishing to nominate themselves for a position on the Management Committee please submit their names. The Secretary will be resigning and the Treasurer has expressed his wish to do so.

Planting of Trees in Winton Road: Councillor Houlton explained the current position. Discussions are still ongoing regarding the planting of trees in Lime Grove.

Youth and Community Centre on Newton Road: A note regarding the Centre had been issued by the Council which requested that interested parties who wished to be involved in reforming the Community Centre and taking over its financial viability should apply to Wigan Council by the 23rd February.

Old Lowton Calendar: Prices have been obtained for producing the calendar. It was generally accepted by the group that this was a good idea to use the old pictures for the calendar and sell them in order to raise funds.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 23rd March 2015 at 7.30pm in the Red Lion pub.