

Present:

- Chairman – Ed Thwaite (Ed T), Secretary – Irene Thomson (IT)
- Cllr Ed Houlton and Cllr Kath Houlton
- Welcome to members, visitors and guests
Apologies – David Halliwell, Brian and Audrey Lobell

No. of Attendees = 42

1. **Minutes from last meeting** – Not read at meeting but copies had been sent out by email, posted onto Facebook, and paper copies were available. LENDF Bank Statement on display during the meeting.

2. **Wigan Borough – Age UK**

A short presentation was given by Harry Unsworth giving details of the [various services](#) provided by Age UK. These include:

- Starting Point Plus Service 01942 826079
- Advocacy
- Bright Days Programme
- Care Homes Admission Service
- Handyperson Service
- Home Help
- Hospital Information and Support Service
- Home to Home Service
- Befriending
- Mobility Equipment
- Housing and Care Options
- iINVOLVE
- Support at Home Services
- Together for Health.

3. **Gypsies**

The recent incursion by gypsies onto the playing fields at the Civic Hall was acted on quickly by our local Councillors but it was the court process which delayed the eviction of the 20 or so caravans from the fields.

The issues of security and prevention of such an incident happening again was then discussed by those present. Additional security has been put into place at the Hall itself and East Leigh AFC is making plans to add a height restriction barrier at the gated entrance to the fields.

It was also reported that councillors had made suggestions to the Council that they investigate and do checks on any gypsy camps that show up in the Borough by asking Social Services, Police and DVLA to visit the camps.

4. **Asset of Community Value Application – Civic Hall**

The Council have received the application from LENDF to place an [Asset of Community Value](#) on the Civic Hall. They did though request a form containing 21 signatures of local residents who were on the electoral roll. This has now been completed and submitted.

The residents of Atherton, via CAMRA, have also done the same for Formby Hall. There

has been a query of the covenants which were apparently attached to the original sale of these venues to their current owners. Information about the exact detail has been sketchy but Cllr Ed Houlton did suggest that they may have been 'time-limited' to either 3 or 5 years. LENDF's frequent Freedom of Information requests never revealed this.

In a LENDF meeting held in March 2011 the following was minuted regarding covenants:

- **Update re: Civic Hall**
- As you are probably aware the sale of the Lowton Civic Hall, Formby Hall, Atherton and the Monaco in Hindley has gone to a Company called 8th Wonder from Wigan.
- ET spoke with Simon Dale from Wigan MBC who assured us that the Civic will only be used as a Leisure venue and nothing is expected to change. The only thing we should notice are improvements, Much discussion on the speculated amount paid (£250,000 for all three venues), but as SD pointed out, if it was an issue of raising the most money, they would have just knocked it down and sold the land for residential properties.
- Covenants have been written into the sale documents, stating that this land cannot be sold for developments in the future but was discussion followed regarding how valid such agreements would be and what a solicitor could ignore.
- JG stated that had we known that the Council were willing to sell the Civic for such a low amount, we could have approached Viridor for funding to keep it open ourselves.
- JJ submitted FOI request to Council regarding further information on this deal and subsequent contracts.

Note: ET = Ed Thwaite, JG = Cllr James Grundy, JJ = Jan Johnston

If the time period set on the Civic Hall has now lapsed then their current owners may have options for selling it for development. The playing fields are separate and currently leased to East Leigh AFC, plus the land is registered with Sports England.

5. Lowton Music Festival

The company who run these festivals has created a date for next year (only advertised on their Facebook page). They will at some point submit a Temporary Entertainment Notice for July 15th 2016 – it is not possible for residents to object as only objections by the Environment Agency and the Police will be accepted by the Council. We fully expect that both the EA and Police will once again object at the appropriate time.

JUL 15 Lowton music festival

Public - Hosted by [Weird and Wasted and Liberty Sound](#)

Friday, 15 July 2016 at 12:00

Grange farm Animal feeds & Country store
Stone cross lane south, WA31JU Lowton [Show Map](#)

Tickets Available
event.bookitbee.com [Find Tickets](#)

Due to a problem with our TEN application we regret to announce that this years lowton music festival has been cancelled :(we hope it doesn't put you off coming to our events in the future.

The event date has changed to the proposed date for netx years event

6. Community Investments Fund

This funding forms part of 'The Deal' and residents are being encouraged to get involved in their community. The Deal for Communities Investment Fund will allow communities to help solve some of the borough's biggest social problems. There are several priority areas for the funding to ensure the projects receiving investment improve outcomes for local residents.

The Deal for Communities Investment Fund is for Small Investment applications (up to £2,000).

Round 3 of the Communities Investment Fund is available now. The closing date for Stage 1 application submission is Friday 30th October at 9am.

More details, together with the application form, can be viewed at this [link](#).

7. HS2

The Golborne Link Alliance Action Group will be arranging a meeting with Andy Burnham for an update on the latest situation regarding HS2.

8. Any Other Business

- An application by the Lancashire Aero Club, Winwick Lane, is expected and once details are obtained LENDF will review it's impact.
- Diggle Green – it has been confirmed that the recent 'odours' being experienced by many residents is actually being caused by United Utilities. Environment Agency officers visited Diggle Green and ruled out their process as the cause.
- JCBs and surveying activities have been observed by residents living near Pocket Nook Lane. Also water pressure checks are being carried out. It is possible that this is a precursor investigation in relation to future planning applications.
- Solar Panel Farm planning application due to be submitted to Warrington Council. The location is in Croft, not far from the Plough Inn, and is in a Green Belt area. 20,000 panels are being proposed with a 2.5metre fence plus hedges surrounding it.
- Wednesday 14th October. First of this season's Pensioners Party at Golborne Parkside Sports Club. Anyone wanting tickets please contact Ed on 07803 145805.
- Saturday 10th October. Last Night of the Proms concert at Rose Centre (Civic Hall). For Tickets please contact Ed on 07803 145805 or Irene 07950 933410 Tickets £4.

9. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

Monday 12th October 2015 (Note change of date due to diary clashes with Irene)

Monday 9th November 2015

Monday 14th December 2015

Should you find any omissions or discrepancies in these minutes please contact me on lendf99@gmail.com and let me know as soon as possible and the errors will be rectified.

Irene Thomson – Secretary, LENDF