

Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting August 9th 2006

Present: Alastair Melton, Andy Langton, Brian Crutchley, Jen Kenny, Kerry Clarke, Margaret Honeybun, Rob Chadwick, Steven Welyczko, Steve Sage, Ann Timpson, Iris Gotschi, Eileen Brennan, Bobby Diggin, Alfred Jones, Zoë Martin, Gerry Burbage, Lee Owens, Mo Kinsella, Stuart Russell, PC Ron Frater, Patricia Del Bargo, Gary French, Karen French, Barry Pagnado.

Apologies: Cllr Marie Dickie, Zoë Downes Daphne Barritt, Jimmy Patel, Sam Cooper-Evans, Ally Dunn.

Abbreviations Used:

SCF - Semilong Community Forum

NBC – Northampton Borough Council

NCC – Northamptonshire County Council

AGYCC – Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre

The meeting opened at 7.40pm and was chaired by Rob Chadwick.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising

- Rob to contact NBC planning to find out what permissions were given to the three properties in Hester Street
 - No response from NBC planning yet.
- Rob to contact NBC planning about number 7 and number 6 Hester Street
 - No response from NBC planning yet.

Further actions outstanding from previous minutes

- Brian to liaise with the co-op, a suitable time to locate the notice board
 - Brian will contact NBC planning to find out if permission is required.
 - Brian has contacted the council but as yet not had any response – Brian to chase up
- Karen will write letters to local businesses asking for donations for Raffle prizes.
 - Karen has been writing letters.

AGM

Brian asked the meeting what needed to be done before the AGM meeting on the 27th September.

Kerry volunteered to do the food and asked for helpers. Zoe volunteered to help. It was agreed that the budget for food would be £50.

The planned speaker for the meeting would be Steve Summers from Friends of Northampton Racecourse and he would invite comments on the Healthy Living Hub initiative.

Action

Brian Crutchley to work on an Agenda for the AGM with Robert Chadwick

Social Housing.

Gerry informed the meeting that the flats around Burleigh Road were having their windows replaced, this was welcomed by most residents and the planned works expected to be finished by Christmas.

Bobby asked if there was any possibility that netting could be put up to prevent footballs from hitting the windows of the flats adjacent to the play area. Gerry said that the council did not have any money available for capital projects, yet as the parks and landscapes department had cut the trees back in the first place then perhaps they would be able to do something.

Paul Chambers – NBC officer for Parks and Landscapes. Residents were invited to contact him.

Iris asked about licences in Multiple Housing. Rob confirmed that suspected Multiple Housing properties had received letters asking for the owners to apply as a necessity. Mo said that she had had a letter and that they were applying at the moment.

Iris also asked what is happening to the empty Regent House, Barrack Road.

Action

Rob to ask the council what is happening to Regent House, Barrack Road.

Crime

Rob introduced Lee Owens from the Anti Social Behaviour Unit at NBC. He said that they are looking at building files on people who perpetrate anti-social behaviour and that diary sheets need to be filled in to help build these files, but they would contact individuals who are referred to them by the police.

Ron pointed out that crime was down and so far and there had only been 3 related incidents reported for September since the Dispersal Zone had been implemented.

A few ideas were suggested of ways that would help to engage with young people which is hoped would prevent them for causing any nuisance. These included Youth worker, youth club, street football being re-instated. Rob pointed out that the CASPAR+ programme was already looking to appoint a youth worker and that this may include the Semilong area.

Ron pointed out that the new Safer Communities Team covers Semilong, St James and Spring Boroughs and is also partly funded by the CASPAR+ money. Rob asked if there was a phone number available yet to contact the team when required. Ron said that there wasn't one yet but there certainly will be an email address.

Rob gave an update on the meeting that had taken place following Brian Binley's attendance at the last meeting to discuss what should happen to the play area on Semilong Road. He said that there were recommendations to replace the boundary fence to the play area with a 12ft high fence that would be locked up at night.

In addition, temporary CCTV would be installed as a deterrent.

One suggested option would be to remove the play area altogether. Kerry stressed that it was important for young people to be consulted before this decision is made.

Community Warden – Andy Langton

Andy said that he had been having a blitz on bin bags being put out early and had had 12 cars removed from the area recently for not having valid tax discs. Andy asked that if we spotted any bin bags to report them to him as soon as possible – he usually checks his emails in the morning.

Alastair asked if it was possible to fine people and if we could be witnesses. Andy asked that we give him times when people put their bags out early and it would be up to the community wardens to catch them in the act.

Iris asked about bin bags in front gardens. Andy said that he was still waiting for the council to give him powers to deal with this type nuisance.

Rob pointed out that if vermin was found to manifesting itself then it should be reported to environmental Health at NBC .

Action

All residents to contact Andy Langton to report households who place bin bags out early on 01604 653 083 or neighbourhoodwardens@northampton.gov.uk

Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre

The Open Day has been postponed until the 21st October 11-3pm as there was a lack of groups available to attend on the original date.

Events

Balloon Festival Stall

Kerry said that the stall at the balloon festival had been a success. The total cost to the forum was £80.99. She said that it was hard work though and suggested that if we were to do it again next year then we have more volunteers. Kerry said that she would send out thank you letters to those who helped with sourcing items and would provide a list of contacts to the committee in case we do it again next year. Rob suggested that we build an "assets register" of all the items that we have accumulated over the past few years, including where these items are located.

Barn Dance

This item was not discussed as the event is not until December 2nd

Actions

Kerry to send out Thank you letters.

Kerry will put contact details together.

Treasurers update

The current balance is £565.92 with the balloon festival monies taken out.

Environment Green

Volunteers from St Giles said that they would like to come back to the area and help us plant daffodil bulbs. Brian asked the meeting if there were any suggestions. The sub-station next to the co-op and the area at the front of the old cathedral club were suggested.

Brian had spent a day planting up the memorial garden on Grafton Street and thanked Rob and Margaret for their help on the day.

Brian had also planted up the borders outside Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre.

From attending the CASPAR + meetings Rob has learnt that the pathways and lighting will be improved at Millers Meadow.

Actions

Brian Crutchley to liaise with St Giles regarding the bulb planting.

Environment Urban

Rob said that £10k had been secured for S106 monies that are likely to be spent on security improvements on the play area on Semilong Road from the developers of the old St Paul's School site – subject to approval. From the plans for the site the 34x1 bed flats has now been revised to 29x1 bed flats and the building will not be so tall. It will also include under croft parking. Rob feels that we couldn't feasibly object any further.

Following the painting of the railings at the substation next to the Co-op; Rob is planning to send pictures of local substations around Northampton to Central Networks to ask why the substation in Semilong is in such a bad state of repair.

Rob informed the meeting that Cllr Marie Dickie is taking up issues with the Chief Exec at NCC regarding some long

standing pavement, bus stop and general highway improvements we asked for, for which there was no feedback from the service itself.

Rob has also learnt that the manager of NBC cleansing is planning to reintroduce the street barrow with a dedicated cleaner for the area.

Communication

Nothing this month.

AOB

Anne Timpson informed the meeting that she had attended the Federation of Residents Associations meeting earlier which had been disrupted and was closed earlier than intended.

Patricia thanked the meeting for allowing her to attend our meeting.

Alistair produced a birthday cake for Brian as it was his Birthday.

The meeting closed at 9.33pm

The next meeting is on 11th October at the BBOB Rugby Club on St. Andrews Road at 7.30 – 9.30pm

Minutes Agreed (signed)

Chair Date

Secretary Date