

Minutes of Semilong Community Forum meeting March 14th 2007

Present: Andy Langton, Brian Crutchley, Rob Chadwick, Daphne Barritt, Jen Kenny, Steven Richards, Zoë Martin, Mrs Thompson, Peter Slack, Karen Fruish, Ann Timpson (not present for whole meeting), Carolyn French

Apologies: Alistair Melton, Ron Frater, Pratimah Khedow, Rachel Duncan, Ruth Taylor, Alan Taylor, Brian Binley

Abbreviations Used:

SCF - Semilong Community Forum

NBC – Northampton Borough Council

NCC – Northamptonshire County Council

AGYCC – Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre

MUGA-Multi use games area (at the bottom of Semilong Road)

WDNC-West Northamptonshire Development Corporation

PCSO- Police community support officer

The meeting opened at 7.35pm and was chaired by Zoë Martin

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising from the last meeting 14/2/07 and 14/3/07 (Jen was absent from this meeting)

Zoë to check with Andy about responsibility for cleaning up after car break in

Zoë checked this and it is the street cleansing team's responsibility.

Zoë to ask Rob about 106 funding for Highgrade Motors (see environment urban)

Further actions outstanding from previous minutes

Brian to contact social club re reduction in rate.

This is carried on to next meeting as Brian has not heard from the Social Club yet

Social Housing

There were no housing officers present.

Peter asked what percentage of Semilong's housing is classed as "social". Zoë said she would try and find out
Actions Zoë to try and find out about social housing percentage.

Neighbourhood Warden - Andy Langton

Andy said that there has been a team meeting about fly tipping and that they are planning a zero tolerance approach from 2nd April for two weeks. This means that every address suspected of fly tipping will receive a letter with a warning and a potential fine of £75.

There have been 4 cars lifted that have no tax.

2 Asbos have been given on kerb crawlers.

Mrs Thompson asked about what will happen to businesses who put their rubbish out the day before. Andy advised that rubbish must not be put out on the street any earlier than the evening before collection.

Multi occupancy houses that put rubbish out in front gardens are private, but they can be given a section 47, this is ongoing.

There was also a question about parking on the corner of streets. Andy said he thought it was an offence within 15m of a corner, but many residents have seen cars parked nearer than that. Zoë asked if traffic wardens come to Semilong Andy said not really and he is unable to give penalties himself.

Andy said that there had been some prosecutions for people driving the wrong way up streets.

In August the county council will no longer have control of town car parks. The NCP will be taking over.

Rob asked Andy if there was a date for the section 47 law which came in 12months ago. Andy said not yet.

Andy mentioned section 46 laws which also includes littering from cars, if you can get a registration and a description he can look into it, this includes cigarette ends.

Steven mentioned that the Duke of Edinburgh pub appeared to be closed down.

Actions no actions

Andy was not present to report .Lee Barron reassured members that funding was safe for community wardens.

Actions

Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre

Steven reported that the centre is still waiting for an update on funding from the NBC

The cubs and scouts are leaving next week, which is a sad loss however the Youth Service will be offering counselling on sexual health.

Last Wednesday Toby and Jane were given an unsung heroes gold award which was well deserved and congratulated by members of the forum

Actions

No actions

Events

Zoë said that Lucy had reported on the basketball event and said that the events went well. The MUGA is being well used.

Actions

No actions

Treasurers update

Steven said that the balance is still £448.36.The bank account is now set up , the domain name needs paying which is £40 and the hosting will be £70.38 , although Brian suggested maybe looking for another.

Actions

Environment Green

Miller's meadow work is well underway.

Carolyn asked why they have removed some of the trees from the side of the river. Zoë said she would ask the council.

Zoë said that no events had been planned for the amphitheatre, she will chase this up. Karen mentioned how often this area floods.

Steve Sommers has been in touch asking for volunteers to help design the Semilong section of the trim trail on the racecourse with a community artist.

Actions

Zoë to chase up plans for the amphitheatre

Environment Urban

There has been an application for flats for 39 Semilong Road opposite the co-op to convert 6 bedsits to 4 flats .3 of them would need to access from the rear alleyway on Hester street. This would be an unlit area which is substandard,

Rob said that the 106 funding mentioned at the last meeting which resulted in a pelican crossing being planned .The actual planning decision has been deferred.

Karen asked what affordable housing is classed as by the council. Rob said he will find out from NBC

Carolyn asked how she can find out about planning permission, as she is concerned about a property which is not on her deeds. Rob said that she needs to contact the planning department on the phone or their website.

Rob reported on the Barrack Road conservation group's agm and said that they now have a preferred bidder for the Barrack R

Actions

Rob to find out what affordable housing is from NBC

Communication

Brian

Actions no actions this month

Crime

There were no police officers present, but Andy the neighbourhood warden mentions that there have been a number of raids on properties involved with drugs.

AOB

Zoë asked the forum if they thought we should buy public liability insurance which would cover small events such as jumble sales etc. It would be £50 for less than 150 people .The forum was unsure as we do not have any such events lined up. Zoë said she would check how quickly we could get cover if needed on a case by case basis. Zoë mentioned that Avon is looking to fund women's projects and asked if anyone had any suggestions. Jen mentioned SWAN and Zoë said they have already got that on their list.

Jen gave apologies for the next meeting and asked for someone to take the minutes. Brian kindly volunteered. The meeting was closed at 8.40pm

Actions

The next meeting is on 11th April 2007 at the BBOB Rugby Club on St. Andrews Road at 7.30 – 9.30pm

Minutes Agreed (signed)

Chair _____ Date _____

Secretary _____ Date _____