

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of Camden Residents Association 9th May 2018

1. Present: Jeremy Labram, Nigel Sherwen, Nigel Pollard, Stephen George, Janet Anderson, Chris Smith, Deepali Gaskell
Apologies: Nancy Coppock, Julie Platt, Gloria Goodsell

2. The Previous Minutes
were approved.

3. Matters Arising

- Various contacts had been made regarding the traffic report. Janet had written to the councillors for Bath Avon North, Lansdown and Lambridge and Fiona Darey, with just one acknowledgment from Rob Appleyard.
She had tried to contact Lin Patterson, but she had not responded.
JL had tried to contact Jacob Rees-Mogg, which was proving difficult, but he would try again.
- The blog now had 43 followers, including Gloria.
- On the subject of Wild Camden, Steve had had a meeting with Nancy and they had agreed to fix a date for the spring cut and then email those interested to try to set up a gardening club in June.
- Deepali said she had spoken to Lewis Cox and Peter Bailey at the Council and they had agreed to change the road speed signs and replace the missing parking signs on St Stephens Road.

4. Chairman's Report

- Changes were being made to the website and blog. A decision had been made to migrate away from the current website and we would not pay for this year's management. The website and blog were to be integrated, and more technical work needed to be done. Nancy had been helping to reorganise the blog which now had all the content from the main-website.
- JL reported that a lot had taken place in the last month and this was explained in the end of month report post on the blog.
- He had had challenging discussions with committee members of FoBRA over their attitude to the CAZ proposal and had attended the last meeting. He had invited Robin Kerr and Patrick Rotherham to follow our blog, but neither had.
- He reminded everyone to encourage more people to follow the blog.

5. Treasurer's report

Nigel P said that £50 had been paid to FoBRA from the current account, which now stood at £619. About £35 will be paid to take the ads off the blog, and it was likely we would want to pay for more software for the website.
The railings fund account remained the same at £5600.

6. The bus gates suggestion.

Steve had proposed drawing up a paper setting out various options for bus gates, but after discussion with JL they had decided that with the Council's acceptance of the enlarged zone for the CAZ (cutting across Camden Road), there would be less need for bus gates. With the Council's concentration on the CAZ it was unlikely it would get any consideration. It was agreed to put it in abeyance until we see the results of the CAZ.

7. The CRA Report

The report was published in January and we had had an official response from Mark Shelford. NS said that he would be happy to work on a response to Mark Shelford.

NS

8. CRA Marketing

The committee was shown CARA's newsletter. (Circus Residents) and also Jeremy's CRA Marketing Paper. They had apparently sold 150 copies to their members at £7.50 bringing in substantial funds as well as increasing their membership. Nigel S had drawn up a list of the achievements of our Association over the years, and it was generally agreed that we should value ourselves more highly. Having more funds could make us more ambitious. Steve said that it might make it possible to bring in expertise, perhaps organise events. Jeremy pointed out that extra money might enable us to buy pollution monitoring equipment. NP agreed to write a terms of reference for this year's push for interest in CRA, prior to the AGM. NP

The definition of membership posed a problem, as did the data protection issues. At present, following the blog does not require CRA to hold personal data so we are compliant. It was decided to follow this up at future committee meetings.

It was agreed to consider the best features of the CARA newsletter and to find a better meeting hall for the AGM. Janet said she would investigate renting the church itself at Claremont and using St Swithuns. JA

9. Setting priorities

Last January's decision to consider our main priority to be the traffic on Camden Rd, was reconfirmed in the light of CAZI.

Deepali insisted that parking problems with the Residents Parking Zone should be high priority, that residents parking should be 24 hours and enforcement was poor. NS pointed out that the hours were decided after a survey of all residents had shown that to be the preferred option. And the 24 hour option had been rejected because of the enforcement cost. Steve and Nigel P also saw the rat run through UHP as another priority.

10. CRA CAZ response.

Four members of the committee and Lydia Halcrow had attended the Council's presentation of the CAZ scheme. The response reflected how they felt.

JL pointed out that the CAZ was about reducing pollution, but that it would be a great result if we could help shape it so that there was also a reduction of traffic on our road.

We agreed that cars should be included in the scheme, though Steve felt the political backlash meant that the Council might have to be more pragmatic, perhaps extending the time given for cars to conform, or a massive discount on the charges.

It was agreed that section 14 was very important and perhaps should be highlighted in our response. JL

11. The blog and website

There were now 24 posts, some 6 per month

There were 35 comments.

There were 43 followers.

1228 views

299 visitors

8 likes.

12. Wild Camden

SG told us that Nancy would be dealing with this when she got back from holiday.

13. AOB

- NP updated us about the Friends of Hedgemoor Park. The Council were keen to set this up.

There had been 11 people at the last meeting, and 2 people from the Council.

The water fountain was going to be restored. There were plans to celebrate the park's 130th anniversary next year. And there was to be a 'picnic in the park' on Sunday July 15th 1 - 3pm.

They were receiving help from the Avon Wildlife Trust, and Nigel suggested we change the name of Wild Camden to Wild Hedgemoor, which might help us to link in with the Hedgemoor project and perhaps get more funding.

- Janet spoke about a radio programme about the success of community speedwatch schemes. She said she would email Committee members a brief summary. JA

14. Date of next meeting

It was decided the next meeting would be mid/late June. Janet would Doodle. JA

15. The meeting was concluded 9.30