

# Minutes of the Committee Meeting of Camden Residents Association 31st January 2019

**1. Present:** Jeremy Labram, Bob Williams, Frank Benyon, Nigel Pollard, Janet Anderson, Chris Smith, Caroline Groom  
Apologies: Nancy Coppock, John Long, Gloria Goodsell

## **2. Introductions**

The members of the committee introduced themselves to Caroline.

## **3. The last committee meeting minutes** were approved

Matters arising.

- i) Jeremy had had a meeting with the project manager of the CAZ scheme. There was a small string of comments on the Nextdoor Camden site and an informal meeting planned in a pub in early Feb
- ii) The monthly (first Friday of the month) community pop-up pub at Swainswick was going well, and some Camden residents were meeting up at the Fairfield Arms.
- iii) There were nearly 150 subscribers to the CRA website, and Jeremy reminded members of the Committee to post blogs.
- iv) There had been a meeting with the Council regarding Wild Camden
- v) Bob had posted a comment about the request for extra money for policing, pointing out that it would strengthen the position of the Police Commissioner, and whether or not that was a good thing.
- vi) The carol singing had raised £109 for the Genesis Trust.

## **4. Chairman's report**

- i) He noted the blog on policing
- ii) The local elections were to be on May 2nd 2019
- iii) The change of boundaries will mean that apart from Camden Crescent the whole of Camden will be in Walcot ward.
- iv) He had had a meeting with Bath Independent Group and had been invited to stand as a candidate but had declined.
- v) He had attended the FoBRA meeting earlier in the month and reported on the discussion about the plans for Bath Rugby Club. It was decided that it would improve the river frontage, but the proposed heightening of the pitch by 4 metres and more for the stands would have a severe effect on views of the city and this was an issue for all of us. The 700 space car park under the pitch was also contrary to the council's parking policy

## **5. CAZ update following the Chairman's meeting the project manager 31/1/19**

i) Delay to decisions

He was assured that the Council were committed by March and there was a Council meeting on 5th March when announcements would be made. They would then have to put in bids to JACU for money to pay for hardship concessions.

ii) Jeremy pointed out the need for very good advanced signage.

iii) He also stressed the urgent need for Park and Ride sites to the east of Bath and improvements to the signage for Lansdown P&R, and improved access

iv) He confirmed that we are still thinking about pollution and congestion on Camden Rd.

(This is now all written up on the website, in the blogpost dated 4<sup>th</sup> February - <https://camdenresidentsbath.org/2019/02/04/latest-caz-news-is-mostly-positive-for-camden-and-north-east-bath/>).

### **6. Snow patrol**

Chris reported that because of lack of funds the Council were no longer supporting the snow warden scheme and supplying salt and machinery. He said that we had supplies of salt for a couple of years but that it degrades over time and may become too coarse to use in the machine. He said he would write to the Council for more information. (A)

Chris is looking for some younger people to help and for someone to take over his role.

### **7. Website management**

Bob confirmed he had met with Nancy and would be temporarily taking over the website management. The main problem was Google coming up with old CRA websites, but it was thought this would improve with time.

### **8. Litter pick**

There had been a litter pick in December but no more had been arranged because Nancy was away.

### **9. Friends of Hedgemoor Park**

Caroline reported that they were preparing to celebrate the park's 130 year anniversary with a party in the park on 21st July, a larger event than last year, perhaps with music and some stalls. They were intending to apply for Green Flag status for the park but there was work to be done, for example repairing pot-holes.

There was to be a litter pick at 2pm on 14th April, and a tree planting day.

They were trying to get ideas for improving the play area for children, perhaps getting local businesses involved, hopefully to raise money for the project.

Nigel noted that the Council had painted the gates on Guinea Lane. He suggested that Wessex Water might be approached with a view to providing a water supply at the fountain for filling up plastic bottles, as apparently they have a fund for this. (A) Nigel

### **10. Exploratory meeting with the Council about Camden Lawn Jan 30th.**

Frank reported on his and Jeremy's meeting with Mark Cassidy and Jeremy Dymond regarding the future management of Camden Lawn ( full report attached) It was an agreeable meeting but essentially Mark Cassidy was saying that there was no Council money available. It was a Council owned area with no public access. It could only be local people who could raise money for the management of the area. We think it should be done in tandem with the Council, but Caroline said she thinks Mark doesn't think this works. His experience was that local people haven't put in the labour they promised. Nigel said that it was the Council that had not carried out the work that they had agreed.

Mark said that the Council would consider assisting a local initiative with such things as technical advice on planting and the 'stock' of trees. Frank was sceptical about a group of amateurs being able to carry out work like this.

Mark had suggested renovating and planting more hazel coppice which could be managed more easily, would prevent the growth of perennial weeds such as convolvulus, and allow the planting of spring flowers.

Nigel suggested we ask the Council to assess the cost of clearing the area of mainly laurels and conifers as a start to the project so that we could look at trying to secure grants.

Jeremy said that he got the impression from Mark that the Council might be prepared to make something available if local people would guarantee the labour.

Nigel suggested we could divide the area into perhaps fifths, and coppice one section every year. But first we would need to convert a wilderness into a plantation. We could do it in stages.

Jeremy said that the Council could only give the area over to residents under licence. It was a dangerous area to work on and people could only work there in accordance with the licence.

Nigel said that a major problem was getting machinery on to the site and we should consider replacing the narrow gate with a wider one with some of the money we had for the railings. We could also consider using the money for the clearance and planting work, as Mark had said that it would cost less than £5000. The Council view was that the current fencing was functional. Jeremy and Frank would write back to the council (A).

#### **11. AOB**

Nigel said that RBS had asked that we close our account with them. He was looking into alternatives.

#### **12. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be at the beginning of March, the following one a month later. Janet would Doodle.