

# Minutes of the Committee Meeting of Camden Residents Association

## 7th March 2019

**1. Present:** Jeremy Labram, Bob Williams, Gloria Goodsell, Nigel Pollard, Janet Anderson, Chris Smith, Caroline Groome

Apologies: Nancy Coppock, John Long, Frank Benyon.

**2. The last committee meeting minutes** were approved.

Matters arising.

Nigel had emailed our councillors about Wessex Water's fund and the possibility of having drinking water available at the Hedgemoad Park fountain. Richard S had said that he would speak to the relevant people at the Council. Patrick was less enthusiastic, pointing out that footfall was very low and that it would be underused and maintenance would be the responsibility of the Council. The money would be better spent in the city centre. Nigel had not yet replied, but pointed out that it was the stated aim of the Council to get visitors out of the city centre.

It was thought a good idea for Nigel to contact Wessex Water and see if they might consider a grant (A). The fountain had in the past been connected to a mains supply, so maintenance might not be expensive.

Jeremy pointed out that this was really a matter for the Friends of Hedgemoad Park.

ii). Jeremy had written to the Council about Wild Camden.

### 3. Chairman's report

- i) Nigel and Jeremy had attended the FoBRA reception and met various people including the Vice Chancellors of both Bath Universities. They had indicated to Jeremy that they had reached peak student numbers and that the need for further new build student accommodation would diminish.
- ii) FoBRA had made a statement about the latest proposals for Bath Rugby Club redevelopment. Committee members have varying opinions but it was decided that it was not really a matter for the CRA.
- iii) The Claremont pub was now open and said to be very welcoming. The committee confirmed that Jeremy's initiative to encourage CRA residents to a social evening at either the Fairfield Arms or the Claremont, perhaps once a month was welcome.
- iv) The Camden coffee shop had shut recently and the business was moving to Weston.
- v) Jeremy had been approached by some Camden residents complaining about a succession of smoky bonfires emanating from a garden on the opposite side of the road. This had prompted him to research the subject.. Bonfires are permitted providing they do not constitute an unreasonable nuisance.
- vi) He had been contacted by someone about a street light in Tynning Lane being out. He had contacted the Council who had quickly fixed the light. He has subsequently placed the link to the B&NES on the CRA websites home page.

### 4. CAZ update

- i) The Council's decision on 5th March to leave out cars from the CAZ means that there will be no reduction in traffic on Camden Road, and perhaps increased by the traffic regulation on Queens Square displacing traffic onto Marlborough Lane and Julian Rd.

- ii) Jeremy thought we should be looking again at measures in our traffic report. Bob agreed that it would be a good time to press the Council for changes on the Camden Rd, while there were sweeteners on offer and the Council was considering various traffic improvement schemes.
- iii) Jeremy pointed out the urgent need for Park and Ride to the east of Bath.

### **5.Snow patrol**

Chris said that the Council were withdrawing support for the scheme. He had reported the lack of grit in the bin at the bottom of St Stephens Rd, and it had now been topped up by the Council. Steve Kamlish was taking over as snow warden. The grit laying machine was being housed under cover at Beacon Wood House. We agreed to ask around in case someone had a grease gun to keep the machine in good condition. If one could not be found the treasurer agreed to buying a low cost one.

### **6.Website management**

Bob said that the website was running smoothly. He agreed to keep an eye on the statistics. Jeremy was concerned about the lack of correspondence being supported. He accepted that most people were getting the email posts, but was disappointed that the website had not developed into more of a forum.

No litter picks had been arranged until Nancy was back.

A Hedgemead Park litter pick has been arranged for 14th April.

### **7. Accounts**

Nigel said the bank totals had changed very little (£1300 for the current account and £5600 in the railing fund). We had been requested by RBS to change to another bank. Of those suggested Nigel preferred Santander, who offered a bonus for transferring current accounts and had a physical presence in central Bath. He suggested making our Hedgemead Railings savings account a current account. Other members of the committee were concerned not to get our accounts mixed up in any way with the Friends of Hedgemead. It was agreed that the new online banking arrangements should only cover CRA business. (A)

### **8. Gym equipment for Hedgemead Park**

According to Caroline, the idea was for a few pieces to help the park become more child friendly. It was thought best left to the nursery which used the park, but we would do our best to help.

### **9. Wild Camden**

Jeremy and Frank were thanked for their detailed response to the Council following their meeting with Mark Cassidy and Jeremy Dymond. There had as yet been no reply.

Caroline pointed out the importance of having some commitment from the Council in writing. They had made previous promises about what they would do, but very little had been done.

Mark's understanding of the site was not good enough. A big effort would have to be made to get the area to the state where just maintenance would be required and we could enlist volunteers to help each year. We needed a statement in writing of how they saw their role. Only then could we see what we could do.

Mark was aware that we had some money which could be spent on the project - perhaps on plants and trees. But the Council must do the major work.

Jeremy said that he would keep chasing the Council for an answer. (A)

### **10. Local elections**

Jeremy pointed out that this was a good time to engage with our new councilors over any particular local needs.

### **11. AOB**

Jeremy said he had been asking the Council for the 2018 Tourism Report which was due to be published last March. . 5 million people per year visit Bath, but we have very little information

about who comes, how long they stay and what they do and how their activity interrelates with the lives of residents and those working in Bath.

**12. Dates of meetings for next nine months.**

Janet said she would Doodle to agree dates according to the plan agreed.

The next venue was still to be decided.