

St. Peter's Neighbourhood Association Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: **Anzio House, St. Peter's.**

Date: **Tuesday 1 May 2018, 7.00pm.**

Present: **Jon Bryan (Chair), Robert Mee (Secretary), Peter Boyle, John D Watts.**

Apologies: **Peter Thompson (Treasurer), Jude Harris, Stephen Douglas (Northumbria Police), David Robinson Young, Brian Hunt, Catherine Harris, Gwynneth Common, Paul Common, Veronica Dunn (Cllr), Nick Kemp (Cllr), George Allison (Cllr)**

	Item	Action
1.	Opening. The Meeting commenced 7.00pm with Jon in the Chair.	
2.	Last meeting (09.01.2018) minutes. a. The minutes were approved as an accurate record with no alterations.	
3.	<p>Police.</p> <p>a. In Steve's absence, Jon read Steve's report to the meeting which included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Fishing and related parking issues on the east riverside of the neighbourhood cause some concern to some residents. The local Neighbourhood Policing Team take permitted action. ii. Crime since 090118 (Date of last meeting): Eight criminal incidences since the beginning of the year, of which four were car-related. iii. Residents, people who work in St. Peter's and businesses are warned not to leave vehicles being insecure (either unlocked or windows open). This will only encourage any opportunist thieves to target the area. Not an issue at present, but may become so if residents leave valuables visible and/or vehicles insecure. iv. Anti-social behaviour since 090118 – Four anti-social incidences reported, of which two were neighbour-noise related. <p>b. Action. The meeting expressed its thanks to Steve for the report. It was also noted that we are a fortunate neighbourhood in that no serious criminal damage had occurred affecting either individuals or property. It was agreed that the 101/999 promotion would continue, as would concern about individuals making opportunist crime possible through leaving property unsecured.</p>	RM

4.	<p>Council.</p> <p>a. Committee thanks. The Committee noted its appreciation to Caroline Collinson and Steve Charlton from the Council, and their colleagues, in all they had done in the previous six months in helping the Association and volunteer activities.</p> <p>b. Merchants' Wharf raised beds The new beds are now completed. This was a good example of volunteer residents, the Association and the Council working together. The Council had agreed to finance the construction of the new beds including removing the previous and broken-down ones and supplying top-up soil conditioner. The Merchants Wharf residents had agreed to buy the new planting from their own Merchants' Wharf fundraising initiatives, as well as planting and maintaining the new plants.</p> <p>c. Ward-aid grant. Since the last Committee meeting, the Association's recent grant application had been successful.</p> <p>d. Neighbourhood noticeboard. In addition to Association postings, postings have been received and displayed from businesses and organizations with St. Peter's participants.</p> <p>e. Polling Booth. Merchants' Tavern will be hosting the neighbourhood Polling Booth for the first time this coming Thursday.</p> <p>f. Vermin control. The problem of rat-infestation in one of the apartment-dumpster bins in the neighbourhood had been raised during the November walkabout. This was noted and is scheduled for consideration by the relevant Council-department. To expediate such problem remedy, residents have been strongly urged to report each sighting to Envirocall (Newcastle City Council), tel: 0191 278 7878, online form on https://envirocallservice.newcastle.gov.uk/welcome-to-envirocall (Request Pest Control).</p> <p>g. Bus Stop bench. Discussions about a possible bench are at the very earliest of stages.</p> <p>h. St. Peter's Wharf heritage litter bins. Discussion about the oversupply of litter bins (13) outside offices on St. Peter's Wharf was also at the very earliest stages. Volunteers are keen to repaint these bins, with the view that some might be repositioned more evenly within the neighbourhood as litter bins, and possibly planters.</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>RM</p>
5.	<p>Financial</p> <p>a. Bank account. In Peter's absence, Robert advised on the account activity since the last meeting.</p> <p>b. Expenditure. Robert reported that our own funds had been spent in renewing the Association liability insurance for another 12 months. He also advised that an invoice for the next 12 months' website hosting and domain name rental was imminent. Both expenditures had been approved at the previous two Committee meetings.</p> <p>c. Other expenditure.</p>	

	<p>Committee members did not put forward any other activities or projects that the Association might financially support. This means that we do not anticipate any expenditure before the next meeting.</p>	
6.	<p>Wellbeing & Environment.</p> <p>a. <i>The Fish with Two Heads</i> and Village Green.</p> <p>John reported on this project for which the Ward-aid Grant support had been received. John thanked all the volunteers who had turned out and worked over the past seven months. He advised that <i>The Fish with Two Heads</i> aspect was now completed. Some shrubs had been cut back or removed. New perennial plants, tubers and bulbs had been bought from the Grant funds and planted.</p> <p>The street signage and St Peter’s <i>Welcome</i> frames had been painted again. Two litter bins had also been repainted and sited on recycled paving slabs by volunteers. One of the bins had become a planter, which had been generally well-received.</p> <p>The Village Green (between Dobson Crescent and Rowes Mews), John reported, was still work in progress. There had been an intensive pruning and clearance work. One bed has been earmarked as a lawn to go seed in the Autumn. John agreed to contact Steve Charlton to see if this bed might be rotavated.</p> <p>Perennial bulbs and tubers had been planted down Dobson Crescent, and these too had been financed from the Ward-aid grant.</p> <p>b. Ward-aid Grant expenditure</p> <p>Some of the grant remains unspent. John recommended the following expenditure plan which was approved by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Autumn lawn seeding of the bed on the Village Green ii. Additional plants and shrubs for the two areas iii. Purchase of horizontal lawn shears given the areas of lawn maintenance undertaken by the Association-supported volunteers. <p>c. Easter volunteer working.</p> <p>John reported that over Easter weekend resident volunteers turned out over the three days and helped in various activities including a litter pick with 15 sacks being collected using litter pickers borrowed from the Council. Volunteers also helped tidy and cut back the shrubs and hedges within the Marina Car Park on Bottlehouse Street/Dobson Crescent.</p> <p>d. Heritage Bins</p> <p>Robert advised there have been complaints from residents about other residents abusing the volunteer-restored heritage bins in dumping their household waste in the bins. This is happening on St. Peter’s Wharf, Dobson Crescent and Bottlehouse Street. Complainants’ concerns include the unsightliness of such waste especially leftover takeaway food, that the bins are quickly filled and then overflow, which in turn culminates in the household waste attracting birds and vermin.</p> <p>The latter in turn then poses a health hazard, as well as spreading the waste across the paths and roads. Furthermore, complainants have pointed out that the Council provides these bins for litter and bagged dog waste alone, and that the emptying schedule is geared towards such waste, and not the volume of household waste bags that are being dumped.</p>	JDW

	<p>Committee members were also concerned that if such abuse continues then the bins might be removed, and not replaced. It was agreed that committee members would discuss these concerns with neighbours and friends, as well as this situation being reported in the next newsletter.</p> <p>e. <i>Byker in-Bloom</i> Competition Should this competition take place again this summer, it was agreed that the whole of St. Peter's neighbourhood would be entered.</p> <p>f. National Citizenship Volunteering It was agreed that the Association would submit options to Headliners for their consideration in whether to help and work in the neighbourhood in July and August.</p> <p>g. British Engines' bulbs The meeting noted its thanks to British Engines for the donation that facilitated the planting of over 2500 daffodils in the neighbourhood. These had been enjoyed over recent months by residents, people who work here and visitors.</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>JDW</p> <p>RM</p>
7.	<p>Marketing.</p> <p>a. Christmas Party. This is booked with Merchants' Tavern for Saturday 1 December.</p> <p>b. 2018 Christmas Advent Calendar Walk As previously agreed, recruitment of 24 volunteer homes and businesses to dress one of their windows as an advent calendar number would now begin. The Merchants' Tavern will be window number one, and its unveiling will happen at the Christmas Party</p> <p>c. Social. The guest speaker for the first early evening speaker event had offered to speak in February, however it is still hoped this event might be organized for the summer.</p> <p>d. National Garden Scheme. Committee members, following a discussion this opportunity presented, agreed that we could not commit to this very worthwhile caring fundraising scheme more than 12 months before it was due.</p> <p>e. Website. This is regularly updated and continues to be positively received.</p> <p>f. Newsletter. A newsletter will be produced for early Summer. The Spring newsletter had been produced and well-received. It was noted the newsletter represented the entire neighbourhood dynamic, namely residents, businesses, the Council, the Police and the Association.</p>	<p>JB</p> <p>RM</p> <p>RM</p> <p>RM</p>
8.	Next meeting	
	<p>There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm</p> <p>Next Meeting: Tuesday 3 July 2018, 7pm, Anzio House.</p>	