



Love's Farm Community Association Meeting
Love's Farm House
16th November 2016
19.30

Meeting Notes

Agenda Item

1 Welcome and apologies

Attendees

Marcus Pickering, Emma Lovelock, Helene Tame, Keela Shackell-Smith, Rosie Ferguson, Ben Pitt. Julie Wisson, George Yazigi, Jenny Parris.

Apologies

David Wells, Ian Gardener, Barry Chapman, Kim Burrows, Steve Emberson.

2 Minutes/Actions from last meeting

Item 5 – Letter of support for St Neots Academy

This had not yet been actioned.

Item 7 – Payment to volunteers policy

For further discussion see item 5 this agenda.

3 Station Square closure

Information from the developers on the proposed road closure has been distributed by email and put on Facebook. Heavy vehicles will have to use Stone Hill and Great High Ground but smaller vehicles will be subject to a shorter diversion around the works. Cones will be placed to deter commuter parking. On Sunday Dec 11th, there will be no vehicular access to Tesco, LFH or St Neots FC.

There had been a high number of comments on Facebook to which Emma has attempted to respond, but it was agreed that she or indeed LFCA could take no responsibility for the inevitable disruption caused by the works. It was suggested that a disclaimer to this effect be posted on the Facebook page.

There was some discussion as to whether the northern barrier to LF could be opened to ease the situation. The initial response from the CC had been negative but it was pointed out that this had happened in the past and may well be unavoidable in the future, so Julie agreed to further pursue this.

4 Boundary commission review

It is expected that the review recommendations (although still to be ratified by Parliament) will be implemented in May 2018. LF will be included in the St Neots East area, which will have additional representation of 2 District Councillors and 4 Town Councillors and will include the future Wintringham Park development.

5 Payments to volunteers

This agenda item had been the subject of further discussion following the previous meeting, due to concern about setting a precedent to pay volunteers and any possible blurring of parameters as to when this would be appropriate.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that a sum of money would be given to the Senior Youth Club and the Brownies could apply for a grant for funding so that each group could independently commission video workshops. In this way the funding would be used in accordance with its original purpose.

6 Friday night social planning

This informal social event is to take place on Friday 18th November with the intention of attracting a wider group of people to LFCA and hopefully engaging their interest in contributing to both LFH/LFCA activities. It was agreed that this agenda would be kept very low key. The bar would be open and nibbles and pizza provided.

7 Future committee and meeting structure

Marcus had previously circulated some ideas about this topic. It was agreed that LFCA needed to recruit a wider pool of people as its functions were currently operated by a “one deep” structure. It was thought that a more positive outcome might be to directly ask suitable people to support us. It was hoped that the proposed social evening would promote a wider membership and that such evenings could be held say once a term

Keela suggested the revamping of the previous community plan, and felt that if the work of the committee was grouped around the plan’s core values, more people might become engaged with LFCA

Action

- **Marcus to circulate the previous plan as a point of reference**
- **Jenny to circulate the St Neots Neighbourhood Plan for additional information**
- **This item to be carried forward to next meeting**

Julie repeated her previous recommendation that LF should apply for parish council status as she felt this would give us more leverage.

This would need to be considered by the Boundary Commission.

8 Appointment of vice chairs

In line with the thinking that the organisation needed to be more than “one deep” it was proposed that two new vice chairs posts be created. Helene and Keela were accordingly appointed and thanks to George for his past contribution in the role were recorded.

9 Next meeting date

This had been intended for December 21st was agreed to be too near to Christmas so it was agreed that the next meeting should be **January 18th**.

10 Farm House update

The bar will be open on December 23rd. There continue to be new bookings including maths tuition, Zumba and an upholstery workshop.

There is to be a New Years party and LFH will host the St. Neots Bake Off in February.

There are two vacancies – one for bar staff and the other a senior bar person/premises supervisor. The office will be closed between Christmas and New Year.

The drains which have been so problematic are being replaced and it is hoped that the long term issues with the heating controls will shortly be resolved.

11 Working groups

- **Dogs** – no update
- **Events**
 - Christmas shopping November 27th
 - Carol singing December 15th
 - Chocolate bingo
 - AGM awards/photos and pumpkin voting not yet actioned
- **SMART** – a wet day – next day Jan 7th
- **Street reps** – invited to the social on November 18th
- **Finance** – no update
- **Parking**

Gallaghers have agreed to make a contribution of £8K towards parking control measure with a disclaimer that this contribution did not serve as an acknowledgement that parking difficulties were their responsibility. This was a disappointingly low amount considering the financial saving on the previously proposed bridge was much more. The additional funding would hopefully be obtained by means of a Local Highways Initiative Grant. David is in the process of completing this bid for a closing date of 30th November. Julie will lobby for a fast track outcome.

AOB - Skate park request

A young resident had written to Emma asking that a skate park be built on LF, arguing that the one in St Neots was too far away for children to get to. Ryley is a youth club member and Helene had some further discussion with him and he had drawn a proposed plan of such a park. Julie said that funding would be readily available but it was envisaged that finding a suitable site might be a problem. Ryley had been given feedback that it was a feasible project but at an as yet undetermined timescale Emma said that she would like to see an outdoor exercise area

Julie informed the meeting that Highways England were holding a neighbourhood forum at the Priory Centre on November 23rd about the proposed A428 development to be in place by Feb 2020, running from the Black Cat roundabout to Caxton Gibbet.
