



Love's Farm Community Association Meeting
Love's Farm House
20 November 2019
19.30

Minutes

1	<p>Welcome and apologies – Marcus Pickering, chair</p> <p>Apologies: Caroline Henderson, Cameron Paul, David Wells, Eleanor Gray, Nik Johnson, Daniel Grant</p> <p>Present: Marcus Pickering, Di Briggs, Phyllis Hooper, Liz Windle, John Windle, John Pay, Sophie Knight, Emma Lovelock, Jenny Lincoln, Kathryn Beck (bpha), Helene Tame, Stephen Ferguson (SNTC), Ben Pit (SNTC)t, Caroline Gregson (SNTC), Julie Wisson (CCC)</p>
Building great relationships in our community.	
2	<p>Committee Governance</p> <p>a) <u>Minutes of October meeting.</u> Minutes were accepted.</p> <p>b) <u>Secretary.</u> Marcus highlighted the vacancy and that although we have good numbers of volunteers there's sometimes something of a vacuum of people willing to take on responsibility. Marcus suggested (again) a more formal committee structure of people who would share responsibility.</p> <p>Phyllis felt this might be the wrong direction as there's already something of a sense that many in the community expect too much of LFCA and that having a formal committee would exacerbate this.</p> <p>A suggestion was made for a rotating chair - e.g. for 6 months at a time. Also suggestion that we create a broader range of jobs. Marcus to draw up a list of roles/responsibilities which could be shared out.</p> <p>We will also use the December newsletter to profile LFCA and mention the secretary and ask for volunteers.</p> <p>c) <u>PCSO update.</u> Dan was not on shift and so unable to attend, but sent the following update.</p> <p><i>Unfortunately I am on day shift today so will be unable to attend the meeting sorry. The two things that I would like mentioning at the meeting are as follows. First we as the St Neots Neighbourhood Policing team have carried out a street survey in the lower Great High Ground area of Loves Farm in response to reports of ASB/Drug Use/Dealing. Robust Police action has been taken in response and a successful warrant was carried out in the area. Police action continues in this area of the estate. Drug dealers will not be tolerated on Loves Farm.</i> <i>[Update: a closure order has since been issued on a property on Great High Ground]</i></p> <p><i>Second I am not sure if you are aware but there has been reports at around just after midnight this morning two male youths where seen on push bikes to be dragging a blue wheelie bin that they had stolen from a resident down Dramsell Rise with a garden ornament in the bin and were seen to head onto Cambridge Road and under the bridge. Reactive officers did attend the incident but it was no trace for the suspects. I know in previous years we have had issues where Garden Ornaments were being stolen on the estate by young person's so can I ask for residents to be a where of any expensive ornaments they have in their gardens and to secure them where possible.</i> <i>[Some of those present at the meeting questioned this account, and some of the details may relate to two separate incidents]</i></p> <p>Phyllis mentioned that she had come across a bag of Class A drugs which she had been advised by the police to hand in at the Pharmacy</p> <p>d) <u>Town, District and County Councillor updates.</u></p> <p>Town - Grass cutting schedules are now up to date to include the newly adopted roads (Great High Ground, Dramsell Rise etc)</p> <p>District - No District Councillors present. Fox Brook lighting to be discussed later - 7)b)i).</p>

	<p>County - Julie has been asked to join on St Neots Master Plan and attended a meeting last Friday when the Mayor James Palmer was present. Also asked us to encourage residents to send back electoral roll updates as District Council have a duty to update this information. The last chance for people to get onto the electoral roll is Tuesday 26th November for the General Election on December 12th.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Community Plan Ellie was unable to attend but had sent a document summarising responses to the survey and proposing updates to our community plan for the year ahead.</p> <p>Two suggested priority areas: i) Northern access. A predictable collective groan, but the meeting acknowledged that there's still some work to do to fully ascertain the status of the access as an emergency access (or not), and decide whether we should campaign for improved access for emergency vehicles. ii) Safety of Cambridge Road crossings. Broad agreement on this - making sure the plans are implemented and are fit for purpose.</p> <p>Other comments: Some discussion around future secondary school places and whether this is or should be an LFCA priority. We agreed that the word 'ensure' in 'Ensure there is adequate school provision' should be softened as this isn't a promise we can make. 'Campaign for adequate school provision' or similar.</p> <p>'Be green' rather than 'Be seen to be green'</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Love's Farm House / LFCA Christmas Party - Saturday 7th December LFCA will contribute half of the £200 budget for this, and also pay for the Love's Farm House Christmas tree.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Working Groups</p> <p>a) <u>Events</u> – Emma reported that there will be chocolate bingo in January, Christmas Quiz next Friday, no quiz in December. Christmas Carol singing takes place on Thurs 19th Dec. Details on Facebook.</p> <p>b) <u>Street reps/Neighbourhood Watch</u> – update from Caroline Henderson. A few NW members signed up - hoping to organise a meeting soon.</p> <p>Some Street Reps are inactive and possibly not even delivering newsletters so it may be that we need to recruit new reps for some streets.</p>	
<p>Developing and managing shared resources and spaces</p>		
<p>6</p>	<p>Working Groups</p> <p>a) <u>SMART</u> – update from Helene Tame. Last SMART day was well attended with lots of volunteers. Our next SMART will be on 18th Jan and offer the opportunity both for outdoors (usual SMART) and indoors - cleaning and decorating at the Farm House.</p> <p>b) <u>Love's Farm Blooms</u> - update from Phyllis Hooper. Good bulb planting last Saturday - managed to plant half of the bulbs. Next session - meeting in Station Square on 30th Nov Suggestions for future bulb planting welcomed, but need to bear in mind grass cutting by district council. More discussion about the rough cutting of vegetation by a tractor and flail, but District Council is working on a very limited budget. Phyllis is happy to help groups of residents to plant and manage the green spaces. Some discussion about the compound used by (we think) Kier on the village green. They have an obligation to reinstate this. Caroline G will follow up using the contact on the letter that residents in the area received.</p> <p>Marissa's tree was planted a couple of weeks ago. The tree pit on Station Square was full of water. Short notice discussions with Merissas family for a new site next to Hull Way. A ceremony was led by Helene Tame. The family is thankful to the community for all that they have done. We acknowledged the work done by HDC to bring about the tree planting and the sensitivity shown by their staff on the day.</p> <p>c) <u>Community Garden</u> – update from Jessica Sanchez</p> <p><i>After a first season of growing at LFH the garden is now left to rest during the winter months. This coincides with the start of works at Helene Tame's garden, which we call "the Chaplain's garden".</i></p>	

	<p><i>We are in the process of designing a perennial food garden with berry bushes and herbs. So far we have the engagement from several neighbours with a varied skill set including bricklaying and fencing, landscaping and gardening.</i></p> <p><i>We have some financial support from the Church via Helene and I have now been contacted by Thomas Morris who would like to contribute with funds and/ or man hours.</i></p> <p><i>We aim for our project to be progressed through the winter and planting to start in spring.</i></p> <p>d) <u>Finance</u> – Ben mentioned that in future our grant from the Town Council won't be automatic and we will need to apply for it.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Community action area updates:</p> <p>a) <u>Roads and traffic management - chicanes</u> – Feedback from our last meeting was passed back to the County Council, but after some follow up questions there has been no further update in spite of prompting.</p> <p>b) <u>Street Lighting</u></p> <p>i) Fox Brook. Cllr David Wells sent a note in his absence stating that the Fox Brook lighting has been submitted for the 2020/21 budget but he is still waiting for it to be approved. Marcus to follow up with David on whether there is anyone we should lobby.</p> <p>ii) Failed street lights across Love's Farm. Marcus has surveyed the whole of LF again and logged over 40 lights not working. These have all been reported to the developers responsible, though there is still some contention over where responsibility lies in a number of areas. Timescales for repairs vary.</p> <p>c) <u>Engagement with developers</u> – Ben circulated a list of issues to raise with L&Q Estates following last month's meeting and will complete this following further feedback at the meeting. Items raised include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direct desire lines for walking routes to encourage walking not driving ○ Green spaces – lighting on paths ○ Allotments for residents. ○ Road widths, and parking restrictions implemented from start. ○ Shared use roads hazard for young children. ○ Block paving unsuitable for road markings ○ Off street parking where possible ○ Garages additional (not included in off street parking allocation) ○ Electric vehicle charging ○ Top soil for gardens
<p>8</p>	<p>Farm House update</p> <p>Jenny reported that a new chair (Raymon Gompelman) has been elected and several new trustees. Upcoming events include whisky tasting, and a New Year's eve children's party.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>December Love's Farm News</p> <p>We suggested a Christmas themed lead article - highlighting Christmas events around LF. We'll also highlight the committee vacancies.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Note that there is NO meeting in December. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 15th January at Love's Farm House.</p>