

Parklands Residents' Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parklands Residents Association held in the Parklands Community Centre on Tuesday 17 August 2004 at 7.30 pm.

Present

Ken Dowsett (Chair)	Maxine Little (Minutes)
Marion Baker	B Muddiman
J Bradshaw	J Muddiman
R Bradshaw	Rhett Norris
Brian Canavan	Liz Percival
Brian Cooper	Jackie Richardson
Wendy Cooper	Jill Sanderson
Gill Coombs	Sylvia Shepherd
John Croft	Mrs Wayman
Simon Hegarty	Mick Willis
Barbara Lee	Jill Winstanley

Apologies

J Confue	J Livingston
V Confue	Anita Smith
A Livingston	

ACTION

This was the first meeting of the Parklands Residents' Association.

1. Election of Officers

The meeting nominated and elected its Officers, all were unopposed and voted for unanimously.

Chair – Ken Dowsett
Vice Chair – Brian Cooper
Secretary – Wendy Cooper
Minutes Secretary – Maxine Little
Treasurers – Barbara Lee and Jill Winstanley

2. Name of Association

Everyone felt that the Association should be open to all in Parklands Ward and cover issues Ward wide, but perhaps the name would confuse some Residents as to whether or not they were included. After discussion it was agreed that the organisation should be called "Parklands Residents' Association".

3. Election of Committee

A committee would need to be formed. Brian suggested that all those who had expressed an interest in setting up the association be invited to form the committee. Everyone present was asked whether they would be interested in standing for committee, all were in favour and were duly elected. Brian would speak to those who had been unable to attend that evening (J & V Confue; A & J Livingston and Anita Smith) to check that they were willing to stand.

Committee

Marion Baker	A Livingston
J Bradshaw	J Livingston
R Bradshaw	B Muddiman
Brian Canavan	J Muddiman
J Confue	Rhett Norris
V Confue	Liz Percival
Brian Cooper (Vice Chair)	Jackie Richardson
Wendy Cooper (Secretary)	Jill Sanderson
Gill Coombs	Sylvia Shepherd
John Croft	Anita Smith
Ken Dowsett (Chair)	Mrs Wayman
Simon Hegarty	Mick Willis
Barbara Lee (Joint Treasurer)	Jill Winstanley (Joint Treasurer)
Maxine Little (Minutes Secretary)	

4. Guidance on Setting up a Residents' Association

Ken read through the notes that had been provided by the Borough Council on how to set up a Residents' Association. The notes also contained a draft constitution. The Association would need to adopt a constitution. Ken said that he would circulate copies of the draft so that all could have an opportunity to review it before deciding on the wording of the constitution that Parklands Residents Association would adopt.

KD

4.1 Frequency of Meetings

It was decided that General Meetings would be held every two months with no meetings being held in July or August. Any additional meetings required could be called as extraordinary meetings. It was noted that a date and time would need to be set for the Annual General Meeting and was agreed that this could be incorporated into the Constitution.

4.2 Advertising Meetings

All appreciated that it would be difficult to find suitable places in the area to advertise the events and meetings of the association. Several members indicated that they would be willing to deliver leaflets. Some of the shops may put up posters and notices, and copies of the minutes could be displayed at the Community Centre.

4.3 Invitees

The meeting discussed names that they may like to invite to future meetings. It was explained that Councillors and / or Council Officers could be invited to meetings if the group required. Phil Moore, the local 'Beat Bobby' had previously indicated that he would be keen to be involved and it was agreed that he should be invited to all general meetings. It was suggested that all businesses in the area could be invited and also a representative from BTCV (Bradlaugh Fields). Other agencies that may be able to send a representative if requested were listed in the guidance notes, for example Victim Support.

4.4 Quorum

It was agreed that eight persons would be required for a quorum.

4.5 Parklands Community Centre

It was announced that the Community Centre would permit free use of a room provided it was not already booked. Therefore it was accepted that the Residents Association would have to vary the night that it met. Daytime meetings were suggested, but it was felt that this would be difficult for many people who work. It was agreed that meetings should start earlier in Winter. Members all indicated that they would be keen to work alongside the Parklands Community Association.

4.6 Neighbourhood Watch Groups

Several residents were unaware that there were Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the area. Wendy informed the group that officially Devon Way was still going but was not really active in terms of meetings. She explained that there would be a co-ordinator required for each road and that at least 60% of the residents should attend the meetings. Ken suggested that it may be possible once the Residents' Association is established to incorporate Neighbourhood Watch and include some time on each agenda for Watch issues.

5. Funding

5.1 Borough Council Grant

It was heard that the Council would provide a grant of £250.00. Now that Officers had been appointed, it would be possible to approach the Council to apply for the money to assist with set up costs. Wendy would complete the application form and submit it to the Council.

WC

5.2 Subscription

The meeting discussed ways of charging Residents a subscription, for example at the AGM. This would be discussed further, but it was agreed that initially all attendees should donate a £1 at each meeting.

ALL

5.3 Accounts

Brian would speak to the gentleman who audits the Community Centre's Books to find out if he would be willing to audit the Residents' Association's Accounts. Advice would be taken on opening a bank account for the Association.

BC

6. Affiliations

6.1 Northampton Federation of Residents' Associations

It was explained that The Northampton Federation of Residents' Associations (NFRA) was a strong body in Northampton which was an umbrella organisation for all Residents Groups in the town to come together. All agreed that membership of this should be investigated further with regard to fees and requirements. Enquiries should also be made as to whether a representative from NFRA could be invited to a future meeting.

BC

6.2 Borough Council

It would cost around £10.00 - £15.00 to affiliate to Northampton Borough Council.

This would mean that any information from the Council relating to the area would automatically be notified to the Residents' Association. It was agreed that this should be purchased with money from the initial grant.

7. Other Issues

Several other issues were briefly discussed.

7.1 Tesco's – Weight Restriction

Residents recalled that there used to be signs indicating that the estate had a 7.5 tonne weight restriction. Further clarification was being sought about whether this restriction was still enforceable since lorries delivering to Tesco far exceed this limit. Brian informed the group that TOPS (Parking Scheme) have stated that they can get a warden out within 10 minutes if there are parking problems at Coppice Drive shops. TOPS contact number was given as 01604 837837.

7.2 Policing

Although Parklands had a Community Officer again (Phil Moore), the police would be changing the system of Community Beats in October. It was anticipated that Parklands would still have a named Beat Officer, but each Officer would also be expected to cover other areas. Again further information would be sought and discussed at a future meeting.

It was reported that Level One Police Meetings had not taken place for around two years. These were meetings which should be attended by representatives from Police, Councillors, Residents etc.

Several incidents that had occurred recently on Parklands were discussed with regard to the lack of police attendance when requested. Ken suggested that when reporting anything to Police a Crime Number should always be requested.

Brian gave out contact numbers for Moulton Park. 01604 499653 (Inspector Tobin) or 01604 645551.

Jackie Richardson told the meeting that she worked for the Police and indicated that would be happy to assist with contacts etc.

7.3 School Buses

Liz Percival reported that someone she knew had seen Atkins' workers measuring up and explaining the work that was due to be undertaken at the entrance to the car park. All were concerned that work may be started despite assurances at the Emergency Meeting that nothing would happen before all residents were invited to a follow up meeting. Brian would contact John Delahunty at the Council to make further enquiries, meanwhile those living locally were asked to monitor the situation and if anything appeared to be happening they should contact everyone else on the list.

7.4 NCC & NBC Area Partnerships

All were reminded that the next meeting of the Area Partnership would be on 11th October 2004 at 7.30 pm in Parklands Community Centre.

7.5 Chain Phone Link

It was agreed that a chain system be used to notify everyone on the list of any developments that may require an emergency meeting. Whoever saw or heard anything should telephone the person immediately below them on the list. Then each person receiving a call would pass it on to the person below them (except for the person at the bottom of the list who would telephone the person at the top).

7.6 Petition Against School Buses

Forms were distributed for the petition to be taken round to the last few roads.

8. Next Meeting

8.1 Items for the Agenda

The meeting proposed three main items for discussion at the next meeting.

1. Tesco's
2. Highways
3. School Buses

It was suggested that since Highways was on the agenda and that this came under NCC, the County Councillor should be invited. Some members felt that it was unfair to invite Cllr Massey because he is currently serving as Mayor. However it was pointed out that he would be invited in his capacity of County Councillor and not Borough Councillor. Concern was expressed that at other meetings Ken Dowsett and Cllr Massey have become embroiled in argument and it would waste valuable time if this were to happen at a meeting of Parklands Residents' Association. Ken assured the meeting that this would not happen.

It was agreed that Phil Moore (Community Beat Officer), a Council Officer (possibly John Delahunty), Brandon Eldred (Borough Councillor) and Barry Massey (County Councillor) would be invited to the next meeting. Ken would arrange this.

KD

8.2 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be on Friday 10 September 2004 at 7.30 pm in Parklands Community Centre.