

Parklands Residents' Association

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parklands Residents' Association held in the Parklands Community Centre on Tuesday 30 May 2006 at 7.00 pm.

Present

Brian Cooper	Barbara Muddiman
Wendy Cooper	John Muddiman
John Croft	Rhett Norris
Chris Evans	Liz Percival
Mike Hallam	Peggy Wayman
Barbara Lee	Michael Willis
Maxine Little (Minutes)	Jill Winstanley

PC Sarah Blyth – Community Beat Officer
Peter Gancarcik – Park Ranger

Apologies

Simon Hegarty	Jill Sanderson
Ann Livingston	Anita Smith
John Livingston	Sandra Willis

Cllr Brandon Eldred

ACTION

1. Welcome

Brian Cooper welcomed everyone to his first full meeting as Chair. He introduced PC Sarah Blyth, Community Beat Officer for Parklands and Peter Gancarcik, Park Ranger.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting held on 28 March 2006

The minutes of the last meeting, having previously been circulated, were agreed as read.

3. Matters Arising

3.3 University Licence Application

Brian Cooper thanked everyone who had written in and attended the recent meeting of the Northampton Borough Council Licensing Committee. The licence had been granted, but there were some restrictions. Only four outdoor events could be held in a year and the hours that music could be played outdoors would be restricted. There was also a limit set on the noise levels. It was stressed that it would be important to complain to the council if there was a breach of the restrictions. Details of the licence conditions would be sent out to those who had attended the meeting. Brian would chase these up with the Council if they were not received shortly.

4.1 Tescos

Michael Willis reported that lorries were regularly parked up outside Tescos around 8 – 8.30 am. It was heard that these were Eddie Stobbart vehicles, having recently been awarded the Tesco distribution contract. Cones were also still being put out. Liz Percival informed the meeting that she had been in contact with Tesco head office about the deliveries, and had been told that deliveries would only take place on Mondays, Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays, and only one vehicle at a time. If there were any further problems Liz offered that if people let her know, she would call the head office again. Brian Cooper advised that there was still the possibility that future deliveries could be made to the side of Tescos rather than at the front.

4.4 Sale of Parklands Middle School Site

It was reported that Northamptonshire County Council had not yet made an application to the Secretary of State for Education for permission to sell the playing fields at the Middle School. A second letter would be sent from the Resident's Association querying the discrepancies in the County Council's response.

4. Park Rangers

Peter Gancarcik explained that he is was one of six park rangers employed by Northampton Borough Council. Although each ranger covers all of the parks in the town, Peter's primary responsibility was for Bradlaugh Fields, his main role being to enforce the by laws. He added that the park rangers had very few powers, most of their previous enforcement powers having passed to the new neighbourhood wardens. Usually it was sufficient for Peter to speak with individuals causing a nuisance and they would then disperse. John Croft asked about the dangers for the rangers of tackling gangs of youths. Peter explained that he had a large 4x4 vehicle and any crowds tended to see him arriving and disperse before he got there.

Michael Willis had reported an incident that had occurred the previous Saturday evening, of bottles being thrown on the fields, and queried whether he should perhaps have called the park ranger. Peter reassured him that he was right to call the police but that for any similar future incidents residents could call both the police and the park ranger. Michael also mentioned that the path to Nationwide was becoming overgrown with weeds and Peter said that he would check that this was on the council's plan for maintenance.

It was reported that a dog bin had still not been replaced on Bradlaugh Fields at the end of Spinney Hill Road. Peter would chase this up with the Borough Council.

Finally, Peter Gancarick gave his contact details. On weekdays the manager, Richard Gold should be called on 01604 837671. Out of Hours 4 pm – 8.30 pm then calls should go to Westbridge Depot on 01604 838867 and staff there would contact the duty ranger. For any serious incidents requiring an urgent emergency response then contact the police.

The chair thanked Peter Gancarcik for giving up his time to attend the meeting.

5. Community Beat Officer

5.1 Coppice Drive Shops

The meeting discussed the problem of youths gathering outside the Coppice Drive shops. Sarah Blyth reported that they were trying to obtain a dispersal order for that area, and they were also trying to persuade shopkeepers to contribute to the cost of a mosquito alarm. Concern was expressed that the youngsters were drinking, Sarah reassured the group that the alcohol was not being supplied to them by Tesco. She was liaising with Trading Standards for test purchases to be set up at other local stores off the Parklands estate.

5.2 Moulton Leys – Anti Social Behaviour

Mike Hallam raised with Sarah the issue of anti social behaviour at Moulton Leys. Sarah advised that she was aware of the problem and that regular patrols by officers had been arranged. She arranged to take further details after the meeting.

5.3 Crime Numbers

Mike Hallam asked about the process for following up with police to check on progress after a crime has been reported. Sarah confirmed that as long as someone has the crime reference number any officer can check the system and provide an update on progress.

The Chair thanked PC Sarah Blyth for attending the meeting.

5.4 Traffic & Parking

It was heard that the bollards at Coppice Drive shops were due to be installed the following month.

The Topps parking scheme powers would shortly be transferring to Northamptonshire County Council, therefore residents should be alert for publication of the details including a new telephone number. Sarah was asked about the transfer of the police powers to Topps with regard to parking, however she stated that she did still issue tickets.

Several members reported problems with large lorries for Morrisons turning into Spinney Hill Road in the belief that they could access the Morrisons store. Sarah offered to speak to the store about a sign.

Dangerous parking near to the schools by parents was mentioned. Wendy Cooper confirmed that letters from the Resident's Association had been sent to the schools, however no replies had been received.

Car parking in Devon Way had improved, this was due in part to police ticketing of offending vehicles. Sarah would chase restrictions being extended to weekends.

Michael Willis raised the ongoing issue of Nationwide staff parking their cars in Goodwood ? near to Stowe walk these vehicles were often double parked causing cars were often double parked. Sarah said that she would patrol this area.

Rhett Norris highlighted the danger of the parking on Spinney Hill Road opposite Oulton Rise. This meant that cars turning left out of Oulton Rise were often unaware that a vehicle driving down Spinney Hill Road may be on the wrong side of the road as they emerge from the junction. Sarah would discuss this with Highways to see whether double yellow lines could be added.

6. Chair's Report

6.1 Northampton North Conservative Association

Brian Cooper informed the meeting that he had been invited to represent the area at the Conservative Association Executive meetings. He explained that he had only agreed to this on the basis that it was a non-political appointment. He felt that it would be a valuable opportunity to let the views of residents be known by this political group and he would be willing to take any views and opinions of residents forward to the meetings. However if anyone did have any objections to this they should let Brian Cooper know.

6.2 Cynthia Spencer Day Hospice

It was advised that copies of the petition were available at the meeting for people to sign, and also to take away and get further signatures. These should be returned to Liz before 13 June, when they would be taken to London. Volunteers were also requested to take the petitions to the supermarkets on Saturday 10 June from 10 am – 12 pm. Anyone available to do this should speak to Brian after the meeting.

6.3 Police Merger

A campaign had been launched that now had all party support, to try to prevent the merger of police forces in the East Midlands. The petition could be signed at www.savenorthantspolice.com or postcards were available from Mike Hallam.

6.4 Neighbourhood Watch

The Resident's Association had received information about how to set up a neighbourhood watch scheme. Devon Way, Stowe Walk and Coppice Drive were all running schemes, if any other streets were interested in establishing a watch group, they were asked to contact Brian and he would provide the information needed.

6.5 Newsletter

It had been suggested that a newsletter be produced to let Parklands know about the Resident's Association and to highlight the work that the group is carrying out to improve the area for everyone. If anyone had any issues or articles that they wished to contribute they should contact Simon Hegarty.

7. Treasurers' Report

The Association had £419.90 in its account.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 26 September at 7.00 pm at the Parklands Community Centre.

Distribution List

All Attendees

All Officers and Committee Members

Lindsey Ambrose

PC Sarah Blyth

Peter Gancarcik

Parklands Nursery School

Parklands Primary School

Northampton School for Girls

All Shops on Oulton Rise and Coppice Drive

Copy to be displayed at The Barn

Copy to be displayed at Community Centre

Distributed via e-mail

Brian Canavan

Brian and Wendy Cooper

Ken Dowsett

Simon Hegarty

Maxine Little

Rhett Norris

Sylvia Shepherd

Anita Smith

Michael Willis

Clr Brandon Eldred

Lindsey Ambrose

Sarah Brooking

Sally Gedney

Penny Westwood