

SGRA Minutes of Meeting
Held Thursday 30th July 2009
At 7pm in the Brandling

Apologies

Siobhan & Geoff O'Brian,

People Present

Sheila Park, Norma Shannon, Hazel & Paul Spicer, Jerry Ruddick, Gordon Robinson, Irene Matthewson, Sonia Bradley

Minutes of previous Meetings

Agreed as a true record.

Update on Action Points – Matters arising from Previous Meetings

No action points to give updates on.

Feedback from meetings attended

Ward Meeting – road repairs etc around Ridgewood Crescent are still in the planning stage.

Post Box, Field Street – Jerry keeps reminding the meeting that this needs moving.

Bowes Court Planters – The meeting wished to thank the local council for the planters placed at Bowes Court.

William Street Flats Planters – Jerry continues to request these.

Darren Penaluna wants to organise a walk about around the local area to get a list of issues that need addressing. Jerry has requested people forward him a “wish list” of what they would like to be addressed.

Jerry, Gordon and Norma have volunteered to go around the area with Darren.

Action Point:

Ridgewood Gardens/Pit Shaft Planter – need to decide what size. Jerry advised the meeting that we will attempt to arrange the funds from the Grassroots Organisation; there is a Garden Centre on the outskirts of Hexham which have planters that could be ordered in different sizes if wished. Jerry offered to take two residents to the Garden Centre so that they could see what there is available

Action Point:

Residents Parking – Jerry brought this up at the last meeting. The Council are going to arrange a separate meeting about parking for residents in the area i.e. Hunters Road, Bowsden Terrace etc.

Land around Freeman Road Hospital – Local children in the area have been asking for a skateboard park. Jerry raised this at the ward meeting to see if the Council could explore this idea.

Charity Commission Update

Jerry has submitted the accounts for this year; he handed out a spreadsheet and talked through how funds have been used this year. We currently have £165.00 in the bank account.

Takeaway – Planning Application

The Council have received an appeal. Jerry tried to use the website to state the SGRA objections but is very difficult to navigate. Jerry to send e-mail asking if anyone wants their name added to the letter of objection.

Sonia will compile a letter and send this out so people can sign and forward.

AOB

DIY Yard – The old DIY Yard at the end of the Tenerife Buildings has changed its purpose and now holds waste/rubbish from several businesses. They are also fly tipping in the lane to the rear of the flats leaving baths and other items out. Gordon has offered to e-mail Daren about this and copy Jerry into the e-mail.

Action point:

Rats back of Field Street – Irene mentioned that there was a dead rat in the lane to the back of Field Street – could this be coming from the “rubbish tip” in the DIY yard? Jerry will bring this up at the next Ward Meeting.

Action point:

Yellow Lines – Station Road footpath outside Domino Pizza’s – Gordon has been trying for over a year now to get this issue resolved. He has sent several letters to Mike Cookson; Geoff O’Brien has also been trying to get this sorted.

The Council ask for local groups to attend meetings but Gordon feels the SGRA is not being listened to and he is feeling very disillusioned by this, so much so he has considered resigning.

Everyone at the meeting empathised with Gordon; we all appreciate how frustrating it can be to make changes happen. However, it would be a very sad loss for the SGRA if Gordon were to resign as he is a very much valued and very active member.

SGRA feel that our links with the local Counsellors is poor as they used to always attend our Meetings but no-one comes now.

NB. After giving this due thought in all fairness the Councillors can only attend if they are invited therefore I will send an invite to our Councillor if he would like to attend a meeting - Jerry

Action Point

Gosforth Terrace – This is in a poor state of repair. The Council has responded by saying the Engineers felt it was okay. However, this is not the case and Gordon now plans to go direct to the City Engineers about this.

Dogs on the Field – Young children do not appear to be playing on the field because of the amount of dog deposits on the field.

A resident from the flats informed us that an employee of The Mildene Home is letting her dog run around the field unattended. It is causing problems for other dog owners as it tends to be aggressive and there is no one cleaning up after it. Lorraine has spoken directly to the Manager of Mildene about this.

Hazel has also spoken with the Manager of Mildene as one of the residents grandchildren fell down on the field and got covered in dog mess.

Gordon will e-mail Jerry with the address of the Anchor Housing Office so he can forward it to Lorraine.

Action Point:

Splash Panels – Jerry has brought this up with Envirocall, this has been replaced

Changes to shops on Station Road – The Bookies on Station Road has closed. The compassion centre old premises may be used for a Saturday morning school.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Jerry has proposed having the AGM and the usual monthly meeting combined.

After giving it due thought I have decided that the proposed meeting for September is to be cancelled as it would be too much to have the two together therefore the next SGRA meeting

Will be held on the 29 October 2009.

The AGM will be held on the 24th of September 2009.