

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Westcroft Resident's Association held at Westcroft Meeting Place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.**

7:30 Meeting commenced

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those attending. He specifically welcomed the visitors.

**Apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from Ruth and Howard Tudhope; Alexa and Justin Hall; Mike O'Donnell; Cecilia Obi; Sue and Steve Smith; Darren Lawler; Sheila and Mark Griffith; Henrik Nielse; Rebecca Collins. Iain Stewart (Parish Councillor)

**Present:**

Russell Collins (Chairman); Darren Arulvasagam (Treasurer); Aditee and David Shelley; Olawale Duyile; Mandy and Dean Cranston. Charlotte and Mark Pickerill.

**Visitors:**

Borough Councillors Rosemary Drewett and Stuart Burke: Claire Baker Volunteer co-ordinator for Thames Valley Police.

**Minutes of Last Meeting:**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.

**Visitors:**

The visitors were invited to say a few words on their roles and were invited to stay for the meeting if prior commitments permitted.

Claire Baker talked about the role of volunteers in the TVP (Thames Valley Police) and that TVP had about 200 volunteers who carried out various vital administrative tasks for the TVP. Clare asked for volunteers to help man the Westcroft Police Office for a few hours at a time, or any other role where they could be required. A reasonable amount of training would need to be given and volunteers would need to be positively vetted.

For further information please contact Claire on [Claire.baker@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Claire.baker@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Councillors Rosemary Drewett and Stuart Burke then introduced themselves as the County Councillors for the area and took questions on their role and duties. They both welcomed the formation of the Residents Association and asked that they be kept on the circulation list and received copies of minutes etc.

A general discussion then occurred on matters of interest to Residents.

Adoption of External Works (roads, pavements and landscaping): The reason why it was so difficult to get the external works finished to a standard where they could be handed over to the Council was generally due to failures to ensure that adequate retention money (money that should have been taken from the Developers and then returned on full completion of works) was not taken. This resulted in their being no incentive for developers who have left site to return and finish the job.

This has resulted in the situation where much of the external works are still the legal responsibility of the developers. This means that the interesting situation has occurred whereby if a Resident suffers loss or damage as a result of uncompleted external works i.e. injuring themselves as they trip over an uneven surface; then the developer could be legally liable for compensation.

Could part of Westcroft be turned into a one way system to help traffic management issues?

Could the Council Adoption Officer attend one of the WRA meetings?

**Chairman's Report:**

Russell Collins gave a brief breakdown on what he had done to date. He had met with Kevin Bell the manager of Morrisons. Kevin was supportive of the WRA but did not have the authority to provide any funds. He did though have the discretion to provide prizes for raffles etc. and could authorise use of parts of the shopping area that Morrisons owned for various purposes.

**Confirmation of Constitution:**

After discussion and decision the Constitution was approved and will be distributed. Councillor Burke did suggest that the Committee should include some WRA members as well as the elected officers and it was agreed that this matter would be addressed once the WRA was fully functional.

**Bank Account:**

The Treasurer Darren Arul proposed that the Standard National Westminster Bank terms and conditions be accepted so that the association could open a bank account with the Central Milton Keynes branch of the NatWest Bank. Seconded by Olawale Duyile and passed unanimously.

**Any Other Business:** David Shelley volunteered to produce a newsletter.

***Issues to be considered at a later date include..***

- Setting a membership subscription and setting up a subscription scheme with standing order payments.
- Carry out some sort of regular fund raising events.
- Registering the WRA as a Charity.
- Set up a communication strategy involving web page, notice boards, local media and newsletter.

- Set up a Youth Committee/Forum.
- Invite Council Officials to meetings so that they can answer questions directly.

Meeting closed at 9:30 pm