

SGRA Minutes of Meeting
Held on Tuesday 6th May 2008
At 7pm in the Brandling Villa Public House

Apologies

Brian Moore, Siobhan O'Brien, Chris Higham.

People Present

Jerry Ruddick, Sheila Parks, Norma Shannon, Irene Matthewson, Sonia Bradley, Eleanor Dinnis, Paul & Hazel Spicer, Gordon Robinson, Collin Walmsley, Ian & Janet Frazer.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes for April were agreed as a true record and Jerry wished to extend his thanks to Siobhan for taking the minutes.

Update on Action Points/Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Grass is not for Cars

Eleanor mentioned that one of the bollards at the corner of William Street and Ridgewood Gardens has been removed. Jerry to find out if it is going to be replaced.

Action Point:

The grassed area at Ridgewood Gardens has not been returned to its former state. Jerry has offered to have a look around the area and send an e-mail to the appropriate person to enquire who will carry out this work.

Jerry mentioned that Dave Roberts had informed him that bollards will be put in place at the top of Ridgewood Gardens; however, there is other work that needs addressing in the area. A kerb needs to be installed before the bollards go in.

Action Point: Jerry to discuss at the next Ward Meeting

Mildene House – Waste Bin

There are ongoing problems with the waste bin at Mildene House, it is often overflowing with bin bags or is obstructing the public footpath. It was also noted that bins from Healthlands are also overflowing.

Action Point: Sonia and Jerry to arrange to meet with the manager of Mildene House

Feedback from Meetings Attended

There were no Meetings attended. The next Ward Meeting will take place on Monday 12th May 2008.

Minutes

Newsletter

Jerry has made a start on the Summer Newsletter. The meeting had the opportunity to look at a draft. The Brandling Villa Public House and the new General Dealer Store on Station Road wish to put an advert in the newsletter.

Jerry suggested including some colour pictures in the Newsletter i.e. drain that YHN rectified and the churned up grass near William Street – SGRA were instrumental in resolving these issues.

We are hoping to have the newsletter out by July, the meeting agreed to have the newsletter printed in colour.

Action Point:

Charity Trustees

Jerry updates this information on the Charities Commission Website and the time has come round again to do this. Jerry was asked as to how many people can be trustees, (he will find out for the next meeting)

The following people are Trustees:-

Hazel Spicer, Paul Spicer, Irene Matthewson, Jerry Ruddick, Collin Walmsley and Gordon Robinson.

Peter Arnold

Jerry informed the meeting that Peter has moved on to be a Councillor in Westerhope. Jerry has forwarded an e-mail thanking him for all the help he has given SGRA over the years.

Darren Penaluna (New Neighborhood Manager for East Gosforth)

The meeting was aware that Dave Roberts has moved on to Fawdon and his successor is Darren Penaluna.

Jerry wrote a letter to Dave to thank him for all the work he has done over the years with SGRA and he also forwarded a letter to Darren welcoming him.

Darren has been in touch with Jerry and he does plan to start attending the SGRA meetings, however, he is on leave at present.

Grant Application

Jerry explained about funds being carried over.

We can apply for funds from the Council. The Meeting felt that the land to the bottom of Hunters Road could have something put on it. There are still two splashguards needed near

the roundabouts. Gordon also pointed out that something needs to be up in place on the other side of the road to prevent cars splashing people when there has been a heavy downpour, splashguards cannot be fitted to this side of the road.

There was also a suggestion that more trees could be planted at the top of Ridgewood Gardens.

Gordon suggested looking at putting swings etc. on the Green as there are no facilities for young children. A few members of the meeting were opposed to this idea as they were worried it would attract youths.

Dog Signs

It was noted that some of the signs that were on the lamp posts have been taken down.

There is continued evidence that owners are not clearing up after their animals.

Jerry has brought this up at the Ward Meeting. Hoping for kids in the local area to design signs, but this has not happened as yet. He will raise this issue at the next Ward Meeting.

Action Point: Jerry and Gordon

Young People in the Area (What do they want to happen?)

Jerry encouraged the meeting to try and find out what young people in the area want in the way of facilities.

Collin mentioned that trees as goal posts on the green have been one request. There has been a suggestion to relocate trees from the Ridgewood Gardens triangle on the field. Collin felt this was not appropriate and the trees should be left where they were, and new ones planted on the Green.

There were suggestions that young people if asked would probably ask for something like a skateboarding areas, however, there was strong feelings against this by some members of the Meeting. Jerry is aware of plans for a skateboard park in the area and will pass this information on to Colin.

Action Point: Jerry

Financial Update

There is £41.47 pending in the Web shop account, since it was set the Web shop up has raised a total of £74.45.

When the above payment is paid into the account this means that the SGRA have made £115.92.

Any Other Business

Land to the Front of Mildene House

Gordon informed the meeting that the land to the front of Mildene has been sold to a local business. The meeting thought the land was owned by the Council as they continue to cut the grass. It was brought up at the last ward meeting – Gordon passed round a copy of the Ward Meeting Minutes where it is clearly recorded. The Meeting felt it would be appropriate to try and find out what the land was going to be used for.

Action Point: Jerry

Paving on Church Road - Bollards on Station Road

The meeting commented that the pavements on Church and Station Road are in poor state again. Gordon has been keeping on top of this topic and will write again to the appropriate people. Jerry had also brought this up at the Ward Meeting.

Action Point: Jerry & Gordon

Field Street – overflowing drains

Gordon informed the meeting that there has been a recent problem with drains at the bottom of Field Street being blocked and causing an overflow. He was able to report the same and it is now resolved.

Poor Lighting to the top of the hill near Metro Bridge

The meeting was informed that a member of the Committee had fallen and badly bruised her eye, cheek and forehead after having a fall at the top of the hill after crossing the bridge from the metro station. The paving was very poor and she had tripped and fell, the light was also very poor which added to the problem. Both she and her husband noted that it was particularly bad near the dropped kerb. Jerry to raise this at the next Ward Meeting.

Action Point: Jerry to discuss at the next Ward Meeting

Bottom of Freeman Road

Ian mentioned that the council were replacing all the street lights to the bottom of this road near Milburn Gardens. The original street lights had only been put in 6 months prior. This is Dene Ward.

Resurfacing of Roads and Pavements

Collin & Sheila highlighted that resurfacing of roads and pavements in Ridgewood Gardens and Ridgewood Crescent was meant to be done sometime in 2008 and nothing has happened as yet.

It was also noted that there are the same issues in and around Field Street. Jerry will bring this up at the next Ward Meeting.

Action Point: Jerry to discuss at the next Ward Meeting

Traffic Lights

Collin raised the question of moving a set of traffic lights on Station Road closer to the Metro Station. It was suggested moving the lights currently near the Carpet shop.

Action Point: Jerry to discuss at the next Ward Meeting

Post Box – top of Field Street

Irene raised the topic of moving the Post Box at the top of Field Street to its correct location. This has been raised before but so far no action has been taken.

Action Point: Jerry to discuss at the next Ward Meeting

Mine Shaft

Sheila mentioned that Tim Hutton had talked about putting something around the mine shaft; however, nothing has been done as yet.

Action Point: Jerry to discuss at the next Ward Meeting

Persimmon Homes Signs

It was noted that not all the signs have been removed from Church Road.

Action Point: Jerry to discuss at the next Ward Meeting

Flower Boxes on Station Road/Outside Brandling Villa

Gordon informed the Meeting that the boxes on the fence up Station Road (Club side) have been emptied of the winter flowers. We need to find out if they are going to be replanted. There was some concern expressed about boxes obscuring Pedestrians view of the road when crossing.

Gordon also suggested having a planter placed outside the Brandling Public House.

Action Point: Jerry to raise at the next Ward Meeting

Stairs to the Green

This remains an ongoing issue as they are still not being cleared regularly.

Action Point: Jerry to raise at the next Ward Meeting

Abigail McDonald

Jerry informed the meeting that Abigail McDonald has resigned as Chairperson from the High West Jesmond Residents Association.

Wrendale Court

It was brought to the attention of the meeting that a flat has been sold recently at Wrendale Court for £147,500.00.

Persimmon have announced in the press that they are no longer going to have any new building contracts given the current climate.

Brian Moore

Jerry informed the meeting that he had an e-mail from him informing him he has stepped down from local politics and is now running a small business in China.

Date and Time of Next Meetings

Please note that June's meeting has been cancelled

Monday 7th July 2008 7pm in the Brandling Villa Public House – last meeting before the summer break.