

SGRA Minutes of Meeting

Held on Monday 1st October 2007
At 7pm in the Victory Public House

Welcome

Jerry welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Paul Spicer, Gordon Robinson, Colin Walmsley

People Present

Irene Matthewson, Jerry Ruddick, Sonia Bradley, Norma Shannon, Sheila Park, Hazel Spicer, Siobhan O'Brien, Caroline Simpson

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

Update on Action Points/Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Loose Paving Stones

The Gas board have now finished work in the area and have re-laid the paving stones, which has made an improvement. However, there is one that still needs attending to and this will need to go on the pending list for the Council's attention.

Action Point: Jerry

Kerbstone – Gosforth Terrace

Gordon was not present – need to ask him for an update regarding this matter at the next meeting.

Action Point: Gordon

New Website

We are now included in the East Gosforth Ward information Website.

Neri Bistro (On the site of the Old Launderette)

Hazel and Paul have been to the newly opened restaurant, they felt the food was very nice if a little pricey. The restaurant appears to have an alcohol license as there was a wine list.

Recycling Bins

There had been an update at the AGM – Ann Hogg has referred this matter to the Recycling Department. Need further update at next meeting.

Action Point

Station Road Bins

Jerry informed the meeting that a new bin has been put on Station Road; this now means there is one next to the bus stop and the seat.

Feedback from Meetings Attended

Ward Meeting – Consultation with Youth

Jerry and Gordon attended the last Ward meeting where a group of young people had been asked to attend. Their spokesperson stated they would like to have a skateboard park in the area. They have asked for the underused football field behind Archbishop Runcie First School on Christon Road to be considered for this. Recent changes in the law mean that Gosforth Central Park couldn't be used because of the proximity of houses. There was a suggestion that young people from the area help to run it.

Ridgewood Gardens – Car Damage

Jerry mentioned to the police present at the Ward Meeting problems with one resident living in Ridgewood Gardens is having in relation to repeated damage to his car.

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Mildene Home - Bin

It was brought to the attention of the meeting that Mildene Home is causing an obstruction by placing its refuse bin on the public footpath. There is sufficient land around the home to ensure the bin is stored more appropriately. This needs to be addressed by the local council.

Action Point:

Triangle of Land to the Back of DIY Yard (Next to cut through Mildene Home)

Jerry mentioned that this land was looking messy again, shrubs have started to grow again and rubbish is accumulating. This is an ongoing problem and it needs to be raised again with Dave Roberts. Suggestions have been made to pave this area and put bollards insitu to deter cars from parking.

Action Point:

Splash Guards – South Gosforth Roundabouts

Jerry mentioned that since work has been completed by the Gas Board in the area, some of the Splash Guards seem to be missing. Jerry has informed Dave Roberts and Ann Hogg about this and is awaiting a reply.

Action Point: To find out where have they gone?

Dropped Kerbs on the Green

Your Homes Newcastle (YHN) offered to put dropped kerbs around the Green near William Street Flats and Mildene Home to enable wheelchair user's better access. Jerry will contact YHN to request and update about this work being carried out.

Action Point: Jerry

Trees on the Green

A member of the committee whilst walking across the footpath was beckoned by some young people who were playing football, they requested that goal posts be placed on the green.

It was suggested that maybe mature trees be planted on the Green to create goal posts and make better use of the field.

Jerry has recently been to have a look at Quarry Park and they have 5 aside football posts. However, it was agreed by all that this would not be an appropriate option for the Green.

A plan was presented for some ideas about where the trees could be planted and they were passed to Ann Hogg for consideration at the September SGRA meeting.

Jerry has requested that no definite decisions are made until residents in the local area have been asked their opinions about this proposal.

Caroline suggested thinking about what type of trees we could have planted and make a feature of this by using some unusual species of trees.

St. Nicholas Church

Jerry brought up that Rev. Philip Cunningham had attended a Residents meeting earlier in the year and had talked about how the church was responsible for the upkeep of the walls around the grounds. They are becoming so dilapidated that they are causing problems on the public footpath.

Jerry suggested approaching the council about this to see if they could offer some financial help. However, the meeting felt that this was not appropriate.

The following is an extract from the Minutes of the Meeting held in February 2007 when Rev Cunningham attended:-

Church Walls

Phillip informed the meeting that the Church does not receive any monies from external bodies and that they are not exempt from VAT.

He has asked people to support his petition by logging on to the government website and look for Downing Street Petitions – the petition is to ensure that VAT is free for Churches.

Phillip has approached the Council recently about repairs to the Church Wall. Apparently if the Church was able to find the monies to fund the repairs they would be liable for future repairs and the Council would relinquish responsibility.

Parking – Ridgewood Gardens

Once Persimmon Homes have completed building work it is hoped that the wall be built further back enabling a larger area to be used as a turning space. It was noted that access to the top of Ridgewood Garden's will be returned to its former position once building work is complete.

Action Point: Jerry

Any Other Business

South Gosforth Social Club – Environmental Issues

Jerry had received a letter from Ann Hogg about the noise pollution coming from the club as mentioned at the AGM. A letter was issued to the Club reminding them of their Licensing Agreement.

It was noted that some local residents had made complaints that music could be heard from the club as they have left the windows open and the exit doors. Some of this is due to the fact people are leaving the building in order to have a cigarette.

As it is private land, patrons are not breaking any laws by having alcohol with them when they go outside to have a cigarette.

Again members of the meeting who live near the club stated that they rarely have problems with noise pollution and on the whole there are very few problems with the club.

There were complaints made at the AGM about the amount of cigarette butts being left on the walk through/footpath next to the club. It appears that staff from the club have cleared this area, this land belongs to the club and it should be their responsibility to keep the area tidy.

At the AGM Anne Hogg had mentioned she had approached the Steward from the Club and suggested they consider making provision for people smoking outside the building i.e. bins to dispose of cigarette ends.

The meeting was reminded that the land outside the club up to No 1 Percy Terrace is actually private land and owned by the Club.

It was noted that people dropping cigarette ends can be fined as can the club.

Wrights Garage – Environmental Issues – Noise from Outside Ringer

Anne had e-mailed Jerry suggesting that residents who have concerns about the above need to keep a record of the amount of times the outside ringer is ringing and causing noise pollution. Anyone wanting to be involved in this needs to contact Anne Hogg.

In the E-mail Ann again encouraged people to consider ringing **101** to report any concerns.

Persimmon Homes

Jerry informed the meeting that on a recent day off working at home he had noticed several inappropriate deliveries by low loading vehicles outside the agreed times.

Also other residents have noted deliveries being carried out using Field Street as access.

Jerry has e-mailed local councillors and Dave Roberts regarding this and is awaiting a reply.

Action Point:

Caroline requested that Persimmon is asked to ensure all signage is removed once building work is complete. Apparently the contractors are aware that this needs to happen.

Steps leading from the green

Again the meeting noted that these steps are not being cleaned on a regular basis.

Action Point:

Bollards outside Dominoes Pizza

Gordon requested that Jerry raise this issue at the meeting. New paving has been put down and it would be advisable to have bollards insitu to deter people from parking in this area and breaking up the newly laid paving.

Action Point:

Rubbish from Student Accommodation

A resident from William Street contacted Jerry about the amount of rubbish that accumulates in William Street as a direct result of the bins been overloaded on the Student Accommodation Site. Feel that there needs to be more collections to resolve this problem.

Jerry will pass this on to Dave Roberts.

Action Point: Jerry

Dogs on the Green

Hazel mentioned that there appears to be an increasing amount of dog fouling on the Green.

Siobhan suggested contacting the NRM as surveillance can be put insitu to find out who is causing this offence. Once photographic evidence has been gathered something can be done to resolve the issue.

Action Point: Sonia

Hunters Road - The Green

Hazel noted that garden rubbish is being dumped on the field again.

The council appear to have stopped cutting the grass at the very edge and this is contributing to the accumulation of rubbish also.

Action Point: To ask if this can be included on a more regular basis
Bollards at the top of Ridgewood Gardens

Sheila noted that these bollards had been left down recently, not sure if this was vandalism but it did cause an obstruction to the public right of way.

Mine Shaft

Sheila also noted that once building work has been completed by Persimmons Homes that a fence needs to be built back around the shaft site.

Action Point:

Hedges – Bowes Court

Norma mentioned that the hedges in the middle of the bungalows have not been cut and they are now catching on people's clothing.

Dave Roberts had mentioned that this work may not be able to be carried out again until spring however residents have asked if these hedges could be cut before winter. Jerry asked the residents as to what would the consequences be if it was left till the spring. He was advised that the bushes would be overgrown and would be more difficult to cut.

Sonia will e-mail Dave Roberts regarding this.

Action Point: Sonia

Evening Chronicle Reporter

Jerry informed the meeting that a Reporter from the Evening Chronicle had contacted him wanting to do a story on the totem poles that had been suggested to be erected as goal posts a while ago.

She has been asked to cover the local area. Jerry contacted her to update and requested that she does not do an article on this topic until residents in the area have been contacted about what they think about goal posts - trees on the Green.

Jerry and Sonia to arrange to meet with her to discuss the work of the SGRA.

Action Point: Jerry/Sonia

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 5th November 2007 at 7pm, the Victory Pub.

Please forward any Agenda items to SGRA Secretary or Jerry