

Minutes of the Board, Committee and Road Stewards

Extraordinary Meeting on 21st June 2021

Apologies from: Sheena Reeves, David Wells and Erica Smithers.

Present: Caroline Brown (Chairman), Hubert Carr (Vice-Chairman) and other Directors, Fran Smith, Paula Sabine, Martyn Williams, Louise Herrity, Officer Ian Seifert and Road Stewards, Jean Cooksley, David Woodhead, Pam Wilson, Tim Dunsford and Tom Webster.

Agenda:

1. CB proposed provisional dates for forthcoming LRA open meetings in 2021: 2 August, 4 October, 1 November, and 2022: 3 or 10 January, 7 February and 4 April. 7 March is, provisionally, a closed meeting. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman fall to be re-elected on 4 April. The Local Plan will be discussed on 4 October.

CB also reported that she had asked the new Councillor, Simon Moss, whether he would speak at a meeting but he declined until he is more familiar with his role. She has also asked another party and is waiting for a reply. She has thought of inviting Rosemary Dickson and a representative from "The Hub."

2. CB reported that, unfortunately, it is necessary at present to replace The Newsletter in Cheryl Allen's colourful style with the Bulletin, hopefully informative but not colourful.

3. CB reported that the LRA had written Letters of Representation about the over-tall mast on the Plough roundabout (which has since been refused) and about the flats behind Kingscroft Road which require the use of the Youth Club café car park. The applicants obviously assumed that the car park was little used but in the light of the objections to their proposals, the application has subsequently been withdrawn.

4. CB reported that the composition of the LRA Board was very carefully looked at: the two people responsible for most of the social activity have, sadly, died. For quite a long time we have had no official Secretary although occasionally someone will volunteer to do the Minutes. At the moment, the jobs of Treasurer and Membership Secretary are combined and one person does them both. The Planning aspect of our concerns, although quite interesting, can be very time demanding because of the background circumstances which need to be ascertained before writing. Nor do we have any recognized person to show a full interest in the environmental concerns of our area and these are many, be it trees, the river, fields or verges etc. The Chairman herself is feeling swamped by the amount that needs doing and would like to pass the job on to a younger person.

5. CB noted that, because of the various "lock-downs" and hence no meetings, our current membership has dropped substantially. (By about 50%) Mostly using email she has written to some 200 households reminding them to renew their membership, but that

leaves around 50 which will need hand delivery. Our Treasurer has kindly offered to do this.

6. At the end of the meeting and in response to CB's pleas for help, various people offered to do various jobs:

David Woodhead: promised to go round his patch again and endeavour to promote interest and gather any missing subscriptions.

Jean Cooksley will do the same and so will Pam Wilson.

Ian is going to take membership forms round Yarm Way.

Tom Webster is going to use his drinks party on Sunday as a moment to promote the LRA.

Tim Dunsfold is going to try to interest his partner in the planters outside the NatWest – formerly done by Cheryl and Susan.

Fran volunteered to write a promotional piece seeking new members/renewals to be filed on our Facebook page.

Louise said she would ask her husband (Mike) if he would like to join our Board/Committee.

7. CB noted that, in her view, unless new volunteers are found, it may be necessary to curtail our activities substantially. Two Open meetings a year might prove enough. One or two casual Litter Picks could be included in, say, May and September. If, or when necessary, the Board/Committee could meet on its own.

8. All but the Board members then left the meeting and PS sought approval from the directors present for the draft 2020 accounts that she had circulated prior to the meeting. The Directors also agreed to change the bank signatures to reflect the current situation.

9. CB asked if there was any other business. There being none, the meeting was closed.

Addendum:

The web address to use if you would like to see past versions of the LRA or LRS is:

www.toilemimi.co.uk/Leatherhead-Society.html

At the moment the archive stops at 1997, but it is hoped more will be added later.