

Minutes of 64th APRA committee meeting at 8:00 pm on 19th October 2023 via Zoom

Present: John Hedges (JH, Chair), Kate Buckley (KB), Jacky Stephen (JS), Geoff Dyson (GD), Andrew Yaras (AY)

Apologies Robert Pankhurst, Christian Anthony

1. Minutes of previous meeting (28th Sept). Approved. ACTION RP

2. Matters arising

Abbey Orchard wall – Still no response from David Adams. JH noted that the Bishop's wall opposite is being repaired.

Road Closures. Phase 3 is now 10 November to April 2024, with Market Street closed, High Street open and George Street closed at weekends (open one-way, down, Monday-Friday). Mitigation measures would be considered if George Street were to be made permanent. Excessive traffic on Welclose St has been highlighted as an issue but there is no plan to officially monitor this, other than possibly 5 days of CCTV footage.

ACTION JH

St Albans School coaches. Following a refusal to urgently discuss school bus Romeland safety issues raised again in June, JH has written to the School withdrawing APRA's participation in the School's Local Community Group.

Verulamium Park. Moragh and Michael Ormiston were actively opposing the SADC-proposed extension of event-related days from 28 to 56. There have been a large number of objections and the proposal will go before the Planning Committee. GD will attend meeting on 27/10 JH and GD submitted objections on behalf of APRA. GD to check that it has been received.

ACTION GD

Website. Two sixth-formers from St Albans School had been extremely helpful in resurrecting and improving the APRA websites and finding a less costly alternative site. This has saved APRA a considerable amount in maintenance and future running costs. It was agreed to thank the boys with £50 each - possibly in book tokens.

ACTION JS

Sam Stanford will take over as Webmaster and relaunch the website. All future updates should be sent to Sam (contact details to follow)

ACTION ALL

3. Planning. KB to circulate information on recent applications including the Farriers Arms. KB stated the main concern is to ensure that traffic management concerns are addressed/upheld.

ACTION KB

4. Membership.

JS has set up 2 mailing lists one for current paid up members and the second for lapsed members. JS to put together a draft email to lapsed members to encourage renewal but give notice that failure to pay subs will result in removal.

ACTION JS

5. Finance. AY reported that the balance in the bank is £1162. The Year End accounts will be made up to 31st October and independently examined. AY to present a report at AGM. Draft accounts to be sent out to members by 9th Nov

ACTION AY

6. Committee Responsibilities. JH,JS,KB and AY stated they were happy to continue with their current responsibilities. The main issue is a replacement for RP as Hon. Secretary.

JH outlined RP's responsibilities as 3 key areas

a) Administration such as agendas and minutes for meetings

b) Communication with other organisations such as RAs, Councillors,

c) One offs - AGM organisation and reporting, Newsletters

JS volunteered to take on Administration if necessary.

New Committee members urgently required.

7. AGM Organisation

Committee members to provide Power Point type/Bullet point reports for presentation to members by 27th Oct to JH

Membership - JS

Finance - AY

ACTION JS/AY

Committee discussed options for Guest Speakers at the AGM. It was agreed that KB would contact Sustainability St Albans and JH would contact Fight The Freight

ACTION KB/JH

KB suggested APRA Window stickers should be available at the AGM for members. It was suggested that RP might have them/know where they are?

ACTION RP

8. Next meeting: Thursday 23rd November 8 pm

9. Meeting finished at 9.17pm