

Minutes of 65th APRA committee meeting at 8:00 pm on 23rd November 2023

Present: John Hedges (JH, Chair), Kate Buckley (KB)(via Zoom), Robert Pankhurst (RB), Jacky Stephen (JS), Ian Woodroof (IW), Malcolm Hull (MH)

Apologies Geoff Dyson, Andrew Yaras

1. Minutes of previous meeting (19th Oct). Approved. ACTION RP/JS
2. Matters arising : Any matters will be covered under their headings in the following minutes
3. Committee Roles. New Committee Members Malcolm Hull and Ian Woodroof were welcomed. The various roles in the Committee were discussed and allocated as follows:

Chair - John Hedges

Deputy Chair - Kate Buckley

Treasurer - Andrew Yaras

Secretary - Jacky Stephen

And responsibilities as follows:

School Buses - JH

Planning - RP and KB

Parking - IW

Roads and Pavements - GD

Environment and Waste - KB

Blue/Green Spaces - MH and GD

Road Closures/Trials - JH

AML Wall- MH

Street Reps - JH

APRA Website - Sam Stanford

Newsletter - RP

Social Event - Norman James

Liaison with other groups

CCRA - JH

CNC - JH

Cross RAs - KB

City Vision - KB

Solar/Heat pumps/EV charging - KB and RP

Transport and Travel Plan - KB

4. Abbey Mill Lane Wall. JH has written to David Adams(Cathedral representative) but no reply to date. There was mention of the repairs taking place in Sept but no sign yet. It was agreed that IW will take over responsibility and RP will raise the issue through the Civic Society and councillors.

ACTION RP/IW

5. School Buses. Local Group meeting Dec 14th but APRA will not attend. APRA planning with other RAs to put together a plan of action which involves identifying all required road signs and painted lines in order to enforce restrictions.

ACTION JH

6. Verulamium Park - proposal to extend events to 56 days per annum. Planning application has been called in by councillors. Local newspaper reports that Pub in the Park will be a larger event in 2024.

ACTION MH/GD

7. Website. Work has progressed and Sam Stanford has agreed to take responsibility for the site. Original site to be closed asap. Committee members to be sent Sam's contact details.

ACTION RP

8. Planning. It was agreed that KB would circulate all planning applications in the area on a weekly basis.

ACTION KB

9. Membership. The AGM had encouraged several members to pay subs for 23/24 together with arrears. Email to be sent to remind members that subs are due 1st November.

Street Reps are also required for the following streets/areas:

Abbey Mill Flats, Abbey View Road, College St, Hill St, Lower Dagnall St/Bowes Lyon Mews, New England St, Old Garden Court/Mount Pleasant, Spicer St.

ACTION RP/JS/JH

10. Secretarial Duties. RP to redirect emails to JS. JS to set up a new email address and take responsibility for action on emails.

ACTION RP/JS

11. Environment and Waste. MH to investigate whether there is the need for voluntary litter picking if the Council contractors are failing to do the job. Other RAs organise similar events.

Issue with oversized refuse lorries persists. Subject to be brought up at CNC with Edgar Hill.

ACTION MH/KB

12. Road Closure Trials and Ad Hoc Road Closures

Phase 3 of the George St/High St/Market Place trials has started. New signs are not in place yet. JH to chase. Meeting at the end of November with stakeholders.

General view that there is insufficient warning for residents regarding planned road closures and parking suspension. KB to circulate Highways website which lists planned closures.

ACTION JH/KB

13. District Transport and Travel plan. KB mentioned that the Travel Plan committee were looking at the possibility of asking St Albans' residents to participate in a survey of how they travel, their travel needs and types of journeys. It was agreed the Committee would encourage APRA members to take part when the survey is issued.

ACTION KB

14. Parking. IW to liaise with Edgar Hill regarding provision of car parking spaces vs no of permits in the area. Survey of potential additional spaces to be conducted.

ACTION IW

15. Finance. JS to liaise with AY to check out the current status of bank signatories and the opportunity to use digital banking.

ACTION JS

16. Social Events. Committee to consider the viability of adding extra APRA social events to the calendar. For example, talks on local subjects of interest.

17. AGM minutes. AGM formal meeting minutes approved

18. Date of next meeting: Thursday 11th Jan 8pm 3 Abbey Mill Lane

19. Meeting closed at 9.30pm