

Minutes of 66th APRA committee meeting at 8:00 pm on 11th January 2024

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

Apologies: Andrew Yaras

1. Minutes of previous meeting (23rd Nov). Approved with a couple of amendments. JS to reissue
ACTION JS

2. Matters arising : Any matters will be covered under their headings in the following minutes

3. Abbey Mill Lane Wall and Abbey Orchard.

JH reported that the wall had been patched with lime mortar which should prevent an imminent collapse but is not considered a long term solution.

The new Conservation Officer at SADC is Gerard Levitt.

Committee concerned about the additional UCH Graduation Ceremony in Feb 24 with regard to potential damage to Abbey Gateway (from heavily laden lorries),lack of planning permission, parking, artificial lighting and noise levels. Suggest Code of Conduct similar to Verulamium Park events applied to Abbey Orchard.

This is a temporary event which exceeds the 28 days permitted. JH has contacted the Cathedral, University, English Heritage, local councillors and others regarding the potential dangers, the need for planning permission etc.No response from the Cathedral and just a holding response from UCH saying they have a meeting with the Cathedral w/c 8th Jan.

JH to pursue the matter with Edgar Hill (deputy Chair, Planning Committee), UCH and Sarah Ashton, Planning Development Manager at SADC.

KB to raise at CrossRA.

ACTION JH KB

4. School Buses and safety

JH reported that the School and local community group (LCG) meeting took place on Dec 14th. APRA did not attend due to the School's lack of engagement on safety issues.

RP did not attend for Civic Society but shared draft post-meeting notes. Councillors and FSRA now asking for safety to be discussed at the next LCG meeting in June but notes did not mention an apparently agreed special meeting on safety issues, which will be pursued.

'No Stopping' sign replaced outside school main gates.Other road safety signs and lines to be reviewed.

KB to raise at Cross RA

Concerns were raised about school traffic in College St during the Affinity Water roadworks with reports of gridlock. Photos to be requested from Members

ACTION JH KB GD JS

5. Waste Collections.

KB reported that SADC had renewed the Veolia contract despite advising that this would be reviewed in March 2024.

Problems with missed collections and damage to infrastructure from large refuse vehicles(RCV) persist but no action can be taken unless specific details of damage and evidence are supplied.

Issues to be raised at Cross RA regarding roads that are unsuitable for large vehicles
IW to report missed bin collections to KB and Moragh Ormiston. ACTION KB IW

6. Parking. IW to meet with Edgar Hill to assess opportunities for extra parking in Zone B.
Upcoming roadworks at Bluehouse Hill 16 to 19 Jan (now postponed) and Fishpool St 22nd to
24th Jan. JS to notify members ahead of time
ACTION IW JS

7. Priorities for Cross RA Meeting
Planning, Parking, School buses, Waste Collection, Flooding in Park (especially where Fishpool St
residents responsible for maintaining river bank) ACTION KB

8. Verulamium Park
MH has written to SADC regarding river bank maintenance. This is part the responsibility of
certain Fishpool St residents and partly the Council. It was noted that 135 Fishpool St had done
remedial work on their section of the bank. The Council section of the bank was breached w/c 1st
Jan . 100m stretch of path in Bell Meadow is under water. MH to continue to monitor.
ACTION MH

9. Planning. It was announced that planning permission for 7a Welclose St has been rejected. The
reason being overdevelopment.
KB to send planning link to Committee Members. ACTION KB

10. Membership. JS had sent an email to members who had not paid annual subs up to early
December. 'Lapsed' members were also sent a reminder. The January bank statement is required
to confirm who has paid but approx 18 lapsed members have renewed membership.
MH appointed Street Rep for Abbey View Road.

11. Finance. AY reported that the current balance in the bank is £1772
It was felt that it would be helpful to have online banking in order to have an up to date position
on subscriptions paid and to reimburse expenses via bank transfer rather than cheque.
ACTION AY/JS

12. Website. JH and RP to arrange meeting with Sam Stanford to ascertain requirements for
running the website and to terminate unnecessary contracts.
ACTION JH/RP

13. Newsletter. It was agreed to publish a newsletter mid year

14. Social Events. RP and Norman James to confirm with Bishop availability of garden at Parkside
House for summer party. ACTION RP

15. AOB Park Events. The start date has now been pushed back to 1 January 2025. IW had
received a letter which he will copy to Committee members. ACTION IW

Potters Crouch Plantation. The planned extension to the Centurion Club Golf Course,
which will result in the loss of trees in the Potters Crouch Plantation, was noted.

Travel and Movement Group. KB had sent meeting notes to Committee Members.
Travel and Movement Vision Statement still being worked up and will be shared asap.

Solar Panel RA Working group Meeting arranged for 23rd January

Blue Plaque for Betty Entwistle, first female Town Clerk in England and Wales and first female CEO at St Albans DC, will be placed on The Grange (Saint and Sinners Pub), St Peters St on 23rd February

16. Date of next meeting. Thursday 15th February at 8pm 3 Abbey Mill Lane

17. Meeting closed at 9.30 pm