



Minutes

Meeting: Hills Amenity Society
Committee

Date: 3 April 2012

Time : 8.00pm

Venue: 2 Potters Close
Loughton
Essex

Present:

Wendy Fisher	(WF)	Chairman
Stephen Cohen	(SC)	Community focus
Brenda Harris	(BH)	Planning
Peter Wynn	(PW)	Honorary Treasurer
Lisa Godsalve	(LG)	Neighbourhood Watch
Ian Locks	(IL)	Newsletter & Character Appraisal
Lawrence Gray	(LGr)	Neighbourhood Watch
Martin Margrie	(MM)	Honorary Secretary

In part attendance:

Dawn Booth	(DB)	Hills' resident threebooths@btinternet.com
Vanessa Macbean	(VM)	Hills' resident donmacbean@hotmail.co.uk

Apologies:

Parag Shah	(PS)	Deputy Chairman & Community focus
Marcus Warren	(MW)	Committee Member & Support
Will Hambling	(WH)	Neighbourhood Watch
Lee Lubbas	(LL)	Committee Member & Support

Action

1. Minutes of the last meeting on 28 February 2012 and update of actions

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.

2. Apologies

Received from **MW, WH, PS** and **LL**.

3. Planning update

15a Pump Hill (April Cottage)

This is an on-going application which has been discussed at previous meetings. **BH** reported that there is no further update to minute.

22 Stony Path

This is an on-going application which has been discussed at previous meetings. **BH** reported that in addition to the removal of a tall hedge, a new window has also been fitted which is not in keeping with the property; both had not received planning permission. However Epping Forest District Council is still aware of the issues surrounding this work. **BH** reported that there is no further update to minute.

56 York Hill

This is an on-going application which has been discussed at previous meetings and which had concluded with planning permission not being granted.

A further application had been submitted which still included the removal of the existing conservatory but the erection of a single storey rear extension. Previously the application had requested a double storey rear extension.

It is acknowledged that the revised application is an improvement to the previous submission but **BH** has once again written to Epping Forest District Council to express concerns in relation to the impact this work would have on the foundations of neighbouring properties and the disruption that the machinery would cause.

BH reported that Epping Forest District Council has since approved the application.

12 to 18 Pump Hill

This is an on-going application which has been discussed at previous meetings. At this time the land remains 'up for sale' with Roffeys estate agents.

27 Pump Hill

This is an on-going application which has been discussed at previous meetings. The application has gone to appeal and **BH** reported that there is no further update to minute.

3 Branchester Place

This is an on-going application which has been discussed at previous meetings. Epping Forest District Council had met on 2 April 2012 and at this time.

BH reported that Epping Forest District Council has since approved the application.

50 York Hill

An application has been received to replace the existing garage but by doing so indicates that one of the hedges is to be removed; this is not clear.

BH has written to Epping Forest District Council to express concerns in relation to the removal of the hedge particularly as the hedge is within the York Hill conservation area.

BH reported that the application has since been withdrawn with no further plans being submitted.

5 Baldwins Hill

An application has been received to erect a two storey rear end side extension, conservatory and make internal alterations to the property which is located in the Baldwins Hill conservation area.

BH has written to Epping Forest District Council to express concerns in relation to the size of the extension and its close proximity to the neighbouring property, which if approved, will affect the neighbours' outlook and give the properties a terrace-like appearance.

There is also concern that the windows have been incorrectly replaced using UPVC and that no planning permission was received for this particular work. One further concern is in relation to ensuring the oak tree in the front of this property is not affected or removed should the application be approved.

BH reported that Epping Forest District Council has since approved the application.

Blackbird Cottage, York Hill

BH commented that she had noticed a lot of activity surrounding work taking place in the grounds of Blackbird Cottage on York Hill and wondered whether further investigation should take place.

LGr responded in his capacity as a neighbour of the residents living in the property and informed the Committee that there was nothing to be concerned about. The work being undertaken at the rear of the property is essential as the natural sloping of the properties in that part of York Hill means that the gardens need to be 'shored' up to ensure any land movement is minimum.

4. **Foresters Arms update**

WH was not present at this meeting but in an email to the Committee was able to report the following:

- The extractor fan to the cellar has been replaced with a new unit and this will hopefully make less noise;
- The late evenings do continue but are less frequent than before;
- **WH** is still in conversation with Epping Forest District Council Abatement Department. However this is not proving of much benefit as despite their being other orders levelled to the pub, they do not appear to have any impact.

5. **Hills Information Sheet**

The Committee acknowledged the amount of work that **LG** had contributed to the draft of the Hills Information Sheet. The Committee discussed, in general terms, its purpose and agreed that before it is made available to residents it is important that it is accurate and factually correct. It is also important that it is not too detailed and that for finer detail and legislative information people are signposted to the relevant websites.

It was agreed that before the Information Sheet is published, there is merit in asking other residents (with sufficient knowledge) to proof read it.

LG to email the draft to **SC** and then to other Committee members before sharing it with Chris Pond. It was agreed that this would delay it being inserted into the Newsletter as first hoped and that it would be good if it were ready for distribution by the AGM in May 2012.

LG/SC

6. **Character Appraisal**

IL reported that regrettably there was no further update.

7. **Commemorating 40 years of the Hills Amenity Society**

PW reported that he had been in touch with an engraving contact, but sadly they had not got back to him. **SC** commented that he may also have some contacts who are able to 'sketch' suggestions for the design of the panoramic plaque.

MW had also made an offer to support the Committee generally with the design work for any signage that may be agreed within the area of the Hills, so if necessary the Committee may ask **MW** to support them.

SC agreed he would progress with the suggestions for the

actual design of the plaque and would also investigate where the most appropriate location for the plaque would be in terms of whether this is on the green by the pump or erected by the Gardeners Arms public house. **SC** to update the Committee at their next meeting.

SC

8. Diamond Jubilee celebrations

DB and **VM** joined the meeting for this agenda item as they wanted the Committee's opinion on having a jubilee picnic or event to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee in June 2012.

Both residents had undertaken research into the logistics of running a street party or a similar event and brought this information to the meeting.

They had approached Tracey (landlady of the Gardeners Arms public house) and she was more than happy to work collaboratively with the organisers of the event, providing music etc. Running such an event would need planning and to make the event safe (particularly for children) road closures would need to be enforced.

The Committee agreed that this would be an ideal opportunity for residents in the Hills only to get involved in a community event whilst celebrating this momentous occasion.

It was agreed that all residents would be invited to bring a picnic to be eaten on the green outside the Gardeners Arms public house on the afternoon of Monday 4 June 2012 from noon to 3pm. This is the day when it has been suggested communities may wish to hold local events.

SC kindly offered to lead with the arrangements and **DB** and **VM** would support him as appropriate. This would include gauging the opinion of local residents as significant objection would mean the event could not take place, sourcing decorations and bunting and making contact with Caroline Pond to see if she is able to attend the event in her capacity as Mayor.

SC

IL to ensure the Newsletter has an article promoting the event.

IL

9. AOB

a) Hills Amenity Constitution

This agenda item was not discussed and the Committee asked that this be added to the next agenda.

b) Damage to Green update

There is no update with this; however **IL** will include an article

in the Newsletter regarding this.

c) Committee members standing down

Resignations had been received from **MW**, **LGr** and **MM**. The committee asked that **LGr** and **MM** may wish to temporarily stand down and return to the Committee when they were able to. The Committee also thanked **MW** for his contribution in terms of the printing of the Newsletter and that whilst his resignation was regretfully accepted any support he wishes or is able to provide in the future will be gratefully accepted.

MW to stand down with immediate effect and **LGr** and **MM** to stand down after the AGM in May 2012; this being the last meeting they attend for the time being. **MM** confirmed he will take the minutes at the AGM and ensure that an abstract of the minutes he has produced since assuming the role of honorary secretary are available on the website.

MM

10. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be the AGM in the Gardeners Arms Public House from 7.15pm. Please note the change in date to Monday 21 May 2012.