

## **Great Park Neighbourhood Association.**

### **Committee meeting 30/05/2018 – 19:30 – The Falcons Nest**

#### **1) Present:**

Cathy Priestley, Steven Meldrum, Sarah Maluila, Paul Cross, Christine Young, Gemma Nesbitt, Ian Herring.

Apologies:

Claudia Maier, Dorothy Russell, Chris Marsden.

#### **2) Roles and responsibilities**

Committee members elected to the following roles.

Co-chair – Cathy Priestley and Gemma Nesbitt

Secretary – Steven Meldrum

Treasurer – Ian Herring

Non specialist roles – Christine Young, Paul Cross,

Other roles – Sarah Maluila : Promotion and communications

Bank signatories – Steven Meldrum to become a signatory. Ian to source the paperwork to facilitate this, together with the form to change the account name.

*All at the meeting agreed with the above members being elected to the above roles.*

Discussion re code of practice and how we will operate. Agreed it would be helpful to receive some training from Newcastle Council for Voluntary Services. Cathy to circulate details of their information leaflets in the first place. Training and development of the code of conduct for further discussion. Working to a code of practice will ensure that we are protected and all working toward the same goals.

Residents need to be made aware that we will be transparent in how we operate.

We need to be able to hold the consortium to account – regular meetings which are all minuted and that any meetings or correspondence with the consortium are also recorded and made public are an important part of this strategy.

*All at the meeting agreed with the above points setting out how we will operate.*

#### **3) Promotion and Communication**

Sarah Maluila has kindly offered to lead on this.

We need to think about what we want to communicate and how we want to communicate.

We need to have key messages we want to deliver to residents and also to the consortium.

The consortium need to deliver what they have promised.

- We should make every effort to hold the consortium to account
- We should also hold the council to account
- How we do this needs further discussion, options could include adverse publicity or legal action.

Following discussion we need to do the following:

- Signpost residents to the correct place to raise issues.
- Work with road safety throughout the development.

The above points were agreed by all present at the meeting.

- Set up a new website for GPNA

Sarah advise that she knows people who may be willing to assist with this.

We will need to discuss what we want on the website and it was agreed that we will need more than 1 person who can update the website.

Also discussed the possibility of an email address for GPNA – if we have one we would need to organise shared access for committee members,

Sarah to move this item forward.

- Set up a new Facebook page? All felt that we need to work closely with the other Facebook groups in the future, no decision made on how to facilitate this

Should we set up a new page?

We need to work with the admin members of other Facebook pages.

Or, should we have a pinned post on the other pages with who we are, what we are and where to find our info (ie a link to the new website).

Sarah to move this item forward.

- Welcome packs.

Discussion around what info is given to new residents when they buy a house on the estate. All present agreed it would be beneficial for a flyer to be put into the new resident packs given to new residents.

Steven will move this item forward

- Style of our communications.

We need to share information with residents where appropriate.

We need to show residents that we are supporting them with their issues.

We need to show residents that our aim is to be “a mechanism for furthering our common interests”.

Discussion showed that we do not feel that a conventional leaflet drop would be effective, but that residents needed something they could keep handy at home to refer to when they needed to make contact. Various ideas discussed – for further development.

Residents engagement and consultation - We discussed the option of using online polls in the future should the need arise – felt to be a good idea if it is needed. For further

development.

*All at the meeting agreed with the above points concerning promotion and communication.*

#### **4) Response to Great Park Action Group**

Cathy Priestley has produced a statement outlining a possible response to the GPAG recent call to withhold service charge payments. All present agreed that the statement is the official position of GPNA toward the action proposed by GPAG. It will be given as our official response if we are asked for one.

It was noted that individual residents are exposing themselves to possible legal action if they do not pay the service charge.

We, as a constituted group, cannot support individuals withholding their service charge – it is an individual choice.

Further discussion re GPAG and all agreed that we will work with the group over reporting of estate and infrastructure issues.

Highlighted the fact that John Atkinson has advised that he wishes to remain independent of GPNA.

*Cathy to lead on developing ways of working with GPAG.*

*All at the meeting agreed with the above points concerning GPAG and how to work with them.*

#### **5) Summer Party**

All at the meeting felt it would be good if we could organise a summer event but acknowledged that it may now be too late to do this.

Mark Graham, manager of Great Park Community Centre, has offered help to GPNA when needed. We felt that it may be more appropriate for us to piggyback onto their summer party if they are having one. We must, however, have something to offer – ie something that the GPCC cannot provide.

*Steven to take this item forward and contact Mark Graham at GPCC.*

SAGE have a charity arm – would it be appropriate to contact them to see if they would sponsor an event?

*No real resolution to this question at present – to table this at the next meeting.*

*All those at the meeting agreed with the above points concerning The Summer Party.*

## **6) AOB**

i) Consortium drop in sessions have been suspended by the consortium themselves. All at the meeting feel that this is not good as relationships need to be built and maintained with Susan Cargill who took over from David Abercrombie. The drop in sessions were a chance for residents to have face to face contact with the consortium and this choice has been removed. The committee members present feel that there is a need for face to face contact. It could be by appointment or drop in sessions. Needs further development and possibly residents input before incorporating into communications strategy.

ii) A snagging list has been compiled by GPAG and the consortium and has been published on the Great Park website for all residents to view. A member has suggested some improvements.

*This item will be addressed at another meeting – all agreed with this.*

iii) Residents not adhering to their TP1 agreement was raised by Christine Young. There have been some 'breaches' of the TP1 with regard to what residents can do to their houses. Cathy Priestley raised the issue of covenants and that fact that they are usually very difficult to enforce – they are usually enforced following court action. Other residents have raised this issue in the past. Should we, GPNA, become involved with this type of activity? It was agreed that the role of the GPNA would be to promote “good neighbourliness” not act as an enforcement agent.

Sarah proposed that some form of education may be appropriate to help residents understand why there are restrictive covenants which they should be observing for the benefit of everyone.

*All those at the meeting agreed with the above points under AOB*

## **7) Date and time of next meeting.**

Next meeting to be held as follows:

4<sup>th</sup> July 2018, 7:30pm at Great Park Community Centre.  
(Steven to book a room)