

Hallgarth Residents Association Committee Meeting 21/02/22

PRESENT: Tom Priestley (in the Chair),
Amy Hardy, Lana Grindley, Rachel Cadas

IN ATTENDANCE: Jason Mobbs (SLH), Peter Thornton, Jonathan Cornthwaite, Giles Archibald, Lana Bridley, Karen Banks, Jon Owen, Kate Passant, Maggre Passant, Liz Hendry, Carol Conyes, Graham Vincent, Karen O' Donoghue, Elaine Cuthbertson

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported apologies for absence in respect of Chris Rowley, Hania Moiz, Mark Walker (PCSO), Sean Ellam, Polly Straker

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held 25/11/21 were agreed as a correct record. Copies are available online at www.hallgarthra.com

3. Previous Events

i. Kids Christmas Party

This event underspent due to the Hallgarth shop donating goods rather than accepting payment. The balance of £46.32 has been given to the chair to pay into the Association bank account. It was agreed that this money should go towards the Easter Craft Event as it was raised for the children of Hallgarth. A similar event is planned for next Christmas.

ii. Christmas Crafternoon

This event was a success and was completed with no budget thanks to the support of Karen and multiple sponsors who donated various materials. Whilst this does show what is possible, for events like this to grow and be easier for volunteers to organise in the future it is the aim of the Association to apply for grant funding to give them a budget. A similar event is planned for next Christmas.

iii. Flooding Drop In

Thanks to CCC and UU reps for attending this, unfortunately the turnout from residents was poor. It was agreed that this format of drop in is not as successful as hoped in engaging residents. This was perhaps due to the overly technical nature of the information. The next event regarding this scheme is a site visit once works are well underway to discuss how the area will be left and what the future potential is. It is hoped that more residents will engage with this as it will mean more to them when they can see what is happening.

iv. Litterpick

The format of the last litterpick as a 'litterpick and chat' event was very successful and is proposed to continue into the future. Direct contact details for litterpickers has been obtained to ensure these are easier to organise. Refreshment costs and hall hire can be covered by the RA budget. These events are essential as a first gateway to get people involved in the association.

v. Committee Meeting

The format, style and frequency is considered acceptable. Monday 7pm was agreed the preferred day and Elaine mentioned that she is willing to move her Crochet class to accommodate.

6. Treasurers Report

Spending

Apologies from Hania meant that this was presented by the Chair. Accounts were presented for the spend to date since inception and the predicted future spending assuming we are able to

attain the planned Communities Grant from CCC. Predicted future spending was also presented for the separately funded Jubilee Event and the Community Centre Replanting. These documents are included as an appendix.

It was noted that there have been no payments to the Community Centre to cover rental by the association, and that the association does not have the funds to meet its past liabilities in this regard. This is accepted by the Community Centre and the Association agreed to submit all its remaining 2021 funds to the Community Centre once the CCC grant for 2022 has come through.

Torchlight may be funded by Ragtag this year which would mean expected costs regarding this could be deployed elsewhere.

Funding

The Jubilee grant was confirmed as in the Association bank account, with the Kendal in Bloom and matched funding due imminently. We are looking for a CCC Communities Grant to cover the other Association activities for the year. The CCC grant will also look to cover the cost of a notice board, some stand up banners, and any other overheads as necessary.

The £200 grant from SLH is expected again for 2022 and will go towards any cost overruns.

Hania has indicated she no longer feels she can continue as Treasurer and Carol Conyers has volunteered to assist in this role.

7. SuDS Scheme

Ongoing discussions reported with Guy Widdowson and Stacy from Kendal Citizens Jury. Ideas of what residents would like done with 'the bog' and hill area were discussed and opinions ranged. All agreed that this area should be used to promote wildlife and biodiversity and should be an asset for residents to use. i.e. no development or change of use should be sought by the Association. It was agreed that the next step would be a wildlife survey for the area which would inform the association for any future decisions. Any work on this area would likely be undertaken by a bigger entity than the RA and we would serve as more of a pressure group to get this done in the style residents prefer.

The idea of a site visit to the ongoing works on the SuDS scheme was discussed and wildly approved as potentially being a way to engage with more residents than the drop in. This format will be pursued in future with key topics being the plan for how the site is to look when completed.

Action – Tom to organise site visit with Guy and promote via Facebook

Action – Liz to organise a wildlife survey for the area with Cumbria Wildlife Trust

8. Jubilee Event

Brief outline of ideas was proposed to the committee by Karen and Elaine which looked good. The Chair confirmed that the £1000 grant money had been received in the account as was ready to spend as needed to pre-book which would ensure we get the facilities we wanted. The process for this was discussed. The idea of them heading a Jubilee Group which met separately to the committee was discussed. The Jubilee Group highlighted that they need more volunteers to deliver their plans, so a recruitment drive done under the banner of the Residents Association would be necessary. Other topics for the RA such as easing access to funds and help with promotion were discussed. It was highlighted that any unspent funds were to be returned to National Lottery so the aim was to spend all the grant.

One early issue highlighted by the Jubilee Group was the problem of removing cars from the Community Centre car park for that day. This was agreed to be taken to SLDC and SLH. Giles started communication with Thomas Sion sion.thomas@southlakeland.gov.uk about this.

Fencing and barriers was also discussed with potential to use council stock, again Thomas Sion a potential contact for this.

A Jubilee craft day to create bunting and any other decorations needed for the event was proposed and Rachel Cadas has volunteered to run it. This will be added to the Calendar.

Action – Jubilee Group to develop plans for event, organise meetings separate to committee and book long lead items/entertainments as needed.

Action – Tom to commence recruitment drive for volunteers to support Jubilee Group

Action – Tom to ensure smooth flow of funds to Jubilee Group as needed

Action – Rachel to inform of date for Jubilee Craft Day and discuss comms requirements.

Action – Amy Hardy to assist Jubilee Group with communications requirements (design of posters/flyers etc)

9. Community Centre Gardening

£500 grant has been secured from Kendal in Bloom and is due to be paid imminently, ditto the matched £500 from the deputy leaders discretionary fund. A rough outline of expected expenditure was presented (and is included as an appendix). The 'Cut Back Day' is fully organised and set to go ahead, with the future planting days to be confirmed upon receipt of funds. It was noted that members would prefer less higher quality planters (made from sleepers) with the potential to apply for another grant next year to add more. Acquisition of planters from KTC was discussed with them potentially being modified to be more aesthetic. The need to attach planters to the wall/floor to discourage vandalism was highlighted. The gardener who had previously committed to volunteer has now found himself unable to do so. Lana aims to fall back on advice from Horticare to ensure that the correct plants and methods are used.

It was agreed that basic PPE for volunteers (gloves) should be provided and can come from the RA funds despite the fact that the grants have not arrived yet.

Action – Lana to contact KTC regarding planters

Action – Lana to put together breakdown of expected spend

Action – Lana to confirm dates for planting

10. Petition on Speeding in Front of the Playground

This was handed to Peter Thornton who agreed to take it to CCC. It was noted that the bollards which were missing have now been replaced. Whilst Francesca originally started this petition she has found herself unable to volunteer any further with the Association so some momentum on the issue has been lost, although the strength of feeling from local residents was noted. It was raised by Peter that the whole of Kendal may come under a new 20mph zone, although Hallgarth is now all 20mph already.

Action – Peter Thornton to take petition to CCC

11. Estate Land Ownership Map

The created map was presented to the attendees. Areas of unknown land were highlighted. The preference for a OS 1:1250 map was discussed. A copy of the map is included as an appendix.

Action – Rachel to ask landowner about Moorefield Close Car Parks, expected leasehold agreement

Action – Jason Mobbs to identify if highlighted areas belong to SLH and to clarify community centre land ownership

Action – Tom to investigate the purchase of OS Map Tiles

12. Litter Bins

The results of the Facebook post were put to residents and the new proposed bin locations were agreed. A map of these is included in the appendix. These are to be formally referred on to CCC by Hallgarth RA on behalf of the residents. It agreed that the use of household bins by passers by was not an acceptable solution.

Action – Tom to send updated map on to Peter Thornton and Giles Ambrose

13. Walkaround

Latest updates on issues highlighted in the walkaround were discussed. Updated issues were:

- The gate to the playground has been locked and chopped and locked again, it is currently locked but is not expected to remain in that state for long.
- The caravan and derelict cars are due to be removed imminently
- The motorbike is due to be removed imminently
- The 'sparrowmire lane spring' has been referred to SLDC Estates as it requires the use of a digger. A timescale for this is expected soon.
- The SLDC Grounds maintenance manager has been asked to open up the path from low mead to sparrowmire lane to make it more accessible.
- Peter Thornton reported that it was possible for him to remove the motorbike barriers from the access bridge to Briarigg if the RA desired
- It was discussed whether Peter should push for one part of the gate to the park to be removed to allow disabled residents access. This was agreed to be followed up at the next walkaround.
- Giles is looking at footpaths and an updated list of the priority ones in Hallgarth would be useful
- Next walkaround organised for 26th March at 2pm

Action – Tom to field opinions of residents regards removal of motorbike barriers

Action – Tom to create priority footpath map and email to Giles

Other issues to be addressed at next Walkaround

14. Kendal Youth Zone

There was much discussion about the value of a youth group for teenagers in Hallgarth and all were in agreement, although it was noted at this time the main barrier to this was the lack of volunteers. It was agreed that we were not able to support Adam starting an event here until volunteers could be found.

15. Vandalism and Arson in MUGGA

The Chair asked the attendance what the RA response should be to events like this. All were in agreement that a positive response which aims to highlight that these events are the reason we need the Association is the best public approach. It was also agreed that more police involvement would assist in discouraging them and the association should aim to collate information and pass it on confidentially to the police. Screenshots of evidence from Facebook would also be useful. It was suggested that we contact the PCC for the area as well as Sgt Suzanne Scott O'Neill to ensure it was prioritised by them.

Action – Tom to make contact with PCSO and Sgt Suzanne Scott O'Neill regarding issue

16. Streetsigns

Updates and improvements have been successful so far and further ones are planned.

17. Safer Crossing for Children Walking to School at Bottom of Sparrowmire Lane

Giles brought it to our attention that he has been contacted about this by several residents. It was agreed that this junction is not safe in it's current form and needs addressing. The RA agreed to support improvements here.

18. SLH Garages Site Management Plan

This was identified as an underutilised area during the last walkaround as SLH was asked for their management plan for it. SLH rep Jason Mobbs reported that their opinion was that it was unsuitable for residential development due to poor access and was best suited as an amenity area for residents. It was also agreed as unsuitable for allotments.

The proposed way forward was for SLH and the RA to develop 3 different proposals on how to develop this area into a green space which could be an amenity area for residents. These proposals would then be taken to residents by the RA to field opinion. With specific weight

given to those who live in the properties directly adjoining. Maintenance issues would also need addressing as part of any plan.

Action – Jason to develop proposals for development of this site with input from Tom

19. DBS Checks, Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

It was agreed that these policies should be created and adopted by the Association. It was also agreed that DBS check fees should be covered by the Association.

Action – Tom to create these policies and email around the committee for approval

20. Additional Volunteers Required

It was highlighted that with Hania stepping back as treasurer that vacancy needed to be filled. As well as more people needed to help run the association as it grown.

Carol Conyers said she was happy to act as Treasurer.

Amy Hardy agreed to take on a Comms role which will involve design of posters and compilation of the Newsletter. The write up of each event is to be undertaken by the lead for that event.

Lana Grindley agreed to manage the content in the new noticeboard once created

Action - Tom to arrange transfer of Account dual signature to Carol

Action – Amy to organise newsletter and potential for photo sharing

21. Next Committee Meeting

This will be our 1 year anniversary and AGM. It is agreed to be on held on Monday the 9th of May 2022 at 7pm

22. Any Other Business

none