**Minutes of the Pipers Area Residents Association Committee Meeting held 13.5.13 at 7.30pm**

**Venue: Croft Sports Centre**

**1.Apologies:** Cllr Mattock, Daphne Hardwick

**Present:** Cllr Watts, Cllr Bluh, PC Tim North, Claire Bouverie-Brine, Carole Bent, Kareen Boyd, Bea Menier, Colin Doubleday, Duncan Cunningham, Malathy Sitaram, Susanne [Webb](file:///C%3A%5Cwebb), Judith Randell-Sly, Linda Kasmaty

**Guest:** Mark Walker SBC localities team

**Observers:** Margaret Cooney, Lyn and Ray Saunders.

Colin began by welcoming Judith and Malathy to the committee.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting:** Kareen proposed and Colin seconded.

**3.Matters Arising:**

Colin thanked everyone for the smooth running of the AGM

**4.OTCU+**

Kareen handed out printed information outlining key learnings from the OTCU+. An updated version of this is in the attached document.

Moving forward, we have £372.11 and some pledged money towards the next event.

Mark Walker fed back on his observations of the OTCU+:

Mark came in half way through the planning, and was concerned that problems with insurance could have stopped the activities; he feels we have achieved a fantastic outcome. His concerns initially were that we didn’t have all the parts connected up, and said that if we want SCS to do some clearance work, we need to negotiate for funding, otherwise enabling works can be very expensive.

Questions were raised about how we deal with insurance next time we hold one of these events, particularly bearing in mind the fact that Newport Street is in 2 different Wards. Cllr Bluh offered to look into insurance across the borough for these activities.

**Action: Cllr Bluh to investigate insurance for community activities.**

It was felt that the event strengthened the whole community, with cubs, personnel from Soda and OTBG wanting to be involved as we move forward.

Next steps will be discussed at our next PaRa meeting, when the lists of tasks to be completed which have been amalgamated will also be considered.

Grafitti has appeared in Bath Road again; the council have to gain permission to remove it from private property which slows down the process. A recently apprehended tagger was in his mid twenties, we were encouraged to tell the police about anyone we think may be committing this crime.

We extended our thanks to Mark Walker and he left the meeting.

**5.Double Lines**

Proposals have been made to remove two and a half parking spaces from Winifred Street, reinstating the situation that prevailed several years ago.

**Action: Cllr Watts will investigate why this has been proposed.**

It was agreed that the proposals that have been made to alter some parking restrictions in the area in response to additional traffic due to Croft School should be discussed at a consultation, including school personnel.

**Action:** A date needs to be fixed for this consultation, and Cllrs will encourage representatives from WHF to participate in the consultation.

**6. Swindon Borough Council Local Plan pre-submission Draft 2026**

Those who responded to the Local Plan, received an email outlining changes to the legislation which may affect the viability of the Local Plan.

**Action:** Cllr Bluh will investigate

**7. Traffic Regulation Orders relating to Croft School**

Item 5 is a part of this overall matter. Kareen is working with SBC Officers to ensure that formal consultations are held and notified to all residents in the area. This was discussed in more detailed in the committee section of our meeting and a plan will be published in advance of our next meeting.

**8. Police Update**

PC North said it was becoming increasingly difficult to catch those defacing areas with graffiti. He reported a night time burglary in Avenue Road, while the residents were in bed asleep, they had left a window unsecured. There has been a spate of break ins affecting sheds and garages in Wichelstowe, someone has been arrested. There are problems with the Park ands Ride, people have been turning right where they shouldn’t be doing so, and causing accidents. When police observed the situation, they found 29 offenders.

**Forthcoming events:**

Old Town Festival 15th June

Solstice 21st June

Armed Forces Day on Lawns 29th June, and Dragon Racing at Coate.

Concern was expressed over speeding vehicles on Marlborough lane and Hesketh Crescent.

**AOB**

**Signage for Croft**: We were shown 2 alternative ideas for signage. Carole liked white and grey, but wanted to take the examples away and work on them.

**Mela:** Cllrs Bluh and Watts said they didn’t know much about why the permitted numbers for the event in the Old Town Gardens this year have been downgraded from 10000 to 5000 making the event almost impossible to run at a profit, and therefore cancelled by the organisers. There has been an issue about numbers for 3 years with worries that if there was an explosion of one of the gas cylinders for example, how would the Old Town Gardens be evacuated?

Everyone present hoped that the Mela could be reinstated because it is good for businesses in Old Town and residents of Swindon thoroughly enjoy it.

**Planning:** The owner of 30, Evelyn Street is appealing against the refusal to build a detached habitable building in the garden. If he wins the appeal, not only will 2 parking spaces be lost, but a precedent will be set for building in gardens irrespective of the pressure already on an area.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 10th of June.