**Minutes of the Pipers Area Residents Association Meeting held 10.3.14 at 7.30pm in the Wheatsheaf, Newport Street.**

**1.Apologies**: Daphne Hardwick, Judith Randell-Sly, Susanne Webb, Tracy Scott

**Present**: Chris Hawkins, Carole Bent, Cllr Mattock, Duncan Cunningham, Colin Doubleday, Cllr Bluh, Cllr Watts, Kareen Boyd, Claire bouverie-Brine, Bea Menier, Linda Kasmaty

**Guest**: Jane Milner-Barry

**2.Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Proposed by Colin, seconded by Chris

**3.Matters Arising:** WHF representatives were invited, on the 12.2.14, to our AGM on 17th of May, they have not replied. A letter appeared on the WHF website on 25.2.14, stating that parents were against opening to all years in 2015.

**4.Police Update**

Night time economy area related crimes- there has been an increase in the number of wallets, purses and phones stolen, the majority taken in the evenings with Longs, Suji and Baker Street

are favoured pubs for thefts. On the evening of 8th/9th of March, wing mirrors were kicked off several vehicles. There have been several burglaries in the Lawn area, thieves entering via the rear of houses. On the 14th of February, a gang from London were apprehended entering the rear of the One Stop shop off Windsor Road. Also on the 14th of February, a drug dealer based around the Lakes was caught. In SMR on the 4th of March, a catalytic converter was stolen form a Tucson

**5.Councillors Update**

Cllr Mattock said registering for a green bin should take place by 14.3.14, ring 445501 not website. Other people to talk to are George Walker about refuse and recycling on 464774; Bob Core for ground and st on 464551; James Benzo for cemeteries and crematoria on 822259.

Judith raised water penetration along knoll Wall which is being investigated. Revisions to Thamesdown bus services, views sought by the 21/3/14.

Cllr Bluh asked how asking residents with graffiti on their properties to sign disclaimers was coming on. Linda admitted she had not yet approached the relevant residents.

Cllr Watts will be doing a walk around Old Town looking at redundant street signage, Carole agreed to join them in the next couple of weeks.

Commonweal 6th form is on track, daffs looking good, photos of them appear on the website.

Barclays Bank on High Street looked shabby and after encouragement from Carole, the management have agreed to spend £15000 on painting the outside of the building.

**7.Croft Lease**

PaRa sent in a reply to the consultation before the 4.3.14 deadline, but noted the form the council supplied was too vague and difficult to fill in. The councillors were asked to give their views on the leases. Cllr Bluh has asked questions because he has concerns re understanding the proposed lease.

Cllr Mattock said the bids have not been evaluated yet, but residents will be consulted.

Cllr Watts has concerns about the 99 year lease, she thinks the unadopted section of Marlborough Lane should not be included in the lease along with the Croft playing fields.

**Action:** Cllr Watts to find out why the adopted part of Marlborough Lane is also on the map of the area to be leased around the Croft Sports Cente.

The Oasis is now being run by Moirai, if they go bankrupt, it is thought Santader will have the lease.

**Action:** Someone will find out about this.(?)

The Secretary of State has started a 6 week consultation on the Croft and Dorcan playing fields which last until the 15th of April.

The following 2 statements were shown to the councillors:

Pipers Area Residents Association   10/3/2014

Our objective.

I would like to ask tonight each of the ward councillors to add their names to a cross party statement. I hope the two parts of this statement will become the centre of cross party agreement.

A- we support the spirit and purpose of the original gift of Croft playing fields to the local community for the enjoyment and benefit of the community. As such we request that this council administration and all future administrations defend against any permission to build or develop on this site and to include in any lease or management agreement clauses that actively mitigate against any future built development of this site or any attempt to control open usage. We will fight to protect this land for the community.

B- Marlborough Lane is used by 12 direct stakeholders on a daily basis (7 homes and 5 businesses) and a wide range of local community on a regular basis. The need of these stakeholders is equal, historical and unavoidable, hence as such it is unusual and unnatural to pass control to one stakeholder in primacy through the actions of a lease, management agreement or other mechanism.
We request that the council continues to manage and control the unadopted section of Marlborough Lane directly working in the balanced and equal interests of all stakeholders**.**

**Action:** Cllrs will consider the 2 statements and let Colin know whether they can support them.

The playing fields consultation needs to be investigated, it will be on the council’s website until April 15th and is linked to the leisure centre contracts at the moment which means their future use is uncertain after 3 years.

**8.Mitigation**

Claire Cornelius and Bernie Brannan have asked for a response on what mitigations are needed. This item will be on the agenda for the next meeting when we will also discuss the wording for the sign on Marlborough Lane.

**9.Update from Schools Adjudicator**

Ms Passmore the schools adjudicator, explained the process for opening a school ahead of the time to Kareen. When the planning permission was granted to build the school, it was specified that it would not be open to all years until 2018, any variance from that must be agreed with SBC because the responsibility for Croft School lies with SBC, they must sanction any changes to the agreed planning permission. If Croft School wanted to open ahead of schedule, they would need extra funding, and would have to apply for it.

**Action:** Kareen will update Linda who will send information to the committee.

**11.TPOs down Marlborough Lane**

Adrian Downing has expressed concern about the future of these trees because they form part of a bat foraging route

 They have been excluded from surveys, PaRa would like to apply for TPOs on them and include the large sycamore tree at the entrance to Croft car park on the opposite side of the road.

**Action:** Cllrs Mattock to investigate getting TPOs on the trees.

**AOB**

Street lamp at the end of the unadopted section of Marlborough Lane nor reinstated yet.

**Action:** Cllr Watts will investigate.

There is a meeting at STEAM about the Local Plan.

The bridge at Mill Lane is the boundary for a change in speed from 50mph to 20mph

**Action:** Cllr Mattock will discuss this with people in Wroughton.

**Action:** Cllr Mattock to ascertain area of 20mph in Wichelstowe and to ask traffic dept for revised estimates of travel time to J16 on the M4 when that piece of road is finished.

AGM 17.5.14 Cllr Bluh sends his apologies.

Spring clean 11.5.14

Big Lunch- we may be doing something end of June, beginning of July.

**Date of next meeting:** 14th April at 7.30pm in the Wheatsheaf