**Minutes of the PaRa Committee Meeting held 9.12.13 at 7.30pm at Croft Sports Centre**

1. **Apologies**: Duncan Cunningham, PC Tim North, Cllr Bluh, Cllr Mattock, Judith Randell-Sly, Chris Hawkins, Daphne Hardwick

**Present**: Carole Bent, Kareen Boyd, Malathy Sitaram, Bea Menier, Cllr Watts, Colin Doubleday, Claire Bouverie-Brine, Susanne Webb, Linda Kasmaty

1. **Matters arising**:

The taxed pick-up truck that has been parked for some months in the Marlborough Lane lay by is insured.

We are in receipt of the current information regarding the Croft lease.

The Corn Exchange plans passed their first stage of planning on 12.11.13.

Green waste and recycling changes were announced on 11.12.13

PaRa committee members have contacted WHF regarding information about crossing Marlborough Road which suggests a residents association is asking for a lollipop person.

Cllr Watts still following up street light on the unadopted section of Marlborough Lane.

Cllr Watts reported that the leaves on the steps between Signal Way and Newport Street were removed on November 11th.

We may be able to meet in the Wheatsheaf from February 2014.

Tracy Scott has been invited to attend the February 2014 meeting.

Cllr Bluh to feed back about zoning and other actions soon; he has been unwell.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting** were proposed by Colin Doubleday and seconded by Susanne Webb.
2. **Police Update**

A cannabis factory was found in Hesketh Crescent; still getting shed/garage burglaries with bikes being the main target. The brothel in Dewell Mews reopened 2 days after the raid so was raided again with 2 females being removed- the landlord has changed the locks and let the premises to someone he knows. PC Tim North was not sure about the latest on the ‘shed man’, but Frances Maples at the council is dealing with it. Tim will look at the quiz night log and see what happened in response to our phone call from the Community Centre@ Christ Church.

1. **Councillor’s Update**

Cllr Watts reported that the East Wichel road currently closed for building the Waitrose store will be open over Christmas.

4,500+ people responded to the Green Waste collection survey.

Commonweal School have started building their 6th form.

They have a Carol Concert at Christ Church on the 16th of December starting at 7pm.

The ‘man in the shed’ is being dealt with by Highways, Locality and Housing teams.

1. **Croft**

**The access consultation update**

This has been affected by the Croft School’s proposals to open the school to all year groups from 2015, instead of phasing entry over 7 years in order that the impact of the extra traffic generated by the school could be monitored, and mitigations put in place on an annual basis. The monitoring does not appear to be happening.

Bernie Brannan, Board Director, Service Delivery is going to be responsible for a holistic overview of traffic in the surrounding area.

**Action:** Colin to ask Gavin Jones about the timescale for this holistic overview.

Already 58% of children instead of the projected 33% arrive at the school by car.

To what extent can the council influence the speed with which the school opens?

**Action:** Kareen to contact Robert Buckland and Ann Snelgrove asking them to support opposition to school opening to all years in 2015.

The consultation being carried out by Croft School runs until the end of January, but local residents have not been informed about the consultation.

At our next meeting on 13.1.14, officer attendees are planned as Bernie Brannan - Board Director, Service Delivery, Rob Richards – Head of Property Assets and Sue Mendham.

Cllr Williams as the Cabinet Member for Leisure will also be invited.

**Noise attenuation fence**

Reports on this requested, the noise is deemed OK by the council member responsible.

**School feedback re misrepresentation of PaRa**

There has not been any.

**Action:** Colin to email WHF and ask them to remove references to the residents association.

**Marlborough Lane ‘Squatters’ and Scrap Vehicles**

Cllr Watts has been actively involved in finding a way of moving the man living in a shed in the Marlborough Lane lay by from the site. The newly created 2 lay bys currently are not available to residents in the way that they should be, and the situation is being dealt with.

**Croft Lease**

Concern was expressed about possible new and additional uses of Croft Sports Centre in order to make increase profits for the leasee. Hence the affects any such uses may have on residents.

**Action:** Committee members to read the lease and email Colin with concerns.

Adoption of the unadopted section of Marlborough Lane was not considered a good idea, due to indications from SBC that this would mean a significant change to the current environment, including significant alterations to the current treeline.

1. **Quiz finances and feedback**

The quiz was a tremendous success and thanks to Kareen for organising it so well and to all the other people who helped make it such a success.

The profit was £831-43, and expenses £600.

Our balance including Spring Clean money is £2696-73.

A Barn Dance was suggested as a future event.

1. **Sue Wald from SBC talked about Children’s Centres**

The Children’s Society runs Croft Children’s Centre, but because the council now have reduced funding, the Children’s Centre don’t want to use the buildings 5 days a week. The building has to be used for services for families, particularly children up to 5years of age. The building is funded by the department for education.

Sue Wald mentioned the following uses for the building:

A provider is being sought to run a government funded scheme for 20 vulnerable 2 year olds for ¾ days per week.

The Croft playgroup will continue.

Health visitors, speech and language therapists will be based there.

It is not anticipated that the lease for the Children’s Centre will change.

**AOB**

John O’Flynn developments will shut Newport Street for a week at the end of Feb 2014.

11th of May was suggested as a Spring Planting Event.

Bea and Susanne attended the Eastcott Community Event and were impressed with their litter collections and playgroups.

**Date of next Meeting: 13th January 2014 at Croft Sports Centre 7.30pm**