**Minutes of the PaRa Committee Meeting held 11.11.13 at 7.30pm at Croft Sports Centre**

1. **Apologies:** Daphne Hardwick, Malathy Sitaram, Bea Menier, Judith Randell-Sly, Brian Mattock, PC Tim North

**Present:** Carole Bent, Kareen Boyd, Cllr Watts, Cllr Bluh, Colin Double day, Duncan Cunningham, Claire Bouverie-Brine, Chris Hawkins, Susanne Webb, Linda Kasmaty

1. **Minutes of Last meeting** were agreed by Carole Bent and seconded by Susanne Webb.
2. **Matters arising**

The issue of the taxed pick -up truck which was parked in a lay by on Marlborough Lane several months ago was discussed, Tim North was going to find out if it is insured, but was not present. The point was made that whatever parking restrictions are brought in to prevent this sort of blocking of parking spaces, it would be good if neighbours could still use the parking space.

We would like input into the Croft Sports Centre lease, Sue Wald will attend the next meeting to discuss this.

**Action:** Cllr Bluh will check if there is anything in existence already.

Cllr Watts asked if everyone had received the link re the secondary school place consultation, she agreed to resend it because Linda had not forwarded it.

There was a meeting on 12.11.13 at East Wichelstow Community Centre re secondary school places.

1. **Police Update**

In the absence of PC North there was an item mentioned on 3 stolen helmets thrown over the fence into a garden in St. Margaret’s Road, and a stolen bicycle found in the alleyway at the rear of Winifred St.

Also someone has been knocking on doors in Sandown Avenue asking for money.

1. **Councillor’s Update**

Cllr Watts and Bluh will be attending the planning meeting about the Corn Exchange and hope it passes its first stage.

Cllr Bluh concerned about graffiti, identifying tags and finding culprits important.

Cllr Watts told us there will be a play area update on 11.12.13 at 3-4.30pm.

Cllr Bluh was reminded about the signage still being in place for construction traffic.

Action: Cllr Bluh will ask for signs to be removed.

During a discussion about parking at Lakeside, it emerged there are apparently a vocal group of people who don’t want restricted parking. A survey conducted several years ago had not revealed this. We are hoping for a holistic survey of the area so that the burden of parking can be shared.

1. **Community Energy**

We have the option of buying energy collectively through the council, see website for details if interested.

1. **Green Waste and Recycling**

Changes are being proposed to save money on orange box recycling, instead of weekly collections it is being proposed we have fortnightly ones. There is no limit on the number of orange boxes households can have, but they are a problem to store.

All houses have wheelie bins except those streets where the lorry coming to empty them couldn’t physically get down the street; they have blue bags. It was acknowledged that wheelie bins are an unsightly addition to front gardens.

The green waste proposals are controversial with most residents. It is proposed that residents buy a green bin for £35 and fill it with green waste and pay £35 per annum to have it emptied fortnightly. With the present system there is a real problem with green bags because they have to be emptied by council workers, a very unpleasant task because of the uncertain nature of the contents of the bags.

There will be a link to the green waste consultation on the PaRa website: [www.pipersarea.co.uk](http://www.pipersarea.co.uk) with a closing date of January 2014.

1. **Corn Exchange Planning Meeting** 12.11.13
2. **Developments off Newport Street**

The commercial part of Old Town is classified as town centre, zone 1, so any developments are not deemed to need car parking facilities because the public transport is so good that they don’t need cars. The concern is that the new development off Newport Street does not need the usual parking places required with planning, this could lead to much overspill parking in St. Margaret’s Road and Winifred Street. The situation regarding the new construction site is that there are 19 bedrooms and 12 parking spaces.

**Action:** Cllr Bluh to find out about zoning

**Action:** Cllr Bluh to find out about uneven pavement.

**Action:** Cllr Watts to apply to Streetsmart for hours to sweep up leaves on steps to Signal Approach.

1. **Croft lease**

Already discussed.

1. **Wichelstowe plans for middle and west.**

Concern was expressed about whether a secondary school will be built on the Wichelstowe site; it was made clear that the committee do not want a secondary school on the Croft Sports field.

**Action:** Cllr Bluh to check that a secondary school will be built at Wichelstowe.

1. **Update on Traffic Mitigation Consultations**

Two members of the committee have met with Claire Cornelius and Mohamed on Friday 8th of November, and more work needs to be done. The Croft car park is full at school pick up time, 58% of children arrive by car; 33% were estimated, and there are 92 children attending the school out of a maximum of 120 because there are 2 years groups there now. At maximum capacity there will be 25 members of staff at the school, plus the football hub is bringing in more traffic, particularly from football students on mopeds and in cars. There may be 252 cars coming into the car park when the school is operating with all years.

Action: Cllr Bluh and Cllr Watts will contact Bernie Brannan to arrange a meeting with themselves and Carole and Kareen.

Mention was made of the Croft School’s website where a residents’ association is asking for a ‘lollipop’ person to help cross Marlborough Road. It is not PaRa.

1. **Quiz Update.**

Kareen is organising everything, now has a licence and will be getting indemnity insurance. There will be 8 rounds, 10 good prizes, a raffle with different colour tickets.

At 6.30pm helpers are asked to arrive, people volunteered for jobs and will receive instructions soon.

1. **Noise Attenuation at Croft School**

Someone has described this as ‘fine’, it is not, Kareen will follow it up.

1. **Hesketh Play Area**

 Meeting to be held 11.12.13 3-4.30pm not sure where??

1. **Mela Parking Passes**

Not everyone got parking passes, they will do in future.

1. **Newsletter items**

Colin will rewrite the introduction about the extent of the area.

Suggested articles:

* Autumn tidy up and photos
* Corn Exchange latest news
* Community Centre info and photos
* Church service times
* Green waste consultation and link
* Appeal to get involved from residents

Articles to Linda by 18.11.13 please.

1500 newsletters will be printed.

1. **Street Light Missing in Marlborough Lane**

The street light outside the old test centre on the unadopted section of Marlborough Lane was not replaced when the 4new houses were built making the area very dark.

**Action:** Cllr Watts will investigate.

1. **Default settings on Pipers Way traffic lights**

They are red in all directions and only turn to green when a car stops at the lights.

1. **New Lane Lay out outside Meca**

Two lanes used to go round to the right, this is now reduced to one as one drives round before becoming two.

**Action:** Cllr Bluh will find out why.

1. **Planter in St. Margaret’s Road**

Enterprise Works could be contacted, or O’Flynn’s who might fund one.

**Action:** Colin to contact O’Flynn’s.

**AOB**

We agreed we will invite Tracey Scott to come and talk as Localities Lead in January 2014.

From February we think we are meeting in the Wheatsheaf.

**Action:** Colin will talk to the Wheatsheaf publicans to ensure they are happy for us to meet in there from February 2014.

**Date of next meeting:**

Monday 9th December 7.30pm Croft Sports Centre