

MINUTES

of
11th GENERAL MEETING

Date of meeting: Monday 27 March 2017
Start time: 6:30pm
Venue: Mauretania Room, YMCA, Whetstone Lane

Members present: Tom Allport; Philip Barton (Honorary Chair) **[PB]**; Jim Cadwallader **[JC]**; Cllr Pat Cleary **[PC]**; Richard Fassam **[RF]**; Jane Rivington **[JR]**; Greg Vogiatzis (Honorary Secretary) **[GV]**

Non-members present: Xinxin Cao (*The University of Liverpool*)

Apologies: Stephen Hayes; John Davies

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
1	Welcome and apologies	Due to a room booking error by YMCA staff, the meeting had to be moved from its advertised location to the Mauretania Room. PB opened the meeting at 6:35pm and confirmed that it was quorate. The number of people eligible to vote was 7 .	Item discharged	
2	Minutes of 10 th general meeting (accuracy)	It was agreed unanimously that the minutes are an accurate record of the meeting.	Item discharged	
3	Matters arising (not already on the agenda)	None notified to the chair.	Item discharged	
4	Membership update	PB stated that there had been no change to the membership. The total number of members is 46 . 30 hold an enhanced membership and 16 a standard membership.	Item discharged	

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
5	Financial update	<p><u>Expenditure since 9 January 2017:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £97.20 paid to <i>YMCA Wirral</i> for room hire; <p><u>Income:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil <p><u>Balance as of 9 January 2016:</u></p> <p>£1246.68</p> <p>Donations to the Forum may be made by electronic bank transfer to:</p> <p>Name of Bank: <i>Yorkshire Bank</i> Account number: 44233053 Sort Code: 05-02-45</p>	Item discharged	
6	History & Heritage Workgroup update (workgroup 1)	<p>JC reported that the issue of ownership of Tranmere Tunnels has now been resolved. Whereas the Council owns the land in front of the entrances, the tunnels themselves are owned by the <i>Department for Communities and Local Government</i> (DCLG). Negotiations with DCLG's agent to secure access and, in the future, transfer of ownership have commenced.</p>	JC	Ongoing
7	Planning Applications Workgroup update (workgroup 2)	<p>PB informed members that workgroup 2 had submitted 1 new consultation response:</p> <p><i>7.1 APP/17/00126</i> <i>Conversion of dwelling into four self-contained flats and construction of rear dormer window.</i> 50a The Woodlands, Tranmere. CH41 2SJ</p> <p>The Forum OBJECTED to the proposal.</p> <p>A decision is due by 25 April 2017.</p>	Item discharged	

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
7	Planning Applications Workgroup update (workgroup 2) <i>[continued]</i>	<p>Other applications decided since the last meeting were:</p> <p><i>7.2 APP/16/01492 and ADV/16/01493</i> <i>Change of use of first floor to classroom and offices/adverts.</i> 371-375 Borough Road, Birkenhead. CH42 0HA</p> <p>The Forum SUPPORTED the proposals.</p> <p>Planning permission and advertising consent were GRANTED.</p> <p><i>7.3 APP/16/01476</i> <i>Conversion of a former Presbyterian church and attached church hall (D1) into 11 no. residential apartments (C3) and gymnasium.</i> Hillside Christian Fellowship Church, 61 Willmer Road, Tranmere. CH42 OJB</p> <p>The Forum OBJECTED to the proposal.</p> <p>A decision was due by 9 March 2017.</p> <p>No decision has yet been made</p>		
8	Community Issues Workgroup update (workgroup 3)	<p>GV gave an update of the activity of workgroup 3:</p> <p><i>8.1 Raffles Road site</i> Further investigations into the viability of the site for use as community allotments had been undertaken with the help of representatives of the <i>Church Road Allotments Association</i> and <i>Wirral Allotment Society</i>. The plot is considered to be too small to be economically viable, the soil may be contaminated and the boundary wall is in a poor state of repair,</p>	Item discharged	

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
8	Community Issues Workgroup update (workgroup 3) <i>[continued]</i>	<p>which would be costly to remediate. The Management Committee had therefore decided not to recommend the purchase of the site to members. The owner of the site has been informed.</p> <p><u>8.2 Community-led Housing Early Stages Support Fund</u> GV informed members that there is a budget of £2,250 available for this stage of the project, rising to £250,000 in the final stage. The steering group will agree a timeline and project plan.</p> <p>GV has secured other volunteer support, including a bid writer, youth housing worker, young people's worker, a children's worker and a solar engineer. Expertise within the adult homeless person's field is also being sought.</p> <p>Discussion continues about what the best form of corporate structure would be. At present the option of a Community Benefit Society, with an associated Community Land Trust, is preferred but no decision has been made yet.</p> <p>GV attended an event at the Welsh Streets in Liverpool (PB could not get there due to delays caused by a broken lift at James Street station). JR and GV will be attending an Open Day at <i>Canopy</i> in Leeds. PB cannot attend because the premises are not wheelchair accessible.</p> <p>A meeting is due to be held with Councillor George Davies (Cabinet Member – Housing and Community Safety and Deputy Leader of the Council) on Friday 7 April.</p>	PB, JR, GV	Ongoing

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
8	Community Issues Workgroup update (workgroup 3) <i>!continued!</i>	<p><i>8.3 Retake The Lauries</i> The Council failed to respond to our stage 1 complaint. A letter of complaint was sent to the <i>Local Government Ombudsman</i>, which subsequently wrote to the Council requesting that it investigate the complaint. To date there continues to be no response from the Council.</p> <p>UPDATE: The Council has now set a deadline of 24 April 2017 for a response to the stage 1 complaint.</p>	PB	Ongoing
9	Hamilton Square Conservation Area	<p>PB informed members that the pair of Grade II listed K6 telephone kiosks at the junction of Duncan Street with Hamilton Street had been threatened with removal by <i>British Telecom</i> as the result of an agreement with a developer.</p> <p>PB and PC intervened with the Local Planning Authority and secured agreement that they would instead be moved to the junction of Price Street with Argyle Street, where they would replace a pair of modern kiosks (which had themselves replaced an identical pair of K6 kiosks). PB opined that this is a good result because the proposed development at Duncan Street would proceed and a heritage benefit would be achieved by replacing the modern kiosks.</p>	PB, JC, RF	Ongoing
10	VOTE	<p>Resolution: <i>To authorise the Management Committee to purchase a plot of land to the rear of Raffles Road for £3000</i></p> <p>Minute 8.1 above refers.</p> <p>SUPPORT: 0 REJECT: 7</p> <p>Resolution rejected unanimously.</p>	Item discharged	

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
11	Community consultation update	<p>Our consultant, Carol Latham, is finalising her report. The Management Committee will then authorise its publication.</p> <p>A second stage of consultation will commence soon, with the assistance of DCLG-appointed consultants, <i>AECOM</i>, and <i>Planning Aid England</i>.</p> <p>UPDATE: The report has now been published and is available to view and download at:</p> <p>batnpf.org/documents</p> <p>Members without access to the Internet and who require a printed copy should call PB on 666 2938 to request one.</p>	Management Committee	7 Apr 2017
12	Any other business	GV informed members about a potentially unlawful waste transfer station operating from a residential property in Elm Grove. PC agreed to assist.	PC, GV	
13	Date of next meeting	<p>The 12th General Meeting of the <i>Birkenhead & Tranmere Neighbourhood Planning Forum</i> will take place in a venue to be announced (possibly the <i>Wirral Deen Centre</i> in Borough Road) from 6:30pm on Monday 26 June 2017.</p> <p>Proceedings were closed at 7:45pm</p>	All members	26 Jun 2017

END