

Furzehill Residents Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 8th February 2020 at the Holt Village Hall.

Meeting Commenced at 7:30 pm

Committee Attendees:-

Nigel Allman (NA) (secretary), John Cardwell (JC), Geoff Chopping (GC), Andy Hine (AH) (AGM Chairperson), Stefan Morawiec (SM), Ann Wilson-Croome (AWC), Jonathan Wilson-Croome (JWC)(treasurer)

Apologies:-

Mike Bysh

Members attending: - 42

AH welcomed everyone to the AGM as the meeting chairperson as he is no longer the FRA Chairperson. Each committee member introduced themselves. Thanks went out for the efforts by Mathew Merritt, Rob Bowley and Keith Baker, all of whom had resigned from the committee in the past year. Particular thanks and applause went to Keith Baker who had served as FRA secretary since its inception some six years ago.

AH reminded everyone, consistent with the agreement at the last AGM, we had now changed the AGM date to February and the financial year now runs from 1st January to the 31st December commencing 2020.

AH also stated that the committee needed a new Chairperson and additional committee members were sought. (Anyone considering wanting to join, please contact a committee member or via the new FRA website)

Treasurer's Report

JWC stated that the current FRA bank balance funds stood at £957 (as of 8/2/2020 after paying for the night's AGM costs). Details of the last financial year can be seen on the FRA website.

JWC commented that there were fewer household contributing subscriptions to the FRA from a high of 112 down to last year at 47. Despite efforts, e.g. bank transfers to ease the method of payment, it was becoming increasingly more difficult to collect subscriptions. This, coupled with the lowering of attendances to FRA organised events, put in question the benefit of collecting future subscriptions and as an alternative we should now consider charging more for future events and make them self-funding?

Update on planned redevelopment of EDDC offices site and funding for traffic calming

JC stated that despite efforts to contact the new Dorset Council employees on an update there appeared to be no idea on their part as to status of progress regarding the site. JC is still awaiting a response on the subject from the Dorset Council Leader, Spencer Flowers.

JC recounted that the past delays were attributed to achieving ratification by the new Dorset Council on the preferred bidder, Penny Farthing (PF). Resolution of land ownership, because of probate, was now near completion and according to a reliable source within Penny Farthing, planning for the site would be submitted for permission around the Easter period this year.

Once PF planning has been submitted and made available for public viewing, we, FRA, would be in a position to raise any applicable objections etc. This would also enable the Traffic Calming sub-committee to start preparation to seek funding for traffic calming in Furzehill. (NB, any traffic calming has to be Designed, Approved and Implemented by the Highways Authority, which in our case would be Dorset Council, but anyone can pay for it!)

Meanwhile, we the residents can do something at least to re-enforce the current speed limits in our district. JWC wheeled out a demonstration wheelie bin displaying the two sizes of 30 MPH sign that can be purchased and stuck on the sides of our bins where appropriate. FRA understands that there are neither restrictions in using said stickers on wheelie bins nor any restrictions on displaying them in public where appropriate. Those wishing to purchase stickers should contact JWC. (See below:-

Contacting the FRA)

Please note once purchased through the FRA, then FRA holds no further liability for the stickers and owners use them at their own risk.

Woodleaze Copse

JC reported that a working party, "The Furzehill Fusiliers", meets winter and spring under the supervision of the Woodland Trust to remove non-indigenous species in the Copse. Those wishing to help at the next meeting, then this is planned for Thursday March 26th at 10am to 12:30pm.

Plans for future social Events

AWC announced that currently the next planned social event is on Sunday 21st June (Summer Solstice and Fathers' Day) and shall be an organised walk followed by a barbeque. Details to be announced.

AWC commented that recent events, Quiz night last November and the New Year's Day Brunch and Walk both suffered from declining numbers attending, despite efforts to get numbers up. It was particularly disappointing to the organisers of these events which do require a lot of effort. Lack of response or very late replies on the numbers intending to attend our events also causes catering issues.

Additionally venue costs were going up; Holt Village Hall evening cost had doubled in the last five years from £25 in 2015 to £50 in 2020

It was noted that only 47% of the emails sent out about the quiz night were opened.

AWC asked for feedback:

What are we doing wrong?

Any suggestions for future social events?

Would you still come if only tea / coffee provided at social events, so: bring your own food / snacks / drink?

(See below:- **Contacting the FRA** for your feedback)

SM stated that, now the new FRA website was up and running, he would no longer request responses on FRA events via Facebook which in future is only going to be used for announcing activities pertaining to our area.

Regarding an FRA Newsletter SM requested input from residents to contribute if they wanted such a publication.

JWC added that information regarding topics of interest can be submitted to the FRA website and would be displayed under notices.

Neighbourhood Planning

(See appendix A on more information about Neighbourhood Planning)

GC outlined that in the last year 2019, 13 extra dwellings in Furzehill have been granted or deemed lawful. Some of these are as a result of a change in the law, which makes it easier for barn and cattle-sheds to become dwellings. Comparing this with the historical average of one new dwelling a year, implies that something is changing in our small area, even if the 35 dwellings on the Woodleaze site are considered a one-off, as it is a brown-field site. Even if the proposed 45 dwellings behind the Stock's Inn by High Hall Estate and the 200 dwellings at Jades Farm by WH White behind the houses opposite The Furzehill Store and Post Office are not built, then there is still likely to be a growth of about a third in our area - from c150 to c200. The new Dorset Council has issued a "Call for Sites" from owners who wish their land to be considered for development, and it is possible that the 45 and 200 will reappear, hence at risk in future.

Already three areas in Dorset have submitted neighbourhood plans for a referendum (Bridport, Sutton Poyntz (Near Weymouth) and Upper Marshwood Vale (near Devon)

SM stated Wimborne Town Council and Colehill Parish Council are considering their own neighbourhood plans. Holt not immediately – Richard Lonsdale. (Holt Parish Councilor). It is anticipated that Wimborne Council will go alone on their Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood plans require a tremendous amount of effort (usually over a number of years).

GC stated that joining a plan for a larger area may risk being outnumbered in a referendum, and requested that we seek feedback on which approach to take i.e. go alone, do nothing and wait. (See below:- **Contacting the FRA** for your feedback)

SM stated that as a Colehill Parish Councilor there were existing vacancies for councilors that would have a beneficial influence over a neighbourhood plan for Furzehill (and Holt?). If we were to go ahead with Colehill having a plan then that would help to shape the future of Furzehill.

SM asked how much extra work residents would be prepared to put in to get involved. Again feedback from the residents would be welcome.
(See below:- **Contacting the FRA** for your feedback)

SM highlighted the affordability of houses in our area could be a bar to attracting new-comers if we don't address how we wish to see Furzehill in the future.

The good news is that we have two FRA residents, Richard Lonsdale on the Holt

Parish Council and Stefan Morawiec on the Colehill Parish Council.

SM stated that Colehill Parish Council is meeting next week to take things further to discuss going alone with a plan to be in place by 2023. SM emphasised that if FRA are vocal in contribution to this plan, then it would be very unlikely that we would be ignored.

Woodleaze Footpath

GC stated that as of last year we were 20th on the list before consideration /approval by the council of a footpath right-of-way from Furzehill Wood through the Woodleaze site and Woodleaze Copse. Based on current estimates this could take 20 years to resolve/register hence any planning application by a developer would incorporate an agreeable change to the route in order to avoid complications with house buyers in the future.

GC displayed a map of the projected footpath and its links to other footpaths.

Website and Facebook Update

JWC was congratulated on his creation of a new FRA website.

Residents should contact JWC if they want a notice added, have ideas they would like incorporated, or have photos or artwork of the local area. It would be helpful that the booking and contact forms on the site are used for communications.

JWC does not intend to be proactive in finding current or future information to keep the site topical. Rather, he will rely on people feeding him with the information they would like disseminated through the site.

There was then a break for supper

JWC pointed to the useful Wessex mapping facility on the FRA website and the requested ideas for putting on house names in the district.

He asked for thoughts on whether we should allow local business advertising and again reiterated the need for residents feedback on the neighbourhood plan via the website so we could create a running total of suggestions on this topic.

(See below:- **Contacting the FRA** for your feedback)

Confirmation of FRA committee Members for the year ahead

AH re-emphasised the need for more committee members if we are to continue as a viable organisation.

Open Session

a. Subscriptions

AH asked the residents present to consider the idea of suspending Annual FRA subscriptions until such time the committee requires more funding. Following a general discussion on FRA project funding, in particular the Phone Box and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) (see below), the Motion was carried.

However, it was agreed that residents would be welcome to make voluntary contributions. JWC to include that option on the website.

b. Phone box refurbishment.

AWC stated that this would hopefully be covered by Penny Farthing if they go ahead with the Woodleaze development.

c. AED

SM and JWC pointed out that the idea of installing a defibrillator (AED) in the phone box had been discussed thoroughly at the AGM two years ago before being rejected on the basis that generally accepted figures indicate that it would be used successfully less than once per 100 years. JWC outlined the rationale, which is attached as an Appendix B to these minutes. SM reinforced this with his experience as manager of a large GP practice in Basingstoke, close to the railway and bus stations. In eight years, the AED was not used at all, let alone successfully.

Successful resuscitation from cardiac arrest with an AED requires confidence and competence with Basic Life Support (BLS), including Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). These have great value in their own right and are more widely applicable, not least for those whose cardiac arrest is not due to ventricular fibrillation. The training is interesting and enjoyable as a group enterprise.

It was decided to shelve the AED idea for the time-being, but to canvas interest (via email and website) for group BLS training. If there is sufficient interest, JWC will investigate the costs and options available. Paul (Charlie) Charlwood, previously a BLS examiner with the Fire Service, generously offered his assistance with training. (See below:- **Contacting the FRA** if you are interested in BLS training)

d. Events

Vote on Fete or Party events. Party events favoured. Charley Hampshire and Nicki Healey both expressed a desire to be re-involved in social events such as parties.

Still a liking expressed for quiz nights.

A request for talks, outside visits and similar social events was raised. As with most topics of this type, learnt by experience, it raises interest but it requires organisation and commitment to be successful and lasting. Any volunteers?

Informal gathering of FRA residents can be found on most Friday nights at the Stocks Inn.

In conclusion, on behalf of the committee, AH thanked those who attended the evening's meeting and in particular thanked and congratulated Celia and Caroline for successfully providing the evening's supper.

Meeting closed at 10:15pm

Contacting the FRA

Those FRA resident members wishing to make known their opinions or thoughts on the main questions asked in the evening's proceedings please contact the FRA website (furzehillresidents.co.uk/contact) using the contact form. Use one of the following headings from the drop-down box. If you have more than one heading under which to make comment(s), please use a separate contact form. This will enable easier sorting:

Social

What are we doing wrong?

Any suggestions for future social events?

Would you still come if only tea / coffee provided at social events, so: bring your own food / snacks / drink?

Neighbourhood Plan

go alone?,

do nothing and wait?

Be part of the Colehill Parish plan?

What should be our main focus?

Would you want to be involved?

BLS

Would you want to be trained in BLS, including CPR?

Website Content

Should we have local business advertising?

Notices - please submit

Local photos

Speed Limit Bin Stickers

Quantity / size?

Appendix A:

Neighbourhood Planning background information

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.

Who leads Neighbourhood Planning in an area?

Where a community wants to take up the opportunities offered by neighbourhood planning, the legislation enables a number of types of organisations, known as qualifying bodies, to lead it:

- *a parish or town council*
- *a neighbourhood forum*

For more information see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/get-involved/take-part/make-a-neighbourhood-plan>

Appendix B:

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) background information

- *There is about one cardiac arrest per 2,000 of the population per year
- say 1 per 1,000 'man years' for Furzehill's ageing demographic.*
- *The ambulance service in this area will only provide AED details to a caller if it is within 200 m. From the Furzehill phone box, this radius covers only the houses and shop at the western end of Smugglers Lane, the Stocks Inn, and the houses on Furzehill north of the Woodleaze turn.*
- *Of those resuscitated in the UK community, only 10% the leave hospital. However, we aspire to at least match the best figures globally (20% in Norway and Holland). Widespread AEDs would improve the UK figures a little by reducing the time for an AED to arrive, although only if: (a) there is a corresponding increase in the proportion of the population competent at Basic Life Support (BLS), which is also required for success; and (b) the ambulance arrives rapidly.*
- *Not all cardiac arrest heart rhythms are 'shockable', as determined by the AED. The majority are, still, but some studies indicate that the proportion is reducing, perhaps due to changes in the management of existing cardiac disease.*

Projected AED use

Assume that, all the time, there is an average of 100 people within the 200 metre radius of the phone box (an exaggeration to drive the argument).

*This represents **100 man years***

- *Assume that, all the time, an average of 1 in 10 of those people (an exaggeration to drive the argument) is accompanied by at least two fit people: one who is confident and competent at Basic Life Support (BLS), and one athletic enough to run for the AED after calling an ambulance. This fraction is used to calculate the number of 'accompanied man years'.
 $100 \times 0.1 = \mathbf{10 \text{ accompanied man years}}$*
- *Take the projected '**accompanied man years**' figure, multiply by 0.001 (cardiac arrest incidence), then multiply by 0.2 (best global success rate at leaving hospital after resuscitation):
 $10 \times 0.001 \times 0.2 = \mathbf{0.002 \text{ lives saved per year in Furzehill}}$
ie: 2 lives saved per thousand years or 1 life saved per 500 years (using very optimistic figures)*

Approximate cost

Purchase of AED: say £1,500 with an estimated life of 10 years

Annual maintenance: (electricity + weekly check + replacement batteries at 3-5 year intervals): say £50 per year

*So overall cost about $1,500 + (50 \times 10) = \mathbf{£2,000}$ per 10 years
(with, optimistically, a 1 in 50 chance of saving a life in that time)*

Discussion

- *The idea of placing a price limit on the possibility of saving a life is problematic. Nevertheless, it has to be considered whether the cost of installing an AED is worthwhile when set against the opportunities for good offered by using the funds elsewhere.*
- *The cost-effectiveness of an AED in the Furzehill setting is demonstrably poor. However, this is only one yardstick for reaching a decision on whether to install one. It would perhaps provide a focus for pride in our community. It may encourage more people to train in BLS skills, which are useful apart from sudden cardiac arrest. BLS training may help foster a community spirit.*
- *In JWC's opinion, it seems sensible to concentrate on BLS training and its standalone benefits as a first step, before considering again whether to install an AED.*