

**HINDLEY GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at Hindley Green Family Church at Bethel on Wednesday 4th June 2008**

PRESENT: Debbie Birchall - DB, Michael Lynch - ML, Sheila Woodward, Barbara Lane, Maxine Armstrong, Barbara Unsworth, Jeff Unsworth - JU, Michael Walsh, Avis Shone, D Draper, B Francis, B Sankey, A Wright, M Wright, J Burtonwood, Eric Dickens - ED, Ivy Dickens, Eddie Marshall – Bethel - EM, Malcolm Coe – Wigan MBC - MC, Cllr. Bob Brierley - BB, Tracey Williams – Wigan & Leigh Housing

1. **APOLOGIES:** were received from John Vickers.
2. **MINUTES:** of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th May 2008 (having been circulated) were approved by all. Proposed by Ivy Dickens, Seconded by Jeff Unsworth.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - i. **Constitution**
Paragraph 5k) added to the Constitution. Proposed by Barbara Lane, Seconded by Maxine Armstrong, all in favour.
 - ii. **Membership of the Association**
Membership forms were distributed for anyone wishing to become members.
 - iii. **Committee**
The remaining five seats on the committee were offered to attendees. Maxine Armstrong – Proposed by Barbara Lane and Seconded by Sheila Woodward and Dawn Draper Proposed by Ivy Dickens and Seconded by Sheila Woodward joined the committee. All in favour. There are still three remaining committee seats available.
 - iv. **Website**
JU proposed setting up a website for the Association which he has been working on, hosted by Microsoft Office Live <http://hgra.web.officelive.com> utilizing this version would allow anyone with internet knowledge to take over should he for any reason be unable to continue in the future. JU advised that there are no charges, no advertisements and has a .com address and that no knowledge of website building is needed. He has tried to make it as interesting as possible to visitors and any content can be changed at any time. There is a Guestbook available for members/visitors to make comments, also a kids page, crosswords, information, etc. JU did request the committee approve information on website. The website was proposed by Michael Lynch and Seconded by Sheila Woodward and unanimously accepted. Set up official HGRA website, make live and distribute to search engines. **ACTION 14 - JU**
 - v. **Hindley Green Family Church at Bethel**
Eddie Marshall, responsible for structure of Bethel, attended the meeting and read out a letter outlining proposals to improve the exterior of the building for a knockout event and to possibly use the green at the side. Who does the land belong to? **ACTION 15 – BB** EM apologized for the noise as youths were painting the exterior of the building during the meeting. At the event there would be scope for the Association to do something, possibly have a stand promoting out existence and what we are about. The police attended the last event. Proposed bench to the front left hand side would likely attract youths. Fence to rear to be blocked as deterrent, a new path to be laid, a light at the corner of the building. Grants are available for disabled access. MC advised Wigan MBC do not have funding however the Forum does. £2,000 to be presented again this year. Likelihood is scheme will go to external funders to match funding, Councillors could also contribute funding. MC also advised that planning permission would probably not be required. There is a pit shaft on the grassed area which will require checking with the Legal & Property Services. Planning application was approved however now expired.
 - vi. **Hindley Green Ward Boundaries**
MC brought a small scale map to the meeting, the extreme boundaries were vague. Committee to discuss further. **ACTION 02 – MC to supply copies of map at next meeting.** Bankhall Road and 4 terraced houses on both sides of Leigh Road near Smiths Lane have not had voting cards for Hindley Green in the last three years **ACTION 03 – BB investigating.**
 - vii. **Swan Lane Traffic**
Sacred Heart Primary School have still not submitted the Traffic Plan to Wigan MBC (contact at Wigan MBC is Andy Allen) however we are advised that the heavy goods vehicle signs have been ordered and will be in situ before 2 July (copy of e-mail received). The Ordnance Survey are to change Sat Navs. BB has written to 12

companies on Hindley Green Industrial Estate (letter read out) requesting they re-direct heavy goods vehicles along Coupland Road. Thanks given to BB.

vi. Coupland Road Play Area

Barretts are dragging their feet. Shirley Hillman, Principal Solicitor, is to have a meeting with Barretts and report back to BB who is progressing. **ACTION 07 - BB**

It was suggested putting goal posts on the grassed area in an attempt to keep children playing football from the streets. However, due to possible insurance claims this is not feasible.

vii. Blair Avenue/Edinburgh Drive

Landscapers are blowing grass cuttings into gardens and drains. BB to investigate liaising with Rodney Hill. **ACTION 09 – BB** Grassed verges being churned up along Blair Avenue by vehicles parking, possible stumps?. BB to liaise with Highways Department. **ACTION 10 – BB**

viii. Farm Odours

SW contacted the Police, Fire Brigade and Council, farmer blaming kids for setting fires. A continuing order is in force. JV to contact Bolton Council as the farm falls within their remit. **ACTION 11 – JV**

ix. Hanging Baskets

Due to Wigan in Bloom Wigan MBC are not allowing hanging baskets this year.

x. Harley Avenue

BB raised this issue with Chief Executive and is on a members enquiry. BB to bring update to next meeting. **ACTION 16 – BB**. Residents are being charged for services, monies being spent elsewhere in the Borough. Should anyone have an accident on Harley Avenue there would be no claim against Wigan MBC as the road is unadopted although a one metre tarmac path which broke up in 1987 was laid by Wigan MBC therefore they have taken on liability. This was raised in Court 22 years ago.

xi. Township Forum

There is a Forum meeting next week. MC to e-mail forms to John Vickers. **ACTION 13 - MC**

4. Finance

Forms have been submitted for the donation of £1,000 from Cllr. Bob Brierley's Brighter Borough funding to get the Association up and running in an official capacity.

ED has approached his bank in an endeavor to set up a bank account for the Association. To be discussed by committee.

Cllr. Brierley has also made numerous donations to groups in the Hindley Green area from his Brighter Borough funding..

5. Any Other Business

i. Litter Bin Thomas Street

thanks given to BB for new litter bin outside Hindley Green primary School who has also been emptied by Wigan MBC.

ii. Ashfield Avenue

Gates have now been installed and tarmaced however this is not in a renewal area.

iii. Clayhole

A Councillor has approached a resident asking what they think about £20,000 being spent on fencing around the Clayhole. Trees have been cut down although the roots have been left. Youths are amalgamating using foul language. Drugs are also being sold in daylight on the Clayhole in front of young children. BB handed out a list of issues he had in hand around Westlake. A small boy has cut himself on glass in the sand. Parents wrote to BB complaining. Trevor Smith of Park Road is Treasurer of the Clayhole and has responsibility.

iv. Policing

There are 4 PCSO's allocated to the Hindley and Hindley Green areas. It has been noted that they are always in two's and don't seem to have any effect with the youths. BB has requested a copy of their shift pattern.

v. Leigh Road

Flashing slow down signs in barriers are needed to reduce the number of accidents. Wigan MBC say there have only been 6 in the last 6 months but many more can be proven.

vi. Hindley Residents Association

DB and ML attended Hindley Residents AGM on Monday 2nd June and were made to feel very welcome. An extended invitation has been given to any Hindley Green member who wishes to attend their future meetings are very welcome to do so, next meeting Tuesday 8th July at 7.00 pm at The Wakes. We agreed that on some topics it would be beneficial to work together.

The activity rock bus in on The Wakes car park every alternate Monday for children up to 18 years from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm, next being 9th June and then 23rd June and so on.

vii. Friends of Hindley Station

A public meeting is to be held on Thursday 26th June at St John's Methodist Church, Bridge Street, Hindley at 7.00 pm, all are welcome to air your views and to see what improvements are coming to Hindley Station.

viii. Wigan and Leigh Housing (WALH)

Tracey Williams, Tenant Participation Officer, attended the meeting and will try to attend some future meetings. Tracey supports 6 tenants and residents groups in the Borough. Tracey explained about WAHL and what they could offer us. Training is available for committee members (list to be forwarded). Hindley is currently going through tough times. Hindley Green are unable to get support as 51% of housing must be council owned property. Tracey to send application form for Community Funds (£300 funding to be matched) and for Better Estates Funds (£500 for improvement in council area improvement). Housing Forum meeting to be held at Ashton Town Hall on Tuesday 10th June at 2.00 pm.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 2nd July 2008 at 7.00 pm at Hindley Green Family Church at Bethel.

Apologies for any errors and omissions.

Ref.	Date	Action	Owner	Comments
02	07/05/08	Supply map of Hindley Green ward boundaries	MC	Map brought to meeting but not left. Copies to be left at next meeting
03	07/05/08	Confirm which ward Maxine Armstrong of 7 Bankside Road, Hindley Green, WN2 resides	BF- BB	BB carrying out investigation
06	07/05/08	Is planning permission required for proposals at Hindley Green Family Church at Bethel?	MC	COMPLETE - MC – Planning permission is probably not required
07	07/05/08	Check on status of negotiations on adoption of Coupland Road play area	MC BB	Investigations continuing
08	07/05/08	Liaise with Legal Department on erecting goal posts on grassed area on Coupland Road	BB	COMPLETE – Not feasible due to possible insurance claims
09	07/05/08	Liaise with Rodney Hill on grass cuttings being blown into gardens and drains in Blair Grove/Edinburgh Drive	BB	Ongoing
10	07/05/08	Liaise with Highways Department regarding grass verges being churned up along Blair Grove	BB	Ongoing
11	07/05/08	Follow up farm odour with Bolton Council	JV	Ongoing
12	07/05/08	How does an area become a renewal/deprivation area?	BB	Ongoing
13	07/05/08	Provide form to join the Township Forum	MC	To e-mail forms to John Vickers
14	04/06/08	Set up official website make live and distribute to search engines	JU	
15	04/06/08	Who does land at site of Bethel belong to?	BB	
16	04/06/08	Harley Avenue update	BB	