

**HINDLEY GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at Hindley Green Family Church at Bethel on Wednesday 7th May 2008**

PRESENT: Debbie Birchall - DB, Michael Lynch, Sheila Woodward - SW, Barbara Lane, Hilda Hoy, Eileen Brooks, Maxine Armstrong - MA, Barbara Unsworth, Jeff Unsworth – JU, Michael Walsh, Brenda Walsh, John Vickers – JV, Malcolm Coe – Wigan MBC, Cllr. Bob Brierley – BB, Cllr. Barry Fagan – BF, Cllr. Louise Fagan

The **Annual General Meeting** Commenced at 19.08 hrs.

All existing committee members resigned.

Chairperson – John Vickers. Proposed by Eric Dickens, Seconded by Eileen Brooks – all in favour.

Secretary – Debbie Birchall. Proposed by Ivy Dickens, Seconded by Eileen Brooks – all in favour.

Treasurer – Eric Dickens. Proposed by Ivy Dickens, Seconded by Debbie Birchall – all in favour.

Vice Chairperson – Shelia Woodward. Proposed by Barbara Lane, Seconded by Debbie Birchall – all in favour.

The new meeting opened with a vote on the committee for Ivy Dickens, Jeff Unsworth and Michael Lynch – all in favour.

Minutes of Meeting

1. The newly elected Chairperson, John Vickers, thanked Cllr. Barry Fagan and Cllr. Louise Fagan for all their efforts in forming the Hindley Green Residents Association (HGRA) and their works to date. JV requested all three Hindley Green Councillors form part of the committee however this was not possible as outlined in the Constitution, paragraph 5g.
2. **MINUTES:** of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd April 2008 were unavailable at the time of this meeting.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - i. **Committee**
As not many residents attended the AGM all were in favour to offer remaining five seats on the committee at the next meeting.
 - ii. **Constitution**
An amendment to the Constitution agreed at last month's meeting to add paragraph 5k) – Committee to meet as and when required. Proposed by Maxine Armstrong, Seconded by Barbara Lane, all in favour. **ACTION 01 - DB**
 - iii. **Hindley Green Ward Boundaries**
The Hindley Green ward boundaries were changed two years ago, BF did advise the boundary lines however MC agreed to bring a map to the next meeting providing written evidence. **ACTION 02 – MC**

MA advised that in the last two years she has not received voting cards for Hindley Green although her address 7 Bankside Road, Hindley Green, WN2, does fall within the Hindley Green boundaries as outlined by BF. **Action 03 – BF** to confirm which ward MA resides.
 - iv. **Swan Lane Traffic**
Wigan MBC (contact at Wigan MBC is Andy Allen) are unable to erect 20 mph and weight limit signage and to re-direct traffic along Swan Lane until such time as the Traffic Plan is returned by the Head teacher at Sacred Heart Primary School. BD advised that he requested Head teacher return the form some 12 months ago. SW has visited school requesting this be returned as soon as possible. DB to formally write to Head teacher. **ACTION 04 – DB**

BB advised that he has visited businesses on the Industrial Estates requesting they divert vehicles attending their business along Coupland Road.
 - v. **Membership Application Forms**

BF thanked JU for his efforts in drafting the application form and also the constitution. All new members will be asked to complete an application form at every meeting – all in favour. JU advised that he is in the process of setting up an HGRA website – to be discussed by Committee and also possible flyers being sent out to residents.

vi. Hindley Green Family Church at Bethel

MC has received a letter from Eddie Marshall at Hindley Green Family Church together with a plan to improve the area outside the Church by putting in situ a bench, creating a new path, a tidying up exercise, removing overgrown vegetation, a disabled ramp from the car park, fencing off the car park, to use the open space at the rear for events. Funding is an issue. If works are to go ahead the mineshaft cover in this area will require checking if secure. BB previously spoken to businesses in this area, the fencing off of the car park would cause parking problems for their customers. Minister to be invited to next meeting. **ACTION 05 – DB.** Is planning permission required for proposals? **ACTION 06 - MC**

vii. Coupland Road Play Area

MC has formally raised the funding issue with Wigan MBC, nothing untoward has occurred. The Council was originally given £245K to purchase land for development to take place, this money goes straight into the Council's coffers. The developers failed to implement, Wigan MBC taking action and agreement being made for Wigan MBC to implement. Play equipment £91,763, specific for Coupland Road public open space. Revenue for future maintenance over 13 years is £50,910 given to Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust which goes into the "pot" for all Wigan Borough. Revenue for further 13 years £99,859 into maintenance budget for all Borough plus fees incurred. Funds were received by Wigan MBC in Summer 2007. The sum of £91,763 is specifically targeted for Coupland Road. BB will be seeking additional funding in the future. Does council tax not incorporate an element for funding? Wigan MBC do not own the land, this is still to be adopted. Planning permission was granted on 19/09/99. Debbie Freeman is responsible for play areas. BB to put pressure on Wigan MBC. MC to check negotiations on adoption. **ACTION 07 - MC**

It was suggested putting goal posts on the grassed area in an attempt to keep children playing football from the streets. However, legalities may be an issue. BB to liaise with the Legal Department and report at next meeting. **ACTION 08 – BB**

4. Finance

Cllr. Bob Brierley has donated from his Brighter Borough funding the sum of £1,000 to get the HGRA up and running in an official capacity. All present gave their thanks.

5. Any Other Business

i. Blair Grove/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 Grove by vehicles parking. BB to liaise with Highways Department. **ACTION 10 – BB**

ii. Farm Odours

A foul smell is emanating from the farm. Colin Evans from the Environment Agency attended no smell evident at the time. JV to contact Bolton Council as the farm falls within the remit. **ACTION 11 – JV**

iii. Hanging Baskets

The hanging baskets have been relocated. HGRA to decide at next meeting whether silk or fresh flowers are required. Fresh flowers require maintaining.

iv. Harley Avenue

In 1986 a 1m strip of tarmac was placed along Harley Avenue, this has now broken up. HGRA supports the ongoing problem. How does an area become a renewal/deprivation area? **ACTION 12 – BB**

v. Township Forum

How does the Committee apply to attend the Township Forum. MC to provide forms. **ACTION 13 MC**

6. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 4th June 2008 at 7.00 pm at Hindley Green Family Church at Bethel.

Apologies for any errors and omissions.

Ref.	Date	Action	Owner	Comments
01	07/05/08	Amend Constitution	DB	Complete
02	07/05/08	Supply map of Hindley Green ward boundaries	MC	
03	07/05/08	Confirm which ward Maxine Armstrong of 7 Bankside Road, Hindley Green, WN2 resides	BF	
04	07/05/08	Formally write to Head teacher at Sacred Heart requesting Traffic Plan be returned to Wigan MBC	DB	Complete
05	07/05/08	Invite Minister from Hindley Green Family Church at Bethel to next meeting	DB	Complete
06	07/05/08	Is planning permission required for proposals at Hindley Green Family Church at Bethel	MC	
07	07/05/08	Check on status of negotiations on adoption of Coupland Road play area	MC	
08	07/05/08	Liaise with Legal Department on erecting goal posts on grassed area on Coupland Road	BB	
09	07/05/08	Liaise with Rodney Hill on grass cuttings being blown into gardens and drains in Blair Grove/Edinburgh Drive	BB	
10	07/05/08	Liaise with Highways Department regarding grass verges being churned up along Blair Grove	BB	
11	07/05/08	Follow up farm odour with Bolton Council	JV	
12	07/05/08	How does an area become a renewal/deprivation area?	BB	
13	07/05/08	Provide form to join the Township Forum	MC	