



Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Residents' Community Association

Registered Charity No. 279592

Minutes of the User Group Meeting held 18 April 2007

Present: Committee: Rachel Skinner (Vice-Chairman); John Pettet (Treasurer); Anne Sole; Loraine Martin; Barbara Hitchings; Kevin Hitchings; Elizabeth Barrett (Secretary); Jan Dawkins (Bookings Secretary)

Denise Tosdevine (Pre-School Playgroup); Keith Taylor (Badger Farm Parish Council); Carolyn Freeth (Toddlers); Douglas Richardson (St Lukes); Sarah Levinge (Badminton):

1: Apologies: Ian Millar (Chairman); Jane Foster (Committee); Geoff Sharman (Oliver's Battery Parish Council)

2: Minutes of the previous meeting There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting of 17/1/07. Minutes John Pettet proposed and Sarah Levinge seconded acceptance of the minutes.

3: Report from the Vice-Chairman: Rachel reported:

- i) Almost all the improvement work in the toilets had been completed with the exception of the door locks in the ladies.
- ii) The doors from the garden into the main car park had been altered and now open outwards – in accordance with fire regulations.
- iii) All User Groups can advertise their groups for free in 'Community News'

4: Report from Badger Farm Parish Council: Keith Taylor reported:

Over the last few months we have had motorbikes ridden on footpaths and open spaces, and a huge problem with motorbikes on Bushfield camp. Recently, the police have been taking action, and I am pleased to say that things have got better over this Easter holiday. I saw police speaking to a motorcyclist last Sunday. However, it is difficult for foot patrols to catch motorbikes.

The police have recently been reorganised, and joined by several Police Community Support Officers. Let us hope that this extra police presence will reassure people and maintain our favourable crime statistics. Our area (South Winchester and Twyford) should get three officers, which will double the number of beat officers in the area. PCSOs have limited powers, but are controlled by the police, and have radios to contact police backup. The idea is that they patrol the area on bicycle or foot, keep an eye on things, and deter criminals and unruly behaviour.

We are also promoting the neighbourhood watch scheme. In my experience, the scheme not only helps neighbours feel more secure, but can also help in other ways by getting people talking to each other. If you would be prepared to act as a coordinator for your street, please contact the Parish clerk at Clerkbfpc@aol.com

In the last year, we have generally had a good service from Serco cutting shrubs, but there have been some notable exceptions, and problems with grass cutting. However, I have to say that things have generally improved since a couple of years ago, and Serco (and the City) are responsive when asked to do something.

Another item of "local interest" has been the proposal for a new "Park and Ride" at the bottom of Badger Farm Road. The planning application is about to be considered for this.

It has been a bad year for walls, with one being demolished by vandals, and the other being blown down by the wind. Although they do not belong to the Parish, they obviously are a problem for everyone when they are damaged.

The new fortnightly rubbish collection scheme seems to be going smoothly. There were reports of rats last autumn, and there is some concern that the new rubbish collection scheme will make things worse. However, I am assured that there is not problem if all the waste is inside your bin.

The Parish Council has started a pilot project to work with local youth to find out what they want to see provided in the area; we are always trying to understand and cater for the needs of young people. Of course we are also trying to balance the needs of everyone else as well. If you feel you could contribute, we would love to hear from you.

5: Report from Oliver's Battery Parish Council; Geoff Sharman was unwell and unable to attend but had sent an email saying he had nothing to report

6: User Group Reports:

Playgroup: Denise thanked the Committee for the improvements to the toilets and asked whether it would be OK to have another storage box in the back garden area. The Committee agreed to this. Denise said that the new box would be padlocked because over the weekend the contents of the existing box had been trashed – supposedly by the people who hired the hall for a party. It was agreed that Jan will in future make it clear to one-off hirers that the equipment in the garden can not be used.

Denise asked if there had been any progress with the installation of the boxes with rat poison in them. John said that Ian had not heard any more from Sainsburys. Denise said she would ask Sainsburys what was happening.

HWLT: Loraine had nothing to report.

Toddlers: Carolyn asked about use of the safety net by Playgroup & whether it could be made available to her group. It was agreed that Toddlers and Playgroup would discuss.

There was some debris being left beside the Surgery clinical waste bin which was causing concern. It was agreed that this needed to be taken on board by the Exec Committee – possibly by writing to the Surgery.

St Lukes: Douglas complimented the Committee on the new carpeting

Badminton; Sarah said that her group found the roll of lino now stored in the main cupboard was in the way - could it be stored elsewhere to allow access for them? Jan was asked to discuss this with Merv.

Tae Kwon-Do: Elizabeth reported that the club's recent demonstration evening had raised £200 for charity.

7 Any Other Business: There was none

Date of next meeting : 18 July 2007, following the AGM