

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday September 9th 2024 7.30PM
Richings Sports Park

(KEY: BC: Bucks Council; IPC: Iver Parish Council; RPSC: Richings Park Sports Club; RPRA: Richings Park Residents' Association; IGNS: Iver Good Neighbour Scheme)

PRESENT: Cllr. Graham Young (Chair), Ged Weston (Vice Chair) Cllr. Wendy Matthews (IPC, BC), Joyce Young (Minutes), Jim Skinner, Nick Jones, Helen Pennie, Julia Hill, Shantanu Tandon, Tina Heath, Will Goddard, Sara Wong, Paul Griffin

APOLOGIES Kam Khatker, Kavita Deva,

NON-ATTENDEES: Maureen Atkinson, Rav Hayer, Kam Patel, Gurmail Dhokal,

One resident Sonia Ahluwalia attended to discuss a planning issue. Sonia discussed an issue with a new gate that has received planning enforcement which she regards as inaccurate. The committee discussed it, and she needs to take this back to planning for accuracy but otherwise there was little the committee could do.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes were agreed as accurate and were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

Graham has written to the owners of Sej Place but has had no response. FYI the Bucks Area Technician has cut the hedge back but will send a letter to the owners if they do not maintain it. Everything else is on the agenda

Speedwatch

Following a long conversation on the Richings Park Community 'What's app' page about the appalling driving, ignoring of speed limits and generally aggressive driving along our perimeter roads a working group to look at this will be set up.

Paul will take the lead as a County Councillor he can speak to highways. Julia and Nick will also be on the group as they live on the roads and Daphne Wood, Paula Bains and Janet Quinn have also expressed an interest in being involved in what is feasible.

Possibly not an issue we can use Community Board Funds for as they need a 50/50 contribution.

Speedwatch itself – Joyce expressed a concern about possible aggressive drivers stopping and assaulting the camera holders, need to make sure if anyone takes this on that there are a couple at each session. Speedwatch itself – when driving over the limit this triggers a letter in the first instance, a stronger worded letter in the second and a visit for the third time.

Wendy noted that the last time this was done possibly around 2016, then 80% of offenders on North Park were not residents.

This group will take on the Signage groups agenda.

Kingfisher Gardens

There has been one review – inaccurate - on Google maps since I posted it as a place last year so people could find it. The interpretative board will help (if we get funding) to make sure people know what it is, and why its there.

(Julia suggested, following the meeting that we all put on positive reviews)

Residents Garden

Graham spoke at length with Adrian who uses the equipment with his children and explained why we needed the equipment moved as it was an insurance issue. He said he has been looking after the garden and removing rubbish.

The large piece of play equipment has now been removed but the house remains and as it is a proprietary piece of play equipment designed for children to play in, we have no appetite to ask for it to be removed.

Anti-social behaviour continues there, and we do need to remove the benches, Will will look into it.

Food rescue – The bench at the top of Somerset and Wellesley has been used for food rescue items over the summer and a possibility of using the residents garden was discussed but we would have issues with Health and Safety. Graham suggested the porch at the Sports Cub – which is actually more central to the Park and would keep items dry. He will investigate this.

ACTION Graham.

St Leonards Mound

A very positive meeting was held with Graham, Wendy, Julia and Jem from the Parish Council about the way forward. The steps will be done by one of the IPC staff as soon as possible. There will also be a tree survey and the metal fences taken down. This will go before the Open spaces and highways subcommittee at Parish for approval.

The Forest School association may not be the ideal organisation for the preschool to pursue as accreditation is very expensive, so Graham will ask the pre school to look at alternatives – Woodside school?

ACTION Graham

The spinney will need some sorting out, Will thought the Scouts may be able to help. Neighbours are very supportive. Need extra bins as well as regular monitoring which Parish are happy to do. Heathrow have said that they are very happy to arrange for volunteering days from airport staff to help clear it.

Gardening team – Still thin on the ground for volunteers – Paul offered to help. Finalising planting of trees obtained from Woodland trust which are now a reasonable size. Key objective is to keep the grass cut.

A proposal to RPR was received from a forest / tree planting company sponsored by Amazon who are planning a data centre on the Ridgeway. However, they are looking at mini forests and are based in Spain so not a very likely partnership.

Finance report

No issue with our funds, healthy bank accounts and membership trickles in. Graham and Will are owed money which Shantanu will sort out. Shantanu will come back to the next meeting with a more detailed assessment of our position.

Membership report

Currently 211 paid up members as well as PayPal payments and cash envelopes that dribble in over the whole year.

101 – PayPal, 108 cash and 3 cheques.

Joyce will put out a 'Whats app' reminding people to join up – should we put up the membership fees? – if we do, we may lose some payments, and our finances are healthy so we don't need to.

Events

Christmas party booked for Sunday 1st Dec – Kam to lead and Wendy, Helen and Tina would like to be involved. Graham to look into funding, Ged will forward past costs to him.

ACTION Graham / Ged

Christmas carols – Saturday 21st Dec

Repair Café – first meeting is Saturday 5th October, and 4 people have already signed up to attend.

Poster to go on web site and Ged will help put it on RPR Facebook page.

Richings Sparkle - Sunday 29th September 11.00am to work on the shop area. Joyce to organise.

ACTION Joyce

Planning and enforcement

Somerset – incursion into pavement – going to court

!2 North Park – large house to rear of property where trees are not mentioned, narrow entrance.

11 The Poynings – 2 houses on the same plot

1A The Poynings – large extension planned.

61 Bathurst – new gate.

37 Old Slade Lane – two new houses proposed at back of house.

Syke Cuan by St James's Walk – house appears to have applied for an extension, but the house has been demolished and they are rebuilding. Been reported to Enforcement
St James Walk - we had representation from Jean Watts – this has been approved but the final plans may have been altered and not affect the windows as much.

We should all report to Enforcement– Joyce will find the planning links for all the above and attach to the email with the minutes.

Planning applications to be circulated to the committee every month

ACTION Joyce

National NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) the rules under which planning committees have to abide by when deciding whether to approve or deny planning permissions – this is now out for consultation and responses need to be back by the 24th Sept – Joyce will attach link to the email and please respond. Need a joined up policy rather than piecemeal developments.

Large Scale development

Thorney Business Park. Presentation held at Iver on Saturday and Tuesday 10th from 4 to 8 at the Sports Club.

Members encouraged to attend but as the response time is before our next meeting all members are encouraged to reply individually.

Comment on:-

Height of flats - possibly 8 to 9 stories high – too high?

Parking for residents – use of Station car park, how will that work?

Why are the current residents - Quatro etc moving to the centre of the park where second data centre will be, so continuing lorry movements until that is built. We thought they were moving out. Too high a density of houses?

School – secondary rather than primary – new houses will mean new number of children – lobby Bucks for a secondary school?

Parish and Unitary council updates

Community Board

The Wexham and Ivers Community board will move to merge with the whole of the South Bucks area as well as all the Chalfonts after the elections in May 2025.

The committee felt that this was a very bad idea which would dilute the already difficult to obtain funds the locality needed and was not in the spirit of why the Community groups were set up – to allow local communities to decide and plan their own priorities and spending.

It was thought that such a large group would be difficult to manage and that nothing would actually get done. There has been no public consultation about this.

The next meeting is online and on Monday the 23rd of September.

Air quality Some section 106 money from Thorney Business Park will be spent on improving air quality but only on Iver High Street and there will be no mitigation for Richings Park. A consultation event will be held.

Traffic calming measures are proposed.

Date of next meeting

Monday 7th October 7.30pm at the Sports Club.

Around the table

WRATH has been formally withdrawn.

Heathrow are appointing another Ranger.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm