

# Littletown Residents Association

## Minutes of Meeting Held Thursday, 18 May 2006

**Present:** Marion Allport, Andrew Sowerby, Marion Sowerby, Sheila Smith, Alistair Donaldson, Emma Donaldson, Vicky Clark, Rufus Cant, Angela, Michelle, Kathleen Wilson, Ted, Lynn, Mary, Jim

**Chairperson:** Sheila Smith

**Guest Speaker:** Pam (Flourishing Communities)

**1: Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence

**2: Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

There were no Minutes from the previous meeting

**3: Matters Arising**

Sheila Smith introduced Pam from the City Council, who spoke about the Flourishing Communities Fund, she advised that we would need to raise money ourselves first to help with any future funding bids we apply for.

Pam advised that the City Funding Officer can help for larger bids, but we would need a constitution setting up first. She will contact Julie Taylor (Council for Voluntary Services) to help set up the associations constitution and to give general running advice.

Andrew provided a draft constitution which Pam has taken and will pass across to Julie Taylor to review for when she contacts us.

Marion Allport asked questions relating to the Flourishing Communities Fund.

**Q)** When do the bids needed to be in?

**A)** There is no time limit

**Q)** How big is the Funds Pot?

**A)** Unknown - depends on how much land Durham Council sell, as this is the source of funding

Community Development Officer Liz Hall deals with the scoring of entries, she may be able to offer later assistance regarding the bid.

**Alistair Donaldson**

Advised the members that the fields in Littletown & Pittington are not suitable for use as a football field for the following reasons:

**(a)** The village did not want a football field

**(b)** The field would need netting around and this would upset residents

**(c)** Foul language that is at times used by the players and Managers

Alistair did recommend registering the field as a Village Green to protect the land from development; Andrew advised that the City Council had been contacted about applying for Village Green status, and that forms and information are being forwarded.

Andrew also advised that we would need statements from residents stating that the Field has been used as a Village green uninterrupted for over 20 years in order to apply for this status.

There were also discussions around restoring the Tennis Courts and on who owns the land this will need looking into further.



## **Sheila Smith**

Sheila advised the group on the issues put to the Pittington & Littleton Parish Council at the councils Annual General Meeting.

The list is as follows:

- **Requested rubbish bins on Village Green**
- **Requested village strimmer & mower**
  - Informed that the village mower is at Pittington Village Hall
- **Requested that the path edgeways be fixed**
- **Has requested a Littleton handyman for 2 hours a week**
- **Requested for the missing swing to be replaced**
  - Told we won't get this, as our swings are obsolete
- **Paths & Roads in Littleton need repairing**
- **The holes in the path between Littleton & Pittington (water board) are still needing attendance**
- **The road re-surfacing work to the road between Littleton and Pittington carried out last year was sub-standard and is wrecked already – this should be addressed**
- **The 'temporary' path between Littleton and Pittington should be upgraded to 'permanent' by now**
- **Fly tipping – at the Chapel**
  - Informed that it is Private Land and nothing to do with council
- **Kids Causing nuisance in the woods drinking and taking drugs**
  - Police are coming down Friday & Saturday (19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of May)
- **The amount of wagons on road coming through Pittington & Littleton – an accident waiting to happen**

Sheila also advised that the appeal of Mr Maw's garage and office extension has been decided and declined.

## **Any Other Business**

### **Chapel - Smiths Gore report**

Rufus had e-mailed and phoned Smiths Gore without any success

Andrew Sowerby advised that he had taken photos of the chapel and had sent these directly to the Church Commissioners and Smiths Gore, and had indeed been called by Smiths Gore at the request of the Church Commissioners

The outcome of the call was that the Church Commissioners are actively seeking to take repossession of the property from John Cairns and are looking to carry out repair works to the property. No decision has been made about the future of the chapel, i.e. to re-rent out or to sell the property. They will keep Andrew informed as to what is happening with the chapel.

## **Treasurer**

It was recommended that the signatories for the Associations' account be updated, as one of the accounts signatories has moved out of the area.

The new Account Signatories are as follows:

- Kathleen Wilson
- Sheila Smith
- Vicky Clark

## **Flowerbeds/Flowers**

Marion Allport will phone to arrange for more flowers to be delivered to Littleton.

**Date & Time of Next Meeting**

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** 33 Plantation Avenue

A slip will be placed through every door in Littletown advising them of the next meeting and that the minutes will be placed in the notice board in Littletown.

**We declare that these minutes are a true record of the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairperson)

Print: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print: \_\_\_\_\_