

KSARA AGM
Wednesday 30th November 2022
Minutes

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Heidi Hackett

Ann Boulton

Hannah and Kevin Roberts

Anne Coleman

Valerie and Peter

John Murphy

Richard and Liz Jones

Sam Dixon

Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes from the 2021 AGM were approved.

It was noted by one resident that they had not received an invite to join the KSARA Facebook Community Group (see actions arising). It was also agreed that matters arising through guest speaker presentations at future AGMs are recorded as actions on meeting minutes and followed-up accordingly.

Matters Arising

Action 1: [Facebook] Invitations to be sent out in the new year.

This action has been completed, however it was noted by one resident that it wasn't received.

ACTION 2022.1: KSARA Facebook Group invitation to be resent to all residents with registered email addresses.

Action 2: Chris Boulton to add details [of process for obtaining visitor parking permits] to website.

This action has been completed.

Action 3: Heidi Hackett to review [column headings for treasurer's report].

This action has been completed.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report as provided in the AGM papers was approved, with no queries raised.

Committee Report

It was noted that the committee meets regularly to organise community events and to discuss and action matters affecting our area. The committee presented the key achievements of the year, which included:

- Holding a Christmas Carol concert in December 2021. It was noted that this year's carol concert has been scheduled for 22nd December, with an invite to be issued presently.
- Holding a street party to celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Dealing with matters of neighbourhood safety, including distribution of neighbourhood watch messages, dealing with overgrown foliage on public pathways, lobbying the council on highways issues and planning/licensing, and addressing anti-social behaviour issues
- Dealing with matters of aesthetic amenity, most prominently the waste and recycling system changes impacting our area.
- Providing a communication forum (via Facebook) for the sharing of information relevant to the residents of our area.

Waste and Recycling

A discussion ensued on the waste and recycling scheme, and the committee was thanked for its efforts in ensuring the existing system remains in place, to avoid the proliferation of wheelie bins being stored on pavements and other public areas.

It was noted that some residents were leaving boxes and uncollected rubbish in such places, and it was noted that whilst residents were not compelled to keep bins and boxes out of view on private property, it was better if that was the case for the visual appearance of the area.

ACTION 2022.2: Residents to be emailed asking if they would store their bins and boxes considerately.

It was noted that replacement boxes could not be ordered on-line but can be requested via email to the service liaison team (serviceliasonteam@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk).

Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour was discussed, and it was noted that whilst KSARA will raise issues with both the police and the university, it was very important for residents to raise issues directly, as the more evidence that is presented to these bodies, the more likely that decisive action is taken by them.

Local History Initiative

A brief introduction was provided to the meeting of a proposed initiative to document the history of the area with the ultimate goal of publishing a book. As part of this overall initiative, the idea of holding local history evenings on various historical aspects was mooted.

The idea received support from the meeting attendees, and will be progressed by interested parties.

Resident Concerns

The floor was opened to meeting attendees in order to gather concerns/topics to be considered by the KSARA committee in 2023. Topics raised were:

Taxis on Northgate

Given the additional ranks now available on Northgate the risk of streets in our area being used by taxis as a cut-through to gain access to and depart from Northgate. Additional parked vehicles on Northgate was raised as a concern due to difficulties vehicles can encounter turning right into Northgate.

A related concern was the possibility of a taxi office being established on Northgate, with the associated risk of anti-social behaviour and additional traffic as experienced by the residents of White Friars.

Planning matters

It was noted that whilst planning applications become visible on the CWAC website as part of the planning process, it was incumbent on interested parties to monitor. It was noted that planning and licensing applications are reviewed monthly at the KSARA meeting and actions taken as appropriate. It was suggested that it would benefit KSARA to get it earlier sight of planning applications

Signage for access restrictions

It was raised that signage instructing drivers on restrictions on King Street were not highly visible and that this could lead to additional inadvertent traffic on the street. It was noted that there is no access restriction signage at the top of King St. It was also noted that some drivers are driving at a speed unsuitable for the narrowness and relatively poor visibility on Watertower St and its intersections with Pemberton Road and Canning Street.

Use of Residences in the area for Holiday Accommodation

The use of residences in the area for holiday accommodation has grown significantly in the last few years, and it was noted that there are no licensing requirements or register presently, and so no policy to manage the volumes.

Future of Centurion House

The future use of Centurion House and any impact on our Area was raised as a potential concern.

Condition of Pemberton Road

The poor condition Pemberton road and its need for repair and resurfacing was raised.

Planning Permission for No. 7 King Street

It was noted that some works were progressing but that as yet there had been no decision as yet on planning application.

Use of streets in our area by students accessing the city centre

Use of streets in our area by students accessing the city centre was raised, noting that the occupants of the Lock Keepers Cottage having material concerns also.

Committee Membership

Resignations

It was noted that Krista Norden was standing down from the committee, as she was no longer living in the area. Our thanks to Krista for her contribution to the Committee over the previous 3 years.

Re-elections

Heidi Hackett was re-elected

New Members

Michael Confrey and Chas Harwood were elected to the committee.

AOB

Sam Dixon

It was noted that (in all probability) Sam Dixon would be standing down from the council to become the Chester Member of Parliament, and that her support of KSARA had been valuable and appreciated.

ACTION 2022.3: A formal letter of thanks to be sent to Sam from KSARA.

Land to the East of King Street

It was noted that a large area of vacant land to the east of King Street was now unoccupied as it was no longer being used as a compound for the Northgate development, and the future use of the land and existing buildings was queried. It was noted that no plans had yet been published.

Donations to KSARA

£125 was donated by meeting attendees to fund KSARA - thank you!