

KSARA AGM Tuesday 14th November 2023

Minutes

Apologies for absence

Chris and Anne Boulwood, Vicki and Chris Cutler, Kev and Jan (No.31), Peter and Sheila.

Katrina Kerr, Councillor, was invited but could not attend. She is meeting some members of committee soon as she is keen to make links with us.

23 attended.

Minutes from last AGM

The minutes from 2022 AGM were approved.

Matters arising

Action 2022.1: KSARA Facebook Group invitation to be resent to all residents with registered email. This action has been completed.

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

This action has been completed.

Action 2022.3: A letter of thanks to be sent to Sam Dixon from KSARA.

This action has been completed.

Treasurer's report

Income is from donations and events we have run; expenditure goes on running events. The treasurer's report as provided in the AGM papers was approved.

Committee report

Committee presented key achievements:

We have had meetings most months, take it in turns to chair and to minute, members take on nominal roles of members.

We have addressed topics that came out the last AGM as well as others that have arisen during the year, aiming where possible to be more strategic:

Events:

Held Carol concert, next one on 20th Dec back of KCC and Kings Street; Coronation Quiz in May; Street Party was planned, twice and then cancelled due to weather.

Communication and Engagement:

We are still struggling with engagement as there are many familiar faces at the AGM, but residents asked how do we engage others?

Communication has also a challenge so we have taken a tiered approach; important events e.g. AGM or development around Centurion house are distributed as hard copy; about half the residents are on email, so regular meeting minutes are sent around in note format as an email and an email is sent

approximately once a month, full minutes are on the website; Facebook is a less formal format, but we will duplicate information on here, pictures are posted, comments made etc. residents are encouraged to post; website is the repository of information, it is a welcome for new residents, record of events, but also has a history section on each street and key facts and links. One resident said it is brilliant, loved the History links. The website also has links to useful services and we have included a link to the document 'Guide to reporting' produced by the Council.

Welcome pack has been re-vamped into a postcard format with a QR code on it linking in to all the communication routes.

Funding of KSARA events:

The aim is to make enough to support our events, it is not a huge treasure chest, the source is events and donations. Sometimes some of the proceeds from events are sent to some charities e.g Ukraine. Future collections to aim at more local charities.

A resident enquired about the re-launch of the KSARA card; committee regularly reviews it, but it was hardly used by residents, businesses were happy, but the time taken to set up wasn't worth it. If it will be used, we are happy to look into resurrecting it again, but it will need resident support. Also felt that we are a relatively affluent area, but local independent businesses have been struggling and it was felt it also wasn't being used for this reason.

ASB:

Committee has spent a lot of time on this area, early dispersal orders in the city did not include the KSARA area and so some of the ASB moved into our area. MC is thanked for the work he has done with the local police and the number of issues has now reduced as we are now in the dispersal area. The message is still report. Individual reporting is more effective.

Planning and the historic environment:

The development of Centurion house has been a main planning issue this year. Residents were alerted to planning application, it was bought by Blueoak and they are turning it into high end apartments. Our communications have been around the rough sleeping and deterioration of the area around their doorway. They have been responsive, have addressed some of these. We pointed out how Storyhouse liaised with us on a regular basis and this has prompted the recent letter to residents. They have fenced off the back and moved rough sleepers on, vegetation been trimmed at the stairs, some lights have been installed. The archway is not theirs according to plans, one resident pointed out that her light on Fireman's cottages is the only one on and the council has told her it is not theirs. The damage to the bricks on the floor on the passageway is also an issue as there is a significant hole. Repairs so far have not held. One resident asked whether KSARA is pursuing the damaged drain issue and committee assured them that all possible people involved have reported it.

Highways:

The Junction Canal Street/Northgate still an issue around near misses, it has been reported many times.

Local History Initiative

TB presented a fascinating talk about cellars in our area.

Comments from Residents

The floor was opened to meeting attendees in order to gather concerns/topics to be considered by KSARA committee in 2024. Topics raised were:

KSARA card already mentioned.

Residents' parking in the area. Water Tower Street residents pay an annual fee for parking. Recently more day permits have been issued and there is no space for residents. Resident has mentioned it to Council. Committee has asked other residents to let us know that they have a problem. Only then can it make an effective approach.

AirBnBs are not registered. There is also a concern with how they are managed, in terms of noise from some. CRAG is also looking into it. Council also aware of it, aiming to increase living in the city and there is an awareness that Airbnb reduces this. Committee continues to be involved in the conversations.

One resident mentioned that we didn't have a speaker at the AGM, accepted that the Councillor was busy, but would like a resident's meeting with Katrina Kerr to get to know her and make her feel a part of the area as Sam Dixon was. Committee will look into it.

One resident was very positive about how all residents worked together about the rough sleepers and ASB issues and people felt supported. MC was thanked for his advice and support. Many reporting it raises it as an issue. CH1 ladies praised for their communications!

Discussion on drug asbs and the alley between KCC and KS, lighting in pocket park should be raised with the Council.

AirBnB also let you report genuine behaviour issues on their website, then they will look into it and refer to owner.

Committee membership

Sue Horton and Tony McDermott were re-elected.

AOB

CRAG Carol concert at St Peters on Tuesday 12th December 6.30pm, all welcome.

Gold envelopes Name the Bear donations to go towards St Peter's Church.