



Friends of Moneyhole

Meeting minutes

7:00 – 9:15 pm, March 26th 2010

<http://www.welwynhatfield.co.uk/moneyhole>

Present:
TK Choo (FoM), Andy Carr, Cllr Louise Lotz
Local Residents and Attendees (16)
Apologies: P Edmonson, C Cooper, S Johnson, S Seager, R Spender, G Mold, K Nugent, E Fielder, Tim Beyer, S O'Reilly, Roseacre Garden Residents, R Hunt, R Hornby, M Allen

Cllr Trigg and Cllr Bennett did not attend. Actions carried forward. No apologies were received.

TK welcomed Andy Carr and attendees to the FoM meeting.

1) Event

- a) **National Pet Month Fete** Saturday 10 April 10 – 3 pm Update on the fete was given. Stall application forms were issued. Birds of prey, Malamutes and a mobile zoo will be in the event. Oxfam, Brownies, FoM and local residents are having stalls. Finesse did not charge for the use of Moneyhole and will provide the crush barriers.

2) PFC pavilion lease details. (carried forward due to Cllr Bennett's & Trigg's absence)

Several residents again asked when the lease expires. Councillors stated that the lease is valid even though it is yet to be signed. Councillors also stated that the lease cannot be made public through the Freedom of Information route. Questions asked by residents about how a lease came to exist in perpetuity and how this situation was allowed to transpire.

Cllr Bennett stated Mr Banissy from PFC does not respond to emails, so he has not been able to complete his previous action of arranging a meeting with PFC and councillors. It was suggested that a phone call or personal visit might be in order.

ACTION 1: Cllr Bennett to contact PFC, schedule a meeting and to report back at the next meeting

ACTION 2: Cllr Trigg agreed to find out, and report back, with the expiration date of the lease for the next meeting on the 26th March.

3) Dog related issues (carried forward due to Cllr Trigg's absence)

The RSPCA will supply some plastic dog mess bags for free. (the National Pet Month fete). WHBC will fit two new dog bins in the park and Finesse has agreed to empty them.

Dog attacks: Reports of dogs attacking wildlife in the park and of dogs being in packs too large for their owners to control. Professional dog walkers use the park to walk more dogs off the lead than they can control. Possible dangers to children also observed raising safety concerns. The Dog Control Order, similar to the one at Cuffley, requested last year was deferred pending an educational exercise on responsible dog ownership. This was done in July 09. Note: DEFRA Information about what a DCO does is now on the FoM website.

ACTION 3: Cllr Trigg is to report back the council's current position regarding a possible DCO for the next meeting on the 26th March.

4) New bins and benches

The park now has five new benches and 10 rubbish bins at locations around the park. A sixth bench is still to be installed and location coordinates have been given to Finesse (TL 26947 BNG 12493). Residents thank Finesse for this. The sixth bench will be installed next week. **Action: Andy Carr**

5) Remedial work on the nature trail

Some repair work was carried out by volunteers in March.

6) Felling of some large perimeter trees

The October 09 exercise was to remove saplings from choking the established trees.

Several residents asked:

- a) Why the large trees were chopped down? 40% of the trees were removed. Selected dangerous and trees with included stems were chosen. The cost was £16k
- b) Where did the timber go, was it sold? These were removed not sold.
- c) Why are the saplings not removed as intended? Saplings were not in the original plan. This was challenged as not the case when presented to FoM last year.
- d) What are Finesse's plans for further felling? Sections to be done when funds are available. Can Finesse consult FoM and residents before the next exercise? AC to survey and consult the residents affected about the level of work. Residents have the right to cut overhanging branches.
Action: Andy Carr
- e) Finesse planned to remove the fallen trees around the tree belt brought to Andy's attention.
Action: Andy Carr

ACTION 4: Cllr Trigg agreed to find the answers, and report back on the 26th March FoM meeting.

A resident asked if Cllr Trigg contacted Andy Carr about any related action points. Andy to confirm.

Action: Andy Carr

7) Football pitch locations. (carried forward due to Cllr Trigg's absence)

Several residents have observed that football pitches have encroached on park space in recent years, also leading to increasing noise as they are located on the housing side of the park. Why are residents, park users and council planners not consulted?

ACTION 5: Cllr Trigg agreed to find the answers, and report back on the 26th March FoM meeting.

8) Car Park resurfacing (carried forward due to Cllr Bennett's absence)

Andy Carr took a vote at 01 May 09 FoM meeting and the resurfacing was agreed to be done prior to the start of the football season in September 2009. Cllr Bennett now stated it could not have been agreed because it was not in the Finesse capital program.

ACTION 6: Cllr Bennett to find out where resurfacing is on the Finesse roadmap by speaking to Finesse senior management. To report back by next meeting on the 26th.

9) Tennis area (carried forward due to Cllr Trigg's absence)

Residents are dismayed at PFC decision to stop the rebuilding of the tennis court wall without wider consultation. Question raised: Who has the authority to remove an existing tennis facility used by the community for many years? Finesse website still claims there is a floodlit tennis court at the park when there is not. See: <http://www.finesseleisure.com/default.asp?step=2&id=35>

ACTION 7: Cllr Trigg agreed to find out and report back to the next meeting on the 26th March.

Finesse was asked why a park facility was removed. WHBC authorised the removal. Andy will find out about who is responsible for the tennis court and then to obtain costs and designs for future reinstatement. He stated there is no budget available at present. A resident suggested fund could be raised towards facilities. **Action Andy Carr**

10) Barrier proposal

- a. The residents were given an update on the SOSC meeting. FoM expressed disappointment at the stage managed meeting whereby the temporary cctvs and humps were passed.
- b. The temporary cctvs to be installed mid April costing £2,400. The images can be monitored from a PC in the control room, but will not be constantly displayed, and can be downloaded for verification purposes only. The aim is to verify the car related incidents and not to catch offenders. When the ASB levels are verified, humps costing £1,000 each will then be installed.
- c. It stated the cctvs will act as a deterrent and ASB will return after the cctvs are removed.
- d. The humps are only a partial solution. The side effects like speed hump noise, bike jumps and other points of unintended consequences are listed in the FoM rebuttal and will be on the website.

The FoM rebuttals were not given due consideration. Misconceptions were still voiced by some non ward councillors without the residents given a right to reply.

The 24/7 open park policy was deemed paramount over the ASB and interrupted sleep endured by the victims. This policy and the repair costs due to potential vandalism were the prime reasons cited. FoM also regrets the Officers' use of the unrelated petition points like the Wish list and Green Flag Development plan to denigrate the FoM. FoM expressed disappointment over the unbalanced and unprofessional report. Read the SOSC report and FoM full rebuttal on FoM website.

The FoM will forward three points on the temporary cctvs:

- a) Timing or the length of the cctvs coverage needs to be changed to cover the school holidays and peak summer ASB period.
- b) The location of the cctvs is crucial as the central reservation trees and shrubs will obscure the cameras.
- c) The installation of a Decibel Meter with data logging, This is cheap and will log the noise level of car raves, engine revving and other rowdy noise from the car park to give a balance view.

ACTION 8: Cllr Bennett will set up a meeting with all parties (FoM, Finesse, WHBC, PFC) for as soon as possible after the meeting on the 25th, and before any final decision is made. Date to be confirmed ASAP. (carried forward)

Springmead Fun Run Tuesday 30 Mar 1 -2.30 pm

Springmead will hold a fun run to raise funds for a school project next Tuesday around Moneyhole park perimeter. About 300+ children and parents will attend. FoM were asked to ask dog owners and walkers to avoid the park at this time, to muzzle their dogs or to keep their dogs on lead over this time to avoid injury or to frighten the running children.

AOB:

A Roseacre Garden resident raised the following issues

- a) The large Finesse sign outside the Park - he queried the planning consent
- b) Number of car visitors over the weekend parking along Sylvan Way
- c) Consideration of events drawing in car visitors.

Residents and FoM agree to work together. Finesse attendance was welcomed.

FoM like to thank Barndicott for the use of the hall. A donation of £15 was made to Barndicott Social Fund after the meeting.

Email: moneyhole@googlemail.com

Contact the group and follow progress at: www.welwynhatfield.co.uk/moneyhole