

STAG (Stoughton Action Group)

Minutes 5th February 2003 Maureen's home

in attendance : Nigel Horton (chair)
 Ian Godfrey
 Peter Gunner
 Maureen Bell
apologies: Pauline Searle
 John Allford
Invited guest : Janet Wilkinson

Having waited for the non-arrival of missing members who had not communicated their non-attendance, the meeting began at 8.20pm.

1. the Chairman's Report : NH stated that he intended that meetings in future would be conducted in a tighter fashion than previously, when in order to get to know more of what individual members wanted, he had been prepared to allow the meetings to run freely. NH pointed out that the frenzied level of effort made by a number of members during October and November, whilst work was conducted on the S106, making objections to planning applications and the concerns over SCC's proposed plans to dump some additional 6,000 houses on our green belt, was now over, we appeared to be in a period of no activity. NH stated his concern that we may be missing opportunities. He pointed out that we are all very busy people and we do not have enough personnel amongst us with whom to share the workload. He wants to re-engage the enthusiasm previously exhibited but amongst a greater number of people.
2. Communications : NH expressed his disappointment at the members who fail to give a response to important communications and suggested the imposition of a 24 hour rule. This was modified to a 48 hour rule which will be indicated as '48h' as part of the subject on emails. MB objected to the regular use of automatic requests for responses to emails as this gives an additional task to delete these from sent files to prevent extra usage of hard disks. It was agreed the new 48h arrangement will replace this. <at a later date IG reconfigured MB's mail system to automatically ignore read receipt requests>
3. Stoughton's Identity : the history of STAG was discussed and its objectives, prompted by QE Park, in the hope of instilling a sense of community to the ward. Proposals were suggested for a welcome pack for new residents but consideration is also needed for existing residents. It was tacitly agreed that STAG has not been effective with their PR. NH proposed a flyer should be designed and perhaps provided via the Surrey Advertiser. MB suggested working with Jenny Stallard to produce a lengthy article for the paper. NH complained that PG had not yet produced a logo for STAG and PG suggested requesting local schools to produce a visual logo to incorporate.
4. Promoting STAG - requirement for more active members - creation of Residents' Association and definition of a constitution. There was debate but no conclusion about the future status and overall structure for the future. IG declared that unless we are a lobby group, he will cease to be a participant. PG stated that as we are a small group we must not attempt to do everything and should limit ourselves to possible and achievable tasks. NH volunteered to work on a draft 'mission statement' to clarify our role and to dispel the misconceptions of many residents. JW was convinced there are many people in the community who will be willing to help and to become involved.

5. SCCP chairman's report : MB provided copies of an emailed report of a meeting held that day by Cllr Jayne Marks, Cllr Pauline Searle and John Davey at the GBC offices, with regard to the community centre, together with copies of her response. MB reported that Jim Dennis had advised her that he and Ivan Ball are to meet on the afternoon of the 10th when they will make final decisions about the plans for the community centre.
6. *Stoughton Community Fund status - consideration to be given for monies owed* MB provided attendees with a report of the financial affairs of the Stoughton Community Fund held at National Westminster Bank in Stoughton, currently £2,516.30. Approval was given for MB to withdraw the £96.75 the account owes her. MB reported that the next anticipated expenditure will be our renewal of membership to Community Matters and the acquisition and preparation of the material for the formation of the Stoughton Community Association.
7. *Proposed floor layouts for the Community Centre* A4 copies of the proposed floor layouts, designed to accommodate all of the planned activities and facilities for the building, as given to the developers, were provided to every member. No negative comments were registered. MB also reported via information from Cllr Jayne Marks of her displeasure with the developers about the lack of progress with the doctors' surgery, as delivered to Jim Dennis.
8. *Frequency and location of future STAG meetings* It is apparent that there is too much material to cover at meetings, NH proposed and it was agreed that with differing objectives, the STAG regular meetings should be held separately from that of the Stoughton Community Centre. It was also agreed that as the community centre team have a lot of work ahead of them, they will meet monthly whilst the STAG meeting will be every two months. NH stated his wish to hold the STAG meetings at the Stoughton Rec. whilst MB is keen to use the Stoughton Methodist Church Hall which JW appears to have negotiated the use of a small room at a nil cost, until such time as we are able to afford to pay the normal £7.00 per hour rental.
9. NH had call on his duties at 10.30pm when the meeting was drawn to a close.

JW then told us of the problems she has encountered attempting to have access to the Stoughton Rec. as a youth worker and the steps she is being forced to take to overturn the management committee's autocratic decision.

ApprovedMaureen Bell..... pp. Nigel Horton, Chairman

Date 8 February 2003