

Minutes Blacksnape Residents Group Meeting 7th July 2010

Present: Keith Holmes (Chair), Jane Cook, Jackie Livesey, Sue Skipper, Martyn Skipper, Sylvia Berry, Christine Robinson, David Robinson, Cath Holmes (Minutes).

1. **Apologies:** Gillian Booth, Sarah West, David West, Susan Holden, Christine Neville, David Neville, Lindsay and Heath?

2. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2010 were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising:**

- Constitution- Further to the two sample constitutions already posted on the website, Martyn Skipper undertook to put together a suggested format for the Group Constitution and to arrange for it to be distributed throughout the village with invitations for comment. The Constitution will then be formalised at a meeting convened for that specific purpose.
- Group Insurance/Liabilities - Martyn Skipper explained that at the last ERN meeting he had ascertained that neither ERN, nor any of the member groups had any public liability insurance. In view of this it was agreed that such cover was not required in respect of the normal activities of the Blacksnape Residents Group.
- Pavement Outside Sports Pavilion - Martyn Skipper reported that after a great deal of difficulty Cllr. Thayne had tracked down the relevant responsible person within BwD and had passed the enquiry about the pavement on. As some time has passed since he was told this Martyn will make further contact
- Village Notice Board With a view to applying for funding David West established that the likely cost of a new notice board would be £500. Martyn Skipper has since found out that to qualify for a Cash for Communities Grant applicant groups require a bank account and formal constitution, in view of this Martyn has asked Tim Birch, BwD Rural coordinator, to look at the possibility of removing the existing notice board from behind the wall and repositioning it behind the railings, where it can be seen and accessed more easily.
- Village Tidy up Day - Items about the tidy up day have appeared in the Lancashire Telegraph and the Darwen Reporter as a result of a press release issued by Martyn Skipper. Martyn has also posted pictures taken on the day on the website. It was agreed that the day had been well worthwhile and that another should be arranged later in the year. In the meantime, Jane Cook and Sue Skipper said they would like to continue work on the dry stone wall already started. Within the next few weeks an elderly gentleman with expertise in dry stone walling may be able to offer expert advice in this respect. Martyn undertook to follow this offer up.
- Dry Stone Walls - The farm land on which the group propose to instigate the repair of walls remains on the market. David West was not available to report on his action point to contact the agents handling the sale of the property regarding the group's intention. Susan Holden was not available to comment on following up a communication from Julie Slater regarding links to other projects. Jane Cook's undertaking to contact the National Trust is ongoing
- Car Parking - David Neville has been in touch with the new stall at the Sports Ground. It is hoped that the car park barrier will now be raised 15 minutes before the start of sports activities and closed 10 minutes after the finish.
- Speeding - Andrew Mead was not available to say what had happened with regard to requesting reconfiguration of the speed sign. Jane Cook thought it may have been altered slightly but speeding through the village appears to have increased of late and David Robinson felt the issue should be raised again with the police. Jane Cook undertook to attend the next PACT meeting and will inform other members of the time and date of the meeting so that those who wish can join her.

4. **Scarecrow Festival:**

The event was a success and Blacksnape was well represented, though unfortunately some entries had been subject to minor vandalism. Blacksnape village took second place in the Adult Group category and was awarded rosettes and certificates (now on display in the Red Lion). The Skipper family received a special commendation in respect of their 'Karate Man' entry. Seven people took part in the 'scarecrow walk' on 4th July and photographs taken on the day have been posted on the website.

5. **Fleetwood Lighthouse Walk:**

This four mile round trip across the bay to the lighthouse at Fleetwood will take place on Saturday 10 July at 400p.m. Registration for the event will take place at 3.45pm. on the day. There is no entry fee but donations to RNLI will be welcomed. Sue Skipper will supply full details to anyone interested in taking part.

6. Nature Area Behind Blacksnape Playing Fields:

Someone called Darice Potts has contacted the group via the Blacksnape website regarding the nature area behind the playing fields. The area has fallen into disrepair and photographs of the damage have been placed on the Village Images sub page of the website. BwD has denied responsibility for the area so Martyn Skipper has raised the issue in a letter to Julie Slater. Jane Cook suggested that the Youth Offenders Team may be able to help with renovation if ownership of the area can be established.

7. Blacksnape Aerial Photograph:

An aerial photograph of the village has been received by Martyn and has been placed on the website.

8 Proposed Village 'Welcome to...' Signs:

ERN has secured funding for welcome signs to be erected in villages within its boundary. There will be space for an image on each of the two Blacksnape signs and the village website logo has been submitted for approval in this respect. Martyn Skipper will enquire whether a grant for the purchase of flower pots to decorate the sites of the signs is available from the body approached at the recent Neighborhood Watch Forum.

9. Any Other Business:

- Red Lion - David Robinson suggested thanking the new landlord for allowing the group to continue to use the venue and Martyn agreed to do this at the end of the meeting. The pub is due to close for refurbishment in September, so alternative accommodation may need to be found for the next meeting.
- Darwen Recycling Centre - David Robinson reported that the local recycling centre is to be closed. Jane Cook offered to raise the matter with Julie Slater.
- Village Barbecue - This will be a "Jacob's Join" event, hosted by the Skipper family at Hatton Bank on 14 August at 3.00p.m. As a 'thank you' to the hosts it was agreed that those attending the barbecue will assist with digging a pond, a long outstanding family project.

10. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place at 7.30p.m on Thursday 16th September. Venue to be advised.

11. Chair of Next Meeting:

Martyn Skipper agreed to chair the next meeting.

(Note: Edgworth PACT Meeting is to be held at the Barlow Institute, 10.30am 18th August)