

Minutes from meeting, Blacksnape Residents, 20/10/09

Present: Michael Benson, Sylvia Berry, Jane Cook, Susan Holden, Cath Holmes, Keith Holmes, Jackie Livesey, Andrew Mead, David Neville, Alisha Rayson, Christine Robinson, David Robinson, Dawn Robinson-Walsh (minutes), Imogen Skipper, Martyn Skipper (Chair), Olivia Skipper, Sue Skipper, Andrew Walsh, Rosanna Walsh, Sarah West.

Apologies: Gillian Booth, Sue Haynes, Christine Neville

Minutes/Actions from Previous Meeting:

1. All are welcome to join the East Rural Network meetings. Martyn is happy to continue representing Blacksnape or is equally happy for someone else to attend. Jane Cook expressed interest.
2. Whether Blacksnape needs a formal group has been deferred. Money for Neighbourhood watch, if it goes ahead, will require formalisation.
3. Saturday night, the Skipper family found a deceased cat with no collar. The cat is currently in their garden. It was suggested that a card be placed in the post office as no one knows whose it is.
4. Martyn, in lieu of a formal meeting structure, would like to rotate the chairing of the meeting.
5. Martyn has received correspondence from a resident about concerns over the website links, such as the political nature of the Campaign for Better Transport Group, which has a green agenda. The issue was discussed and Dawn suggested that a disclaimer be added for all links explaining that they do not necessarily represent the views of all residents. All agreed on this. **Action: Martyn to add disclaimers. Other residents urged to scrutinise this website and comment at next meeting**
6. Martyn has added the contact details for Peter van Eijsden's replacement on the website (Claire Waterhouse).
7. Jane Cook contacted Cllr Slater resulting in: the overgrown bushes at the first sign into Blacksnape are to be cut; discussions are ongoing about turning the interactive sign around; there is no money for signs designed by children (but there may be scope for this through ERN). The policy on children's signs is they are funded only in 20mph areas.
8. Traffic calming – a resident has expressed a preference for no physical speed barriers in the village.
9. Neighbourhood watch – see later agenda item.

10. Bonfire – plans for this advanced by Shaun.
11. Carols, etc. Dates being checked.
12. Page for accolades and plaudits – no entries other than for Shaun of the Red Lion who once again provided sandwiches for the group. Many thanks to Shaun for his community spirit.
13. Crumbling dry stone walls/escaping cows. Alisha drafted a letter. The council have been checking out the playing field. The Groundwork Trust has been contacted to see if they can repair walls/unwalled areas. Christine Robinson mentioned that stones are falling onto the road creating a driving hazard. David Neville suggested checking the Princes Trust and British Conservation Trust Volunteers to see if wall repairs may be made. **Action: Sarah West is investigating this.**
14. Land on the corner by the mini roundabout – no change. Residents keeping a watch for planning permission notices. Cllr Slater has been very helpful on the issues of visibility at the roundabout.
15. Jayne Beckingham-Burgess was thanked for her previous offer to deliver leaflets. She was not used for the recent leafleting - as the Skipper family did it due to short timescale – but will be asked in future.
16. Martyn gave his apologies for missing the walk. This was successful and enjoyed by participants. Another is planned.

Agenda Items:

1. Neighbourhood Watch. Dawn did some groundwork and Martyn contacted Phil Hambley and Carol Hendey. Letters with pre-paid envelopes have been delivered. 50% of residents have to express a desire to participate to get this off the ground. When the 50% response rate figure is reached, this will trigger a meeting to set up the Watch with materials available. It might be possible, if 50% is not reached, to target a specific part of the village. One advantage of NW is cheaper insurance premiums. Everyone urged to remind fellow villagers to send back letters as scheme is dependent upon majority acceptance. Martyn has a few spare letters if anyone has lost theirs or missed out. No 47 requested a new letter. **Action: Martyn to contact Carol Hendey for an update on the status in a few weeks**
2. Traffic calming: a local resident has expressed the view that there is no need for traffic calming. Sue Skipper suggested inviting Claire Waterhouse to the next meeting to explain what may/may not be available.
3. It was questioned why part of the car park at Blacksnape playing fields is closed on Sundays thereby creating even more road congestion.

4. Speed camera is positioned in the wrong place and used at the wrong time. Andrew Mead suggested trying to catch the very fast driver who passes at 6.20am every morning. Police need to see traffic offences first hand, i.e. without drivers slowing down due to speed cameras.
Action: Martyn to watch out for date of next PACT meeting and publish on website
5. Dawn queried whether zebra crossings may be available towards both ends of the village as children cross to attend St Paul's or catch buses to school. **Action: Everyone urged to keep the traffic calming pressure on.**
6. Councillors to be invited to the next meeting.
7. Village noticeboard – we need to have access to a key for notices as material within this is dated.
8. Future meetings to open with attendees introducing themselves to the rest of the meeting
9. Social events arranged to encourage community cohesion:
 - i. Bonfire at Red Lion is from 6pm-12 on 5th November. Fireworks lit at 7pm and 8pm. Food and bar outside
 - ii. Meal. Monday 14th December. Shaun will open specially for the Blacksnape Christmas meal. 7.30pm (pre-booking and pre-ordering food, which is freshly cooked, essential) **Actions: Martyn will put the menu on the website. Book direct with Shaun. Pay on the night.**
 - iii. Carols likely to be Christmas Eve at 6pm with mulled wine and mince pies. Hopefully, Shaun can also arrange a brass band.
 - iv. Walk – to Strawbury Duck on Sunday 27th December, start 11am.
Action: Martyn to see if the Duck are able to provide food.
 - v. Next meeting TBA at Christmas meal. Police, Claire Waterhouse (highways) and Councillors to be invited on a mutually convenient date in January '10