

Derby Road Fund

**Committee Meeting 18th April 2018 – 7.00 p.m.
Held at 3a Derby Road.**

Present:

Ian Lawson (New Chairman and Chair for the Meeting);
David Moro (Treasurer);
Lynwen Hardaker; (part of the meeting)
Gill Vooght;
Shirley Rennison;
Sean Mitchell;

Apologies for absence:

Present: Ed Hellings (Secretary)

Agenda

- Derby Road history and possible adoption.
- Action with regards non payment of Derby Road Fund Fee.
- Road reinstatement sweeping and gulley cleaning.
- Road closure and installation of pinch pleat.
- LED lighting conversion

Introductions

Mr Ian Lawson of No 1 The Gate House, Derby Road, introduced himself to the rest of the committee members and gave the history in brief of Cavershem Preparatory School of which he is the Bursar.

Second introduction to the committee members was Mr Sean Mitchell who lives at Flat 2, Lansdown House, No 13 Derby Road, for which he is secretary. Mr Mitchell was proposed by DM and seconded by SR and duly elected to the committee.

LW request a change to the schedule agenda due to the announcement following 5 years of service on the committee she would be stepping down and so discharging her duty as Lighting Monitor and Derby Road Website Co-Ordinator.

GV volunteered to undertake both roles as she had been working closely with LW on both lighting and the Website revamp by Queen Ann's School. LW would forward details of contacts at SSE and notify Mr Thomas Lange at Queen Ann's School.

LW agreed to forward on the quotations and contacts at SSE, lamp providers and fitters connected with the LED street light conversion. It would seem there would only be a requirement for 6 new LED lamps and not the 15 initially quoted for, there are 10 lamp posts and the four relatively new ones look not to have the sodium lamps. This will need investigating by the installer for which GV had another contact and had offered to quote for the conversion.

IL and the rest of the committee thank LW for all her efforts over the five years and stated how sorry we were to see her depart.

Derby Road history and possible adoption

Following on from the AGM last week IL had reviewed his deeds and requested more historical information on the road and The Berkshire Estates Co Ltd who were former owners of the road. To the best of everyone's knowledge they no longer existed and no such company was found on the Company House web site register.

IL proposed going forward DRF acquire ownership of the road and would be in a stronger position to obtain the funds required to maintain the road from the residence. The committee agreed for IL to obtain a quotation for engaging solicitors to undertake this work. DM to check with EM our in house solicitor if this was a prudent course of action in addition because this would mean taking on liability for which would need to be covered by insurance.

SM requested clarification to the sequencing of events and taking non payers to court, IL discouraged court action at this time on the grounds we would be in a stronger position if ownership of the road was in place first. This should be possible for a relatively modest sum of money.

Action with regards none payment of Derby Road Fund Fee

IL stated the next stage would be to gain a county court judgment legitimising our request for payment to maintain the road surface. DM confirmed we were in a strong position with regards Positive Covenant on all the land off Derby Road according to XX our in house solicitor and the "Benefit & Burdon" test case. IL stated this would be further strengthened with a county court judgment behind us.

DM requested how we best proceed with regards taking a test case to court and writing a reply letter to xxx who by the way had now paid xxx contribution for 2016-2017 without prejudice. It was agreed DM's reply would be conciliatory for the time being until the above was progressed. DM confirmed the cheques would be banked.

Road reinstatement sweeping and gulley cleaning

DM confirmed no resolution with regards the major reinstatement at the junction with Grosvenor Road was forthcoming from GPL who promised to get back to Brian Farnham (Chairman) and have not. A verbal assurance was also given to pay for the road sweeping and gulley cleaning which again has not materialised.

IL suggested we undertake a survey of the affected road surface and obtain a report prior going back to GPL and making any further requests for reinstatement. It was agreed the road sweeping and gulley cleaning could go ahead at a cost of £444.00 by RBC and we would seek reimbursement following the outcome of the above. IL to obtain quotations from surveyors to undertake the above report. DM to forward on relevant emails to IL to update him on state of play with GPL.

Road closure and installation of pinch point

Following on from the AGM and members vote to agree to the closure of the Derby Road gates to preserve the Private statues a number of dates were put forward. It was agreed this should be on a Bank holiday to cause the minimum of disruption. It was in the Deeds of IL that "Free and un-obstructed access should be available at all times" GV and SR recalled that the gates were last closed approximately 15 years ago, following the sale of the Gate House to xxx this fell by the wayside. Prior to this the gates were closed once a year on Good Friday.

At the AGM a date of August Bank Holiday was proposed as an alternative this year to Good Friday which had just passed. The committee agreed on this date and notification would need to be organised closer to the time in addition to posting on to the Derby Road web site. SM agreed to organise road notification.

SM question if any form of insurance was in place for committee members, there was not. It was agreed taking more proactive action in the future it would be prudent to have this in place. SM to obtain a quotation which would be in the order of £100.00.

SM reminded the meeting that members at the AGM had also voted for the installation of a pinch pleat. One similar to Grosvenor Road would not be at great expense constructed of timber. It was agreed this would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting together with location.

The Constitution

DM stated some form of constitution would be of benefit to committee members and to advise new home owner on Derby Road and solicitors as to what is expected from all parties coming to live on Derby Road. SR introduced a copy of the constitution used at Mander Court for discussion, it was reviewed and agreed a constitution between the one tabled at the AGM and this one would be more practical. IL to review and table for the next meeting.

Any other business

DM ask if IL had been in contact with former Chair Paul Grant? IL confirmed he had not but would endeavor to make contact with him and request any documentation relating to the role.

IL declared the meeting closed and we reconvene in approx. one month time to be advised.