

CAWRA General Meeting Minutes 24-10-2019

Present & Apologies

Committee: Rob Butler (Chair), Chris Wallis, Rex Ingle, Rebecca Tate, Robert Whittaker.

Councillors: Jane James (TTC, BDC), Janice Butler (TTC).

Residents: About half a dozen other residents were present.

Apologies: Natasha Salawu, Mike Holbrook.

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (Thursday 26th September 2019) were agreed to be a true record of that meeting.

Jane James queried if they were available on the CARWA website. After checking it was discovered that they were, but only behind a link with a broken image. This will be fixed.

Action: Andy

Secretary's Report

Nothing was reported, given the Secretary's absence.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Report

Chris Wallis reported that as the Garden Project was not going ahead, the £1500 Medium Grant that CAWRA had previously received from Thetford Town Council would have to be returned. CAWRA was in the process of submitting an application for a Small Grant of £300 for this year.

Chris had attended an Our Breckland Lottery marketing meeting, organised by Breckland Council, and was the only attendee. There is additional funding available for organisations that sign up additional new players at <https://www.ourbrecklandlottery.co.uk/>. A one-off bonus grant of £250 should be available if we can sign up 10 new players.

A second CAWRA newsletter will be produced shortly and distributed to all houses in the CAWRA area. Uncertainty over future meeting times (due to other hall bookings taking priority) was holding things up. Volunteers are needed to help with delivery. Residents who would be willing to help with this were asked to get in touch.

Copies of the latest accounts were available at the meeting.

Project Co-ordinator's Report

Rebecca Tate reported that the Window Wonderland would be starting this Saturday.

The Christmas Carol singing would be going ahead with outings provisionally planned for 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th and 20th December. The first practice session would be on 7th November at 8:15pm in Cloverfield Church. CAWRA was grateful to the Town Council for agreeing to lend us collection buckets and lanterns again. Rebecca will let Rob know about approximate locations for each night, so he can apply for a licence from Breckland for the collections.

Action: Rebecca Tate, Rob Butler

Research Co-ordinator's Report

Robert Whittaker reported that he had recently obtained a list of letter and dog bins in Thetford from Breckland Council. The list should detail all the bins that Breckland's contractors empty together with their collection frequencies. This list did not appear to match precisely what bins were actually present on the ground. Some of the listed bins may be missing from the CAWRA area. This will be followed up and may give CAWRA the opportunity to request that some additional bins be provided. It was suggested that one priority should be a dog waste bin near the Crecy Mews entrance to Trafalgar Woods.

Action: Robert Whittaker

Gardening Group Co-ordinator's Report

Nothing was reported, given the Gardening Group Co-ordinator's absence.

Litter Pick Group Coordinator's Report

Rex Ingle noted that this month's litter pick would be taking place this coming weekend (25th and 26th October), so there was nothing to report yet on this.

A quote had been obtained for printing the CAWRA logo on some hi-viz jackets for the Litter Pick Team (and others) to use. It was thought that CAWRA had ten jackets, but only six had been found. Rex will look for the missing four, and we may need to purchase some more if they cannot be found.

Action: Rex Ingle

Councillors' Reports

Janice Butler (Thetford Town Council)

Janice reported on a couple of matters:

- She had been liaising with the Town Council about the Big Climate Fightback. The Council are conscious of environment issues and are paying particular attention to planning applications and their own investment portfolio.

- The Town Council had recently ordered and received a supply of bulbs for planting. Some may be available to CAWRA at a later date.

Jane James (Thetford Town Council & Breckland District Council)

Jane reported on a number of matters:

- The Broken fencing on Rosewood Way had recently been repaired.
- She is still helping with the '30 for Thetford' campaign, which aims to reduce all the speed limits to 30mph or less inside A11.
- She noted the positive work of Breckland Council recently with regard to enforcement of fly-tipping offences.
- She noted the recent launch of 'Thetford Shines Brighter' a new community funding initiative from Norfolk Community Foundation and the Eastern Daily Press. (See [https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/news-events/launch-of-thetford-shines-brighter/.](https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/news-events/launch-of-thetford-shines-brighter/))
- Thetford Community Speedwatch has a new coordinator, Paul Copeland.
- The Town's Remembrance Concert will be taking place in the Carnegie Rooms on 8th November, with the Remembrance Parade on the 10th November.

There was then some discussion of fly-tipping in the CAWRA area, and the unlawful use of public space by some residents on the estate.

Police Report

No officers were in attendance.

Chairman's Report

Rob Butler gave more detail about recent events regarding the Community Garden on the Breckland owned land next to the Church. The Committee decided before last Month's meeting that CAWRA could not pursue the project because of Breckland's insistence that CAWRA would have to take over responsibility for cutting the grass in the garden. This was not something that CAWRA had the resources to do. After hearing this, a senior official at Breckland had suggested that it might be possible to come to an arrangement after all. Because of the need to either use or return the Town Council's grant, Rob had given an unofficial a deadline of 8pm this evening to hear back from them. No response was received by the deadline, therefore the project is definitely cancelled and the £1500 grant will be returned to the Town Council in the next day.

Rob also noted that it was good to see an increased police presence in the area, and that speeding issues seem to be improving following the recent police enforcement on the estate and the improved 20mph signage and roundels (thanks to Norfolk County Council).

Residents were reminded to let CAWRA or Breckland Council know about any overhanging vegetation on footpaths, so this can be dealt with.

Unfortunately, there was still uncertainty about future CAWRA meeting times, as the Church committee had yet to meet.

Any Other Business

None.

Next Meeting

Thursday 28th November 2019. Time to be confirmed.