



Friends of High Town- public meeting

Minutes of public meeting -held on 10/3/20 at 7pm for 7.15pm

Rear Hall

Methodist Church

High Town Road

Luton

1.Apologies- NB,SW

2. Present – 11 including SB,DL (chair) and GB (minutes). Cllr Malcolm arrived at 8.15pm. Cllr Hopkins was at House of Commons. Faye Merriweather , LASE Development Officer was present as a guest contributor.
3. Minutes of meeting held on 11/2/20 had been sent by email before meeting and contents approved.
4. Unauthorized taking of funds update – DL appraised residents of fact that members of Executive Committee were acting on the concerns expressed by residents at a previous meeting and Committee has taken action requested. There is an ongoing exploration of actions with police and small claims court and all actions have been taken after specialist advice sought.
5. Financial report- SB supplied residents with details of F of HT accounts as they stood on 10th February 2020 and explained how funding was received and held. Some of the money held is ring fenced (e.g. Project 2025) Unauthorised money taken was nearly 3000 pounds. Decision made by Executive Committee that deficit to be taken from pots of money where there is a suitable surplus – ie HT in bloom,the newsletter, Portas,Fix It ,EHT,F of HT General and HT Festival. Did not want to lean too much on EHT and the HT Festival because those activities make a visible difference in HT. If the money -some or all of it-is received back then it will be returned to the pots of money that have contributed to the unauthorised taking. Reassurance given that enquiries indicated Portas money did not come with specific criteria
6. Police matters- no police present but Faith Merriweather reported on action day for the 8 streets initiative held on 4th March 2020 which was a multi agency event. About 18 bags of rubbish were collected in the morning and in the afternoon there was attention paid to outreach work and attention paid to certain properties. LASE still working with men who are addicted to buying sex.

7. AGM notice. AGM to be held on 12/05/20. Posts of chair, secretary, treasurer and mass media will be up for re election. If you would like further details please contact current secretary or chair within next month. Agreement that notice of AGM to be placed on notice boards. **Action- SW to affix notices of pending AGM on HT notice boards asap.**
8. CIO application- Ongoing – had to sort out financial position before submitting application. Once submitted process can take 2 months for Charity Commission to complete.
9. Burr Street car park- update given. EHT will replant once contractors have completed.
10. Planning – LBC website has been faulty for number of days so not available to be consulted. GB read out email received by NB concerning work at 48-52 Reginald Street. As comprises of flats not an HMO and not possible to say what planning permission it received. Re concrete in drains – happens a lot on building sites. Report to water company?
11. Events- gardening session in Edward Street 14/3/20 from 10-12. Great British Spring Clean from 20/3/20 to 13/4/20. Litter picking at St Matts School from 12.00 to 1.30. Please contact secretary if you require more details of event. On 4/4/20 there will be a litter picking event lead by Woodcraft Folk- meeting at Methodist Church at 10.00am. Pickers and bags provided. Bring your own gloves. St Patrick's Parade on Sunday 15th March starting at 12.00 noon from Irish Forum.

Stop press 13.03.20- the parade on 15.03.20 has been cancelled due to coronavirus concerns. Please be aware that other events may be subject to cancellation.

12. HMO petition- Scrutiny committee will be meeting on 25/6/20 and Executive Committee on 22/7/20.
13. Reports – updates given and questions from residents responded to. Points of clarification regarding shutters on shop in HT Road, enforcement issues and posts of Heritage Enabler. **Next HTIAG meeting to be held on Friday 3rd April ,9.00am for 9.15am at Sports and Arts Centre**
14. **Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 14th April 2020, 7pm for 7.15 at Methodist Church**