

# Hall Forest

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of meeting held at Torryburn Hotel on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2005

**Attendees:** Graham McDonald, John Stewart, Ava Sainsbury, Alex McPherson, Dougal Slater, Gary Scott

**Apologies:** Ian Thomas, Gordon Cowe, Ron Dickie, Tony Harvey

Item	Description	Action
1.	<p><b>Introduction</b>            JS welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda for the meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> November were accepted and approved.</p> <p>GM raised the point that any actions should have a nominal deadline for them to be completed, and not just be open-ended, as otherwise there was a risk that actions would never get done. This was agreed and accepted by all.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Previous Actions</b>            JS Reported that he would write to the developers, asking about the legal status of the ownership of the open areas.</p> <p>CK was to supply JS with the details of Betts head office</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>CK</p>
3.	<p><b>Bank Account</b>            DS and GM stated that the bank account had now been opened at the Halifax in Inverurie, and all donations received to be paid into the account. The Halifax should send through details of the account within the next week or so to the secretary, who will then pass them onto the Treasurer for safe keeping.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Website</b>            Almost complete. To look at various hosting options, and sponsorship options now the bank account has been set-up.</p> <p>AT and JS to review the current website before it is put live.</p>	<p>GM</p> <p>JS/AT</p>
5.	<p><b>Developers</b>            Some discussions were held regarding the legal ownership of the open areas, and the implications for residents association adoption.</p> <p>JS agreed to get together with GM to draft a letter to the developers (possibility that Betts still own all the areas), to confirm this.</p> <p>Once we receive feedback, the residents association will then open negotiations to get the open areas transferred to "common" ownership, instead of handing them over to Greenbelt.</p>	<p>JS/GM</p>
6.	<p><b>Constitution</b>            The constitution has been agreed, and signed by the chairman and secretary.</p>	

	One small typing error was found, which shall be corrected.	<b>GM</b>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Donations</b> It was noted that several more donations have been made since the last meeting. These will all be paid into the bank account once the details are received from the bank.</p> <p>Residents can send donations/subscriptions (£1/year) by cheque or cash to either the secretary (John Stewart, 10 McFadden Park) or the Treasurer (Tony Harvey, 1 Hallforest Avenue).</p> <p>Once we have the full bank details and on-line banking set-up, we will be able to accept donations/subscriptions by bank transfer or “Paypal”.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Registering as a Charity</b> GM presented some information on setting up the residents association as a registered charity. This would involve setting up the association as a company, limited by guarantee. This would be a non-profit making company, and would enable the association to apply for grants from the local council, various bodies and even lottery funding. Some examples of other groups who have done this were given – in particular one group had managed to build a youth centre/community centre from the grants and funding received from various bodies, having received suitable land from the local council.</p> <p>GM will look further into the various options and present at later meetings.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Local Issues</b> Several local issues were raised:</p> <p>Speeding. It has been noticed that there are a significant number of vehicles which speed along Hallforest Avenue. The majority of these appear to be workers/deliveries to the various developers building sites. We shall monitor the situation once the developments near completion, and liaise with the local council/developers regarding signposting, road painting etc.</p> <p>Persimmon Homes Site: There have been an increasing number of local children playing on this site recently, particularly around the large puddle (commonly referred to as the swimming pool!). This puddle is full of debris and presents a real hazard to smaller children. The residents association shall contact Persimmon Homes, asking them to erect fencing and warning signs around the area to prevent possible accidents.</p> <p>Road Gritting: As the roads have not yet been adopted by the council, the responsibility for gritting the roads, and refilling the grit boxes would still lie with the developers. GM to chase Persimmon Homes regarding this.</p> <p>It was also noted that the Forest Road end of Hallforest Avenue appears to be getting prepared for final surfacing, at least for part of it’s length.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch: CK to supply contact information so that we can start getting the scheme(s) under way.</p> <p>Dog Fouling: This problem appears to be diminishing. AM agreed to</p>	<p><b>GM</b></p> <p><b>GM</b></p> <p><b>CK</b></p>

	<p>contact the local council regarding the provision of “dog bins”. Post meeting note – AM has contacted the council who “have us in mind”, though no new bins will be provided until around spring time, when the monies available for such facilities will be better known.</p>	AM
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Social Events &amp; Fund Raising</b>  It was decided that the residents association should start to prepare a social events calendar for the coming year.</p> <p>Our first event will be an informal gathering at the Torryburn Hotel on the evening of Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December for drinks. It is hoped that as many residents across all developments will attend, even if just for one or two drinks. It will be an excellent opportunity to meet neighbours, discuss New Year festivities, raise items with committee members etc. For next year, we would aim to hire a hall with a bar, disco etc. The main aim to permit residents to have a good local party, and not have to worry about getting expensive taxis home etc.</p> <p>A number of options were discussed for events at Easter. One is to involve all the children in an egg hunt. The other is to distribute chocolate eggs to children on the developments. We shall ask residents opinions in our next newsletter which will be distributed to all households.</p> <p>For the summer months, the residents association are planning to have a street party/BBQ, with a bouncy castle, face painting etc for the kids. Residents would bring their own food to be cooked (we can’t guess at everyone’s dietary requirements!), but the RA would hope to supply soft drinks and crisps/snacks etc.</p> <p>For Christmas next year, the RA would look at a number of “bring a party to a party” options, with a coach to transport people to/from the event.</p> <p>A number of other social events which could also double as fund raising events were discussed, including a Pub Quiz (there must be a good quizmaster amongst us!), Raffle, Race Night and even a Bingo evening.</p> <p>These events will be planned over the coming months. If anyone has any other suggestions, then we would love to hear from you!</p>	
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Historical Kintore</b>  It was mentioned that Kintore is steeped in history going back many hundreds and even thousands of years. It was noted that there currently isn’t a good on-line resource for all this information – there are bits and pieces here and there. It would be beneficial for our community to have a website with all this historical information and stories, and we should look to including this on our website. Gary Scott kindly agree to accept the role of local historian, and will start gathering lots of local historical items for inclusion on the website.</p> <p>If anyone has any good historical stories, information or sources about Kintore (the 2005 School play was mentioned a few times), then Gary and the committee would be delighted to hear from you. This will be mentioned in the next newsletter.</p>	
<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p><b>Next Meeting</b>  The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm at the Torryburn Hotel in Kintore. We would hope that all</p>	

	committee members will be able to attend as well as many residents for a Pre-Christmas drink.	
<b>13.</b>	<b>Close of Meeting</b> GM thanked everyone for attending the meeting, which ended at 9pm.	