

Minutes of SNBA Committee meeting 6.15pm at Sunstone 16 Jan 2007

Present: Sarah Graham, Rosanne Berry, Michael Sinclair, Bridget Pedgrift

1. **Apologies:** Ian Aarons, Ricky Catwell, Tonya Cavanagh, David Rowley, Hamdy Shahein, Angela Sheeran, Ged O'Sullivan

2. Minutes of last meeting

Approved

3. Christmas Activities

Bridget reported back on how the events had gone. No feedback has been received via email following her request to members apart from Sarah at the bookshop, who reported that the story telling session on Sunday 11th was a big success, with over 20 kids attending.

Ged was not there to give feedback on the mulled wine from the pubs and bars. Late night shopping was considered worth repeating, with various options for next time: intensive late night shopping during the last week before Christmas, or one night a week as before (but not necessarily Thursdays). The three Santas - Phil, Julian and Mort, were all much appreciated for their hard work. It was felt that Santa was most appreciated on Saturdays rather than Thursday evenings, as more kids are out and about. A thought for next year was to do organised polaroid photos with Santa. Taking photos on an ad hoc basis was unsuccessful as it took too long to get parents to fill in permission slips.

The stall at the farmers market can be developed for next year.

The carol singing was very well received, and both sets of singers (Baptist Church and the Hackney Singers) expressed enthusiasm for doing it again next year. Next year we'll need a handbell for both Santa and for the carol singers, to draw attention.

Better advertising and leafleting is vital for next year, which means starting earlier, ie in September. We also need more volunteers for specific tasks.

4. Christmas social

This was deemed a success - one councillor (Matthew Coggins, Lordship ward) attended, plus a good turn out from members and committee members. Michael proposed holding another one around Easter time.

4. Lloyds Bank and the Christmas tree

Thanks to Angela expressed by all for her time and energy over the tree negotiations, and to Michael for getting the bank to put up money. As the tree came in smaller and at less money than originally anticipated, there was discussion as to whether the SNBA should pay for the tree, and the Lloyds money go towards something else. Michael to talk to the bank about this. **Action: Michael**

5. Christmas lights in Stokey

Following from discussions at previous committee meetings, it was agreed Bridget would approach Andy Cunningham at StreetScene by email, to see whether there is a way for additional lights to be put up on Church St and the High St specifically for Christmas - and if so, at what cost. **Action: Bridget**

6. Wilmer Place car park

Trees - mixed feedback over trees, as some people very anti because of falling leaves and bird droppings; others in favour as long as no parking places are lost.

Signage - the large A-board outside the car park, on Atique's land, still gives rates for the private car park at the back, and not the main car park. These are higher charges than for the Council car park, and are putting parkers off. Rosanne will have a word with Atique to ask him to get the costs removed from the A-board. Bridget will email Willy Hauptmann again, to ask the Council to deal with the signage issues. **Action: Rosanne and Bridget**

7. Committee procedure and reporting

There was discussion over procedure for informing committee members of matters arising between meetings., when the consensus last time had been to cut down on emails as far as possible. Emails to outside bodies from a committee member which may need feedback from the committee as a whole, should be kept concise in order to avoid being misconstrued. An issue arose over an exchange of emails between residents and council members which were then copied on to the SNBA secretary and chair for comment, but were not subsequently copied on to the whole committee. This should perhaps be discussed at the next meeting as there were so few committee members present to comment.

8. Carpet damage on red route

Sarah and Michael reported that these letters to the contractors had not yet gone out due to a misunderstanding. They will now be sent out asap. **Action: Sarah and Michael**

9. Forum with Hackney Council

The ball is in our court, as Jamie Carswell asked the SNBA to get back to him with key 'hot topics' to be discussed. Suggestions so far have been: Waste collection - both domestic and business; Graffiti; Business recycling; Parking Services re Wilmer Place and general signage; Streetscene re general street landscape; Bicycle stands with built-in locks; Town Hall car park useage
To be followed up at next meeting so there can be input from more committee members. **Action: All**

10. Website

The meeting discussed setting up a dedicated SNBA site, which could then be incorporated at a later date into a wider stokey.info site. Rosanne's contact will charge us £300 to set up a site along the lines of the Victoria Park Traders Association site. Rosanne will speak to him when he is back from hols. **Action: Rosanne**
Domain name to use? Do we increase SNBA membership fees to £40?

11. WedgeCard

Bridget proposed we invite the Wedge Card rep to attend next meeting to give a presentation on how this loyalty card would work. Meeting agreed. **Action: Bridget**

12. Rosanne's Charity Event

New date is set for Friday 30th March, at Abney Hall - 200 capacity. Tickets will be £25. Rosanne to inform committee members which tasks can be delegated - volunteers needed! Celebrity to draw raffle?

Action: Rosanne

13. I Love Stokey Week

Bridget suggested that there is too little time to set up anything for Easter to coincide with Rosanne's event - unless someone would like to step in and organise something. Ideas - Easter Egg hunt round Stokey; Easter bonnet competition; I Love Stokey badges to go in goody bags at The Charity event. Bridget to speak to Dominic at Earlybird about donating badges for the event. **Action: Bridget**

Michael suggested we don't waste the opportunity to announce something new from the SNBA at Rosanne's event - but what?

14. Visitor Economy Strategy for the Council

Drafts of this are being prepared for the Council. Michael and Bridget spoke to Olivia Ruggles Brise of the Tourism Company, the body commissioned to prepare the paper for presentation to Tina Mackay. Same ground covered as in the Marketing workshop last year.

AOB

1. St Mary's Church - Rosanne reported that there are plans afoot to raise money to refurbish the Old Church on the north side of the street. Sue Ferrar (0208 806 5938 or susannaferrar@btinternet.com) is the contact. Rosanne showed the initial plans to the meeting (on loan from Sue), plus a questionnaire which Sue is keen that we distribute to members.

2. The meeting expressed support for David Rowley, and hopes his business will be back up and running very soon.

3. Committee members -Rosanne pointed out that we have not seen or heard from Glen for some time. She will contact him to see if he wishes to continue as a committee member. **Action: Rosanne**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Please note that the date of next meeting has changed. It is no longer Tues 13 Feb. The new date is **Tuesday 6 Feb at 6.15pm** at Sunstone.

PUT THIS IN YOUR DIARY RIGHT NOW!!! Please make every effort to attend, as there were only four members at the last meeting.