

Monday, 17 May, 2021

Virtual Meeting, 8pm

Agenda

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Sarah Jenkins and George Woolfenden
2. **Welcome**
3. **Minutes of the meeting of the 6 April, 2021.** Agreed.
4. **Matters Arising** - Sandra to look into 14 Whitehall Terrace – suspected HMO.
5. **Council tax exemptions document** (see attached) – Rob Lewis. Not a lot a small group can do other than build public knowledge on the matter. We cannot change the legislation – would need lots of objections from residents. Possibility of going to the Lincolnshire Echo or The Lincolnite with the possibility of doing a piece under the name of WERA. Agnes – is there a possibility of getting signatures via a petition to get this noticed? Could contact NORA and see if it could be a national drive? More likely to be noticed. There is a likelihood of a counter-petition. Contact NORA – we have discussed this at length and think it is futile for us, alone, to try and combat this alone. Needs to be done through NORA. Rob – would like a lot of people in the city to be aware of this situation. There will be lots of people willing to contribute to the effort. Only affects university cities – would not affect the whole of NORA's members. **Rob to contact NORA**
6. **Procedure to revoke HMO licences.** Email from Anne Marsden (55 Richmond Road). Number 57 has been sold because it was an HMO and there were lots of complaints. HMO license stays with the landlord so the new landlord would have to apply for an HMO license. Given that the inspection is ok, the council will issue a license. Neighbours have logs and records of the complaints. Rob – we are at a stage now where something needs to be done. We need a copy of a landlord's license so we can see whether there are any clauses regarding antisocial behaviour and we can challenge the council to put these in. Requires an official letter from WERA – we want to know what is in the license by way of revoking possibilities. It should have to go back to planning and be a case of a new license. It must have a family in it continuously for five years before it can revert back to being a family home from a HMO. We should be targeting the license issue here. Residents must keep the logs and understand that it must be reported to the council and continue to do so. If you hit "apply" on the council website, it does get you through to a license. **Paul to circulate a link – Mandatory license for housing of multiple occupation.** Please see attached document **Mandatory Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation Useful excerpts.**
Perhaps do a help sheet for residents giving them information on the steps to take if there are complaints against HMOs. Could be appropriate for a Friday night surgery in the church? **Rob to look at license.**
7. **Residents Welcome Booklet** – How and where do we get it printed? How much would it cost? Will the university contribute? Sandra and Rob have copies of the previous two booklets which went out. Jayne – needs

revamping. Agreed that it doesn't need to look as flash as in previous years, as a waste of money. **Jayne to mock up using publisher.**

8. **West Common update** – George – Random portaloo on Rosebery Avenue. SL to raise.
9. **Bookswap cabinet** – Rob not heard back from Tesco's. There was no indication of timescale. Case of wait and see. We still think there is a need, but not if we don't get the funding.
10. **Planning Matters** - no decisions as of yet. Brayford Guest House now has planning permission to turn it into apartments.
 - 5, Allison St
 - 13, Allison St
 - 47 West Parade
 - 69 Carholme Rd
 - 192 West Parade
 - 123 Carholme Rd – closing date 19th May. WERA to put objection in.
11. **AOB**
12. **Date of next meeting** – Monday July 12th.