

Committee Members Present

Tony Ray (TR); Ian Richardson (IFR); Hilary Sugden (HS)); Graham Sugden (GS) Steve Taylor (ST); Barbara Plumtree-Varley (BPV): Lesley Walton (LW): Michele Mooney (MM):

Apologies

A total of 39 present. Thanks to Councillors Emma Flint, Jools Heselwood and Izaak Wilson, Ian Coatman (Secretary of GALBA) PCSO Joshua Williams. Special thanks to St Chad's School superintendent Dennis Waudby.

1. Welcome by GS and introduction of committee members and speakers.
2. Election of Committee – All current committee members (see above) were unanimously re-elected. Proposed by Bill Rollinson seconded by Janet Kemp. There are vacancies for two new committee members. Anyone interested to contact GS.
3. Treasurer's Report (IFR)
 - a) Last year saw less membership funds coming into us than the previous year. **£390** last year, **£755** the previous year.
 - b) Again, we donated **£500** to GALBA in support of their activities re the LBA issue.
 - c) Other expenses were mainly internet based and room hire.
 - d) The bank balance at the start of the year was **£7450.78** and is now **£6936.33** following a net loss of **£514. 45**
 - e) The accounts have been independently verified by a qualified accountant.
4. Proposed new Housing developments (TR)
 - a) Current Planning applications
 - Weetwood Police Station – After nearly 4 years since the application for a new residential scheme on the site of the old Police Station was submitted, approval now looks close following the submission of a 'Section 106 Agreement' which includes a contribution £70,000 towards the improvement of greenspaces within Weetwood Ward.
 - Queenswood Drive junction with Spen Lane – Awaiting approval for a residential block of 21 flats.
 - b) Draft Leeds Local Plan listing possible development sites around our neighbourhood, issued last summer –
 - Leeds Uni playing fields off Otley Old Road for housing.
 - Leeds Uni athletic grounds off Otley Road for housing or business park.
 - Open Space down Butcher Hill after Abbey Grange School for housing but in Green Belt.Awaiting LCC response to the public consultation by this summer.
5. Lawnswood Roundabout update (GS)
 - a. Good working relationship with Eric Wright Civil Engineering. Monthly meetings with their colleagues, WPRA committee members and local residents.
 - b. HS read out a letter from ERCE giving an update on developments.

- c. On target re completion date and possibly a little ahead of schedule. They now have three separate groups working on different parts of the project.
- d. The proposed planting regime for the roundabout was shown and discussed. One plane tree in the middle and lower growing wild flowers and bulbs elsewhere. There will also be a rain garden with an underground tank able to take 50 000 litres of flood water.
- e. ERCE will be responsible for maintenance of the tree and other plants for a year after the work is completed. Possibility of additional planting in due course.
- f. Pollution levels need to be monitored on completion. Particularly near Lawnswood School, outside the old police station and by the houses near the roundabout.

6. West Park Fields, possible improvements (TR)–

- Further bulb and wildflower planting, including around the new play area.
- Laying gravel or wood chippings on muddy sections of pathways
- Information Board at Community Orchard following it's listing in the Leeds in Blossom leaflet.
- Cllr Izaak Wilson will be joining us on a 'Walkabout' on the fields at 2.00pm on Sun12th April. (Meet at the entrance to the fields at the end of Thornfield Road)

7. Leeds Bradford Airport Update. (Ian Coatman)

Presentation from Ian Coatman, secretary for GALBA (Group for Action at Leeds Bradford Airport). He brought us up to date with the latest developments re LBA's CLEUD Application. This is a complicated issue involving both 'legal' and 'illegal' planes

Main points

- A CLEUD was generally designed to cover buildings/extensions that had been up for 10 years and had been up without planning consent.
- If the CLEUD is successful, there will be no cap on the number of times LBA's most frequently used planes can fly at night. This is because if LBA can prove that those planes have been flying unlawfully for 10 continuous years, they effectively become exempt from the cap on the number of flights allowed at night. They can fly as many times as they want and no one can do anything to stop them. An analogy given of a driver who continually breaks a speed limit for ten years can then continue to do so without fear of prosecution.
- However, lawyers have just told GALBA that Leeds City Council can simply choose to make those unlawful planes lawful and that means they have to be counted towards the cap on night flights.
- Legal costs are mounting and GALBA are requesting financial support.

Additionally

- Emma Flint pointed out that there is a new Director of Planning starting this week which should hopefully improve GALBA's fight.
- Jools Heselwood meeting with GALBA on Wed. 1 April.
- Concerns from some that LCC has been too slow to act.

8. Q and A with Councillors

a. Road safety

- i. Prominent issue due to recent incident involving a car crashing into the school gates.

- ii. Suggested that more speed bumps and speed signage be introduced in the area
 - iii. Izaak Wilson has met the headteacher and some parents of St Chad's with a view to improving road safety. Suggestions included more bollards, increased signage making drivers aware of the school and use of mobile speed vans which have proved effective elsewhere.
- b. Protecting our vehicles.
- i. Vehicle crime is still the most common incident in our area. Izaak Wilson has worked with the police to produce 'Tips to Protect your car from theft' Copies were available at the AGM.
- c. PCSO Joshua Williams highlighted how important it is to report incidents of speeding, illegal parking, antisocial behaviour, quad bikes etc by phoning 101. So far they have had very few reports from this area. **If we don't report incidents the police will not take action.**

GS thanked Ian, Emma, Jools, Izaak and Joshua for their contributions and everyone else for attending.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Hilary Sugden
4/4/2026

Reporting a non-emergency crime

Phone 101 or go online to West Yorkshire Police

Contact details for our councillors

izaak.wilson@leeds.gov.uk or julie.heselwood@leeds.gov.uk or emma.flint@leeds.gov.uk

Phone 0113 3788814

Weekly newsletter at [weekly email newsletter, which people can sign up to here.](#)

Monthly surgeries

1st Friday, 2-3pm, Meanwood Community Centre

2nd Saturday, 10-11am, St Chad's Parish Centre

4th Friday, 1-2pm, Welcome In Community Centre