

Warren Wood Residents Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 16th May 2018 – Quakers Meeting House

Present

Committee: Pete Edwards (Chairman) : Duncan Coupland (Treasurer) : Abbie Russell, Celia Darrington, Sally Hall, Sharon King, Michael Chilvers, John Fowler, Graham Keens, Inder Brar

Plus: c30 Residents, Julia Wassell, and Speaker James Donald

Apologies: Ray and Lyn Cook, Mike & Judy White, Elaine Carr, John Campbell, Jean and Graham Bunsell, Christine Mahfouz, Deborah Godley, Tom Kean, Sarah Haldane, Clare Johnson, Bruni Kessell

Welcome and Introduction and Speaker:

Pete welcomed all to the AGM and started things off by introducing the guest speaker, James Donald, from the 'Revive the Wye Group'

James told us about chalk streams and the Friends of the Wye Group. He explained how Japanese knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Signal Crayfish were not welcome and should be reported if noticed anywhere along the Wye, and also that Mink had been spotted near Wooburn Green. The 'Revive the Wye' group is aimed at protecting the river Wye and have carried out maintenance such as redirecting the river in Desborough Recreation Park for a better flow. 'Friends of the Wye' is a support group for Revive the Wye, and carries out Litter picking, and children's talks at schools etc.

There were a few questions from the residents, and Pete mentioned that there will be a Ramble to be held in early June which will follow the route of the Wye.

Minutes of last AGM held on 17th May 2017

These had been circulated in advance via the new website and were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Jenny Ball and Seconded by Alison Cicin-Sain.

Chairman's Report

Pete presented his report with a review of the years' activities by the Association. He also reported that Mike & Judy White and Sally & Ian Hall were all leaving the estate and going to the same place – Hughenden Gardens Village – after many years here, and who had either served on the Committee or the Neighbourhood Watch group. Sally & Ian were presented with a card signed by the Committee and a bottle of Champagne, Mike & Judy had been presented with the same the week before.

There are some new arrivals already on the estate, namely Ella and Daniel Woodhouse, and also James and Phil? Mercer-Kelly.

Action: Welcome packs to be delivered to the new people at both 4 The Brackens and 38 Warren Wood Drive when they move in.

Village Green: Pete asked John Fowler to update us on the Village Green status, and John told us that he had received a letter on 8th May saying that they have officially received our application and has been given a reference number 137. The application will go to various Councils for approval, and comments will be requested from residents on a notice which will go up on the Green which will then be sent off to the Council.

Pete thanked everyone for the good response from residents on the survey forms which we sent out.

Data Protection: Because of new legislation, we have changed our email distribution to Mail Chimp in order to conform to the regulations, and all residents have been informed.

New Website: We now have a new website, thanks to Inder Brar – which provides a lot more information to residents, and useful links are put on Mail Chimp emails. Photos have to have permission from parents before they can be released to the website, and the Committee are to provide wording for this later in the year. We already have a disclaimer on all event flyers etc. *“Please remember that attendance at any WWRA event is entirely at your own risk”*

WDC Local Plans: Sharon has kept us all up to date on things, such as the proposed cycle path in Keep Hill Woods, and housing proposals. She said that feedback is needed from all residents on all proposed Developments.

Car Parking: We are trying to make the Council aware of the problem at the bottom of Warren Wood Drive, and the Fire Brigade have been invited to look at the gap between the two lines of parked cars.

Litter: Twelve Litter Heroes removed Fifteen bags of rubbish on the litter picking day. Vernon Holmes kindly provided litter pickets for us to use. Volunteering opportunities such as this are available to view on our website.

Events: There were several events over the last year and these included:-

40th Ruby Anniversary lunch with 2 live bands – Bakers Brew and The Ukelele Band
Rebellion Brewery Open weekend visit, which supported a local charity

Visit to Hope & Harrow local Vineyard

Ramble from Spade Oak, Bourne End, to Cockmarsh, Cookham

Progressive Supper – Black Tie

Trip to Brick Lane Music Hall with Afternoon Tea

Halloween Trick or Treating for the Children

Wine Tasting

Carol Singing, supported by 30 residents, raising money for 'Changing Faces' External Christmas Lights competition, won by the Godleys at 39 The Briars
Yew Year's Eve celebrations on the Green with fireworks by Mike & Maria Chilvers
Already this year we have had:
A ramble along the Wye
Comedy Night at the Red Squirrel
And the first monthly BBQ on the Green

Treasurer's Report:

Duncan advised us that finances remain healthy with a balance of £2,041.71, higher than last year and helped by the donation of £600 by Councillor Julia Wassell which will be used to mark our Village Green Status when we get it.

Most activities are self-funded by residents, but others require some subsidising, such as the AGM, the Ruby lunch, Fireworks etc.

There were almost as many subscriptions as last year, and this has been the first opportunity for residents to pay by bank transfer, but we still need to have signed envelopes back for proof. The subscription will be staying at £10 per household.

The Carol Singing collection came to £142 so the Committee made it up to £150, plus a donation was received to match this, making a grand total of £300.

The Audit was agreed – proposed by Stuart Jones, seconded by Mike Wiltshire.

Officers and Committee:

There were two retirements, namely Sally Hall due to moving away, and Inder Brar due to pressures of work. Pete thanked both of them for their support and hard work. A nomination was received from Robert Paddon for Ivan Cicin-Sain. This was unanimously voted for by everyone present, and also there was a unanimous vote for the rest of the Committee. The role of Secretary is still to be resolved.

Neighbourhood Watch:

Ray Cook was unable to attend so Ian Hall volunteered to report on his behalf on highlights of the year (for 2nd year running). There was an incident at Castle Keep and also at Woodstock opposite, both during the time of the Fair on the Rye. Ian advised that we all need to watch what is going on and challenge more people. There have been several break-ins in the area recently and Ian recommended that we keep all doors and windows locked and lights on or sensors or timers when away from the house.

Q & A:

Julia Wassell received questions from the floor:

Stuart Jones asked if Pony & Trap racing around the Rye was permissible. Julia said it was unlikely and should be reported to the Police. Michael Chilvers said that sometimes the motorways had been blocked for these races – mainly by Travellers.

Pete Edwards said that 2 cars (non-residents) had been driving round the estate at terrific speed, and he had tried to stop them but they just speeded by him. Number plates should be recorded or photographs taken if possible and passed to the Committee.

Lyn Whiting mentioned that two Asians were repeatedly walking along the back of the Rye and asking people with dogs how much they were worth. Suspicious?

Pete asked if litter collected from the Rye actually gets sorted. Julia said that it did. Pete said we need more bins on the Rye and Julia said that she could get more bins and grit bins within her remit. Lyn Whiting asked for a grit bin for the top of Warren Wood Drive by No. 1.

Stuart Jones asked about hedges in the area and said that nothing had been cut on the South side of the Rye.

Sharon King asked if there was any update on general housing developments. Julia said there was one about Bassetsbury and that the traffic could be bad if Highway problems aren't resolved, and she will oppose it. She is involved in the £4.2 million expenditure on the London Road which will include new Smart crossings, one of which is proposed for Bassetsbury Lane. Michael Chilvers said that he regularly sat on the slip road off the M40 at Loudwater for 20 minutes, whilst lorries are thundering past him on the motorway. Duncan Coupland said that the decision-making is very poor and added that the entry slip road to the M40 at Loudwater had a lane closed due to the sound barriers being erected.

Julia told us that Bucks is no longer receiving money from the Government for services. She is in favour of a single unitary Council rather than 2 (Bucks County Council and Wycombe District Council) and that High Wycombe would have to come under Slough if there were two. She believes that it will be unitary with a new committee, not the existing one. There will be two HQs, one in Aylesbury and one hopefully in High Wycombe. It should all be resolved by 2020 and the decision will be made by the New Minster for local government – Mr. James Brokenshire.

Jane Burley asked about the drains on the London Road constantly being blocked and if the Council had thought about them in the new proposals. One new change is that three lanes into two by the retail park is planned. Julia said that obviously a Ring Road would be ideal but will never happen. Julia said that she had reported 6 potholes bigger than footballs and they were filled within 24 hours.

With regard to the parking issue up here, Julia said that she had requested that the double yellow lines in Bassetsbury and Keep Hill be extended by two car lengths and that a passing place be marked out opposite Rye View Manor Care Home. She said that she might be able to add something else or make a new request.

Julia announced she is retiring as School Governor after 30 years.

Closing the AGM

Pete thanked Julia Wassell and suggested that she join us at one of our meetings at some time.

There was then a draw to find the winners of the competition which was run on the website and first prize was won by Celia Darrington, and the Runners-up were Debbie Dust and Jenny Ball.

Pete thanked the Committee, and everyone for attending, before closing the AGM and opening the refreshments.

We all thanked Pete for another great year as Chairman.

AGM Minutes 2018
Taken by Celia Darrington