

Warren Wood Residents Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 22 May 2019 – Quaker Meeting House

Present

Committee: Pete Edwards (Chairman), Duncan Coupland (Treasurer), Abbie Russell, Celia Darrington, Sharon King, Michael Chilvers, John Fowler, Ivan Cicin-Sain.

Members: 31 Residents (see Appendix below)

Guests: Julia Wassell (local councillor) and Jackie Kay (speaker from HW Society)

Apologies: Graham and Jean Bunsell; Graham Keens.

Welcome and Introduction:

Pete welcomed all to the AGM and started things off by introducing the guest speaker, Jackie Kay, chair of the 'High Wycombe Society'.

Presentation by Jackie Kay on the History of the Rye:

Jackie told us about the changing ownership of the Rye park area since the 17 Century and the various purposes it was used for. The park includes the grassland area formerly known as Rye Mead, on which historically the townspeople of High Wycombe had the right to pasture their cattle, and additional areas which were formerly part of the Wycombe Abbey Estate once owned by the Carrington family. The park also extends to include the area of Holywell Mead (by the outdoor swimming pool), the site of a Roman villa or temple.

The High Wycombe Society is a charity providing advice to our community and relevant organisations on planning, transport, heritage (e.g. Pann Mill) and the environment. This includes keeping a watchful eye on the Rye and where necessary, referring to legal documents which protect the Rye from development.

Minutes of last AGM held on 16th May 2018

Alison Cicin-Sain queried a comment in these minutes about 'High Wycombe coming under Slough' under new council arrangements and this will be corrected as a reference only to social services. The action that Welcome packs were to be delivered to newcomers to the estate has been done. Minutes had been circulated in advance via the new website and were accepted (with above correction) as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Lyn Whiting and seconded by Maria White.

Chairman's Report

Pete presented his report with a review of the year's activities by the Association.

He reported on the death of John Croft, one of the original residents on our estate, and newcomers to the estate (all of which had received welcome packs from the committee). Newcomers were Gary and Sally (4 The Brackens), Rakhi and Sachin (1 The Brackens), Nick and Claudia (9 WWD), Uzma and partner (38 WWD). Departures from our estate were Sheena and Arthur Hollins (after 39 years) and Kate and Steve Tsirtonis.

Pete asked the residents if they were happy with the communications from the committee. He also mentioned the committee's Mailchimp email system (introduced in 2018) and WWRA website. The response was generally favourable. Lyn Whiting mentioned that there is sometimes a delay before getting a response from the committee. Sharon King explained some of the GDPR issues and the necessary limitations re access to personal emails.

ACTION - committee to review methods of contacting the committee and the use of personal emails (committee members' or otherwise).

ACTION - committee to review website and consider adding more information (e.g. local planning and development)

Village green

John Fowler gave us an update. To protect the green from development the committee are trying to obtain legal protection status. The application for protection has been submitted and the council are considering it. To recognise the Green as a protected village green the council has to agree that we have been using the space 'as of right' which legally means that the council have never given us specific or implied permission to use the Green over at least the last twenty years for our community activities. They may deem the Green to be a leisure and recreation space which will imply their tacit permission and approval of us using it as we do. If this is the case our application could well fail. The WWRA have joined the Open Space Society to get help for our application.

Parking and Access

Concerns were raised about WWD effectively being turned into a one lane road due to excessive parking during events on the Rye (e.g. Park Run on Saturday morning). Pete mentioned that the Fire Brigade were invited to look at the gap between the two lines of parked cars and they had confirmed that there is sufficient access.

Grit Bin

Julia Wassell is arranging a 3rd grit bin.

Broadband Speed

Mark Dunn talked about internet speed on the estate and the unacceptable number of 'dropouts' (discontinued internet connection). He has kindly produced a document (now on the WWRA website) describing how to increase internet speed.

New charges by BCC for disposal at High Heavens

The committee are concerned that the new charges will increase fly tipping. Julia Wassell said that the extra admin costs do not justify the introduction of the new charges.

Saving Trees

On a few occasions a group of residents (organised by Pete) used buckets to transfer water from the Dyke to the young saplings which were suffering from the heat. The trees survived the drought OK.

Chiltern Rangers and woodland management

Pete said they were doing a good job by increasing biodiversity in the area.

Events: There were several events since the last AGM and these included:

- Brick lane music hall (organised by Sally)
- Rambles (Pete)
- Harry & Meagan Royal Wedding (committee)
- Summer BBQ (committee)
- Friday evening BBQ's (committee)
- Visit to Energy from Waste facility in Greatmore (Pete)
- Bats walk (Friends of the Wye)
- Progressive supper (John & Celia)
- Carol singing (Elaine & Jenny) (50th; raised money for Central Aid)
- New Years Eve (fireworks by Michael)
- Wine tasting (Graham and Derek)
- Games evening (Celia & Abbie)

Treasurer's Report:

Duncan advised us that finances remain healthy with a balance of £2194. Subscriptions to remain at £10. The carol singing collection came to £165. The committee made it up to £220, which was donated to High Wycombe Central Aid. The accounts had been audited by Graham Keens. [Details are in the actual report]. The report was agreed – proposed by Jenny Ball and seconded by Mike Wiltshire.

Officers and Committee:

John Fowler is retiring from the committee after 31 years, 3 of which were as Chairman. We thanked John for his work over the years and presented him with a bottle of sparkling English wine.

Pete will retire from chairing the committee, but will remain as Secretary. Those present applauded Pete's work as chair, a position for which he has served for most of the past 29 years.

ACTION: A new chairperson will be selected by the committee.

Chris Mullord was nominated as a new committee member by the Committee. The following committee members were re-elected: Pete Edwards (Chairman), Duncan Coupland (Treasurer), Abbie Russell, Celia Darrington, Sharon King, Michael Chilvers, John Fowler, Graham Keens, Ivan Cicin-Sain and Chris Mullord. Proposed by Trevor Flower and seconded by Alison Cicin-Sain.

Neighbourhood Watch:

The coordinator of neighbourhood watch for our estate is Ray Cook. He reported that there were no known reports of crime or incidents on the Estate since the last AGM. He highlighted the fact that about 20 houses in the estate are not in the WWRA and was concerned about communication with these houses regarding reporting of break-ins and crimes.

ACTION - Committee to investigate how we can better communicate without conflicting with GDPR rules.

Ray also warned that the proximity of our car or belongings (e.g. on driveway or pathway) does not protect us from opportunist criminals.

[See 2019 Neighbourhood Watch report for details].

Ray also talked about speeding issues on our estate. Trevor Flower suggested getting an official 20mph speed limit sign.

ACTION - Committee to revisit this issue and look into feasibility of getting an official sign.

Q & A:

Lyn Whiting thanked residents for responding to her appeal for second-hand books, which she has forwarded to a charity.

Jenny Wiltshire mentioned the ski slope land was due to be returned to its natural state and whether this is still happening as a wall on the site limits access. Pete had spoken to Chiltern Rangers about this and was not aware of any issues which would need following up.

Vernon Holmes mentioned loud music from the area next to the lido swimming pool (especially in the Summer months). Mike Doel had sent a letter to the council about the noise but had received no reply. Sylvia Holmes suggested the committee send another letter to the council. Supported by Trevor Flower. Lyn Whiting said the noise wasn't overly troublesome. Julia Wassell suggested affected residents should write to Fusion (lido swimming pool) about the issue and copy her in.

ACTION - Committee to revisit noise issue and what could be done about it

Mandy Williams reported a suspicious incident of a man sleeping in a car with the engine on. Police were called but no unlawful activity was apparent. Stuart Jones said that there was a known 'car sleeper' near his property in the winter months.

Julia Wassell informed us that the Unitary Council is now official i.e. there will be one council for the whole of Buckinghamshire from May 2020, which will contain local offices and 3 unitary councillors per ward. This may save money but may result in an Aylesbury focus. She further informed us of the council's endeavours to increase traffic flow on London Rd by investing £6 million. However, many of the initial proposals are no longer being implemented. Grit bin for estate is first on the council's list, extra litter bin is 12th.

ACTION The Committee were encouraged to follow up on the request for parking restrictions on the top corner of WWD when arriving and leaving the estate.

Closing the AGM

Pete thanked Julia Wassell and Jackie Kay (speaker) for their contribution to the AGM and all Residents attending. Pete was thanked for another great year as Chairman.

Meeting ended at 10.15pm. See Appendix below for attendees.

AGM Minutes 2019
Taken by Ivan Cicin-Sain

Appendix

List of attendees.

Number	Name	Info
1.	Peter Edwards	
2.	Abbie Russell	
3.	Celia Darrington	
4.	Ivan Cicin-Sain	
5.	Jackie Kay	speaker
6.	John Fowler	
7.	Michael Chilvers	
8.	Maria Chilvers	
9.	Sharon King	
10.	Mark Dunn	
11.	Michael Doel	
12.	Jenny Ball	
13.	Norman Ball	
14.	Duncan Coupland	
15.	Trevor Flower	
16.	Vernon Holmes	
17.	Sylvia Holmes	
18.	Ray Cook	
19.	Sarah Crowther	
20.	Inder Brar	
21.	Sue Brar	
22.	Mandy Williams	
23.	Jane Bailey	
24.	Jenny Wiltshire	
25.	Mike Wiltshire	
26.	Amanda Jones	
27.	Stuart Jones	
28.	D. Rogers	
29.	C. Rogers	
30.	Lyn Whiting	
31.	Clare Johnson	
32.	Julia Wassell	councillor
33.	Alison Cicin-Sain	

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