

**THORPE WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
THORPE VILLAGE HALL
MONDAY 4TH APRIL 2016**

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting started at 7.40pm and was attended by Councillors Elaine Gill, Linda Gillham and Margaret Harnden. 8 TWRA Committee Members were in attendance together with 23 residents and our Speaker for the evening, Gayle Thomas from Thames Water. Ray Walker (RW) as Vice Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Gayle made a presentation relating to the works carried out by Thames Water in recent months to clear the drains in The Gower, Fleetway and Village Road, which had been blocked by grease and fat. She left a supply of 'fat traps' together with literature for residents to take away. If more are required they are available on-line. Gayle stressed the importance of not putting fat or oil down into the drainage system and suggested fat be placed in a plastic container and left to harden in the fridge prior to disposing in the dustbin.

Gayle explained that it cost Thames Water £1M per month to clear drains of solidified fat. She also explained that individual blockages are the responsibility of the homeowner whilst blockages affecting more than one property, would be cleared by Thames Water. Gayle confirmed that she would forward a map of the drainage system to PH for distribution. PH confirmed that she would send a copy onto Mr Robbins.

A resident suggested that in some parts of the village there is insufficient fall on the sewers to provide reliable drainage.

On a different subject, a resident complained that there was insufficient water pressure at some times of day on his supply provided by Affinity Water. Gayle Thomas advised that there should be one bar of pressure, by law, to the outside stop valve.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Mel Few, Eiry Price, Debbie Foster and Sue Watson.

3. Minutes of AGM 2015

RW advised that the 2015 AGM Minutes had been previously approved at Committee. One issue raised from the floor in 2014, which had been an ongoing concern to some residents, was the situation regarding postcodes and this had not been resolved. The Post Office are responsible for allocating Post Codes and despite requests from residents, councillors and our MP they are not prepared to amend the Post Codes for the Thorpe Ward areas designated with a Staines. Postcode.

The matter of the development at Acorn Farm had also been listed as a matter of concern and Cllr Gill explained the current situation with regard to the landowner's planning consent.

Eiry Price had requested at the 2015 AGM letter be sent to Sue Relph, this was duly done. Sue Relph had donated a picture in Brian's memory and TWRA paid one third toward the cost of framing the picture. This now hangs in Thorpe School as a lasting memory to Brian.

4. Chairman's Comments: Ray Walker

Ray Walker's report is attached.

Some of the important topics raised in his report include:-

Issues raised by the residents included the ongoing concerns of flooding. Mrs S. Knight, who lives at Riverside, advised that since the flats were built at Chertsey Bridge and the clay lined tip in Norlands Lane having being completed, she felt that these had been contributory factors to the 2014 flood in the Chertsey Lane area. The Environment Agency insist that the opening of the Jubilee River did not contribute to the flooding downstream however it is difficult to find any resident who agrees with them.

The EA are currently working on a computer model, which is some seven months late in production. Even when complete it is believed they have insufficient data to validate the model under flood conditions. Without validation there can be no confidence in the model.

A view was expressed by residents that lives and properties are at risk of flooding due to the inactivity of the EA.

Mr Nigel Robbins commented that the TWRA website is "horrendous". Unfortunately TWRA have lost their website administrator recently and Mr Robbins offered to help. He also expressed concerns that he feels the fabric of the Village is under threat. He said he was underwhelmed by the advice given by the Environment Agency.

RW advised the residents that TWRA need more members to join the Committee. The commitment is 10 meetings per year and the more people/experience there are, the more effective we can be.

Cllr. Gillham explained the work in progress with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan and also the Local Plan and confirmed that she is looking for volunteers, as there are a number of technical issues that need attention. She explained the area covered by the Village Envelope and that there is currently no logical Green Belt boundary so work is in progress to put together a new boundary. LG also allayed residents concerns about the proposed development of the Viridor Site and advised that there are no plans to take this site out of the Green Belt.

Cllr. Gill advised that Runnymede Borough Council are required to find suitable land for housing and as much as we would like to protect the essence of the Village it may not always be possible.

5. Secretary's Report - Pat Holbrook

Report is attached

6. Treasurers Report – Ian Patenall

Report is attached.

Mary Abrahams proposed adoption of the Accounts and Maggi Jillard – Carried nem con, seconded this.

7. Councillors Reports

Councillors Elaine Gill, Margaret Harnden and Linda Gillham presented their reports and copies are attached.

8. Appointment of Scrutineer

It was agreed that Linda Gillham act as Scrutineer.

8. Election of Committee

The Committee was re-elected in its entirety after Committee Members introduced themselves to the meeting.

10.Appointment of Examiner

It was proposed by Mrs Patenall and seconded by Mrs Dobson that Robin Doran be appointed as Examiner.

11. Any Other Business

Mr Bill Bessant advised the meeting that the Environment Agency will be hosting a meeting at the RBC Council Offices on Wednesday 6th April 11am-4pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm with Ray Walker asking if any other attendees would be interested in joining the Committee.

Those present were invited to take refreshments, which were available at the rear of the hall.