

**THORPE WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
THE RUTHERWYKE ROOM
MONDAY 8TH APRIL 2019**

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting opened at 7.38 pm and was attended by Councillors Gillham, Gill and Few. All committee members were in attendance together with 14 residents and 4 members of Penton Park Residents Association. Nigel Robbins welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for taking the time to attend.

2. Apologies for Absence

Margaret Harnden was unable to attend due to ill health. Pat Holbrook sent apologies, following her decision to resign from the Committee. Nigel Robbins and Elaine Gill gave thanks to Pat for all her hard work over the years. A card was left out for members to sign.

3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

Su Knight asked whether there had been any action on the parking problem outside the Asda garage and shop in Chertsey Lane, as raised at the last AGM. Mel Few said he would take it up with Surrey Highways. CJ said she thought that double yellow lines had been agreed. Mel Few explained it would not be possible to put bollards, but if double lines were in place RBC would be responsible for enforcement of no parking. IP said he will raise this issue at the "Policing your Community" event. The Minutes were approved - Proposed by IP and seconded by MA. NR signed off the previous AGM minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts

IP distributed a copy of his report together with the Accounts for 2018. The accounts were approved by MA and seconded by SK. IP went on to explain that under GDPR any breach of data privacy can incur extremely high fines. Therefore every member has been asked to agree that the Association holds records for the purposes of Mail Chimp notifications. There are still some members who have not given their agreement. IP will send out a further mailing regarding GDPR, after which anyone who has not agreed will be taken off the mailing list.

5. Appointment of Auditor

It was proposed by IP and seconded by SP that Mr R.P.Doran be re-elected as Auditor.

6. Amendments to Annual Subscription

IP explained that our current subscriptions are not covering expenses. There has not been an increase in subscription rates since 1992. Although many members add a donation to their subscription it was felt that from 1st January 2020, there should be new rates of £8 per household where householders are under 65, and £5 for those over 65. As a fixed rate this would ensure, based

on current membership numbers, that we would be financially viable. NR said we have looked at other Associations and felt this would be a reasonable increase in order to stay viable. Proposed by SK and seconded by DL.

7. Chairman's Comments

NR delivered his report to the meeting. A detailed copy will be available on the website should members wish to read it. He gave a tribute to Pat Holbrook and thanked EG for her work on the War Memorial. He also welcomed Graham Walker to the Committee.

8. Secretary's Report

CJ read Pat Holbrook's final report as Secretary.

9. Councillor's Report

Elaine Gill said that life has been very busy for all 3 Thorpe councillors over the last year. She spoke about

- Local Plan and the working Group. Removal of part of the Green Belt in Thorpe, leading to developers pursuing development within the area.
- With the change of local boundaries she welcomed residents from Penton Park, Laleham Reach and Northern Burway to Thorpe Ward.
- Local Elections are taking place on 2nd May, and all councillors will be standing for re-election. She urged members to vote, not once but three times on the ballot.
- As Trustee of TYA community she reported that 2nd Thorpe Scout group is doing well, and the Beaver Leaders need some new recruits.
- The Thorpe War Memorial now has a new plinth with the names of Second World War casualties and was re-dedicated on 4th November. New benches to be installed, and a memorial book to be published.
- RBC are discussing reintroducing Community Policing and it is planned that Sarah will be coming back to Thorpe in this role.

Linda Gillham followed on with

- New local boundaries and meeting with other Residents' Associations.
- Local elections where all Councillors are standing for re-election
- Update on RTS
- Third Runway at Heathrow.
- Regret at the loss of Chris Edge and Jan Hitchcock from Thorpe Park. It is important to continue to have contact and dialogue with TP.
- Surrey Police have announced increase in burglaries, but these figures include sheds and garages.
- Update on Neighbourhood Plan, and open event on 17th and 18th May

Mel Few gave a brief report on matters from Surrey County Council. He has moved from Cabinet minister for Adult Social Care to Cabinet Member for Finance, a new post, and he is now responsible for trying to balance the books. He explained there is a growing demand for funds for Children and Adults with Learning difficulties. Surrey CC spends a good percentage of council tax on this as well as fixing roads. Cornwall CC is given more by government as they have more mileage of roads, but the volume of miles travelled is much lower than in SCC. He confirmed that Lyne Lane Recycling Centre will not be closed,

although SCC are looking at ways to save money on the process of dealing with black bin bags deposited at the Centre. Surrey Fire Service recently had a negative report on fire prevention. Although the incidents of fires are the lowest in the country a large part of its budget goes on road traffic accidents. Where stations are being closed they are being relocated.

10. Appointment of Scrutineers

It was agreed that we would re-elect the Committee en-bloc so there was no requirement for Scrutineers on this occasion.

11. Election of Committee

NR asked if there were any objections to conducting a show of hands to elect those names on the ballot. No objections were raised by any members. The Committee was re-elected en-bloc with a strong majority show of hands in support of the proposed Committee members contained on the ballot sheet.

12. Any Other Business.

NR explained how, with the ward boundary changes, TWRA are looking to work with those resident associations that will now be in the new ward areas. Peter Scott Dagleish, Fred Bilby, David Grey and Christine Adams from Penton Park Residents' Association, deputising for Alan, who was ill, introduced their group, explaining how they came together after the flood of 2014 and described the activities of the Association. CA gave a short synopsis of the association. As they have a licensed community centre it was suggested that we arrange a joint social occasion in the summer.

Mr. Longmore commented that we are a hard-working committee but wonders why we do not take the authorities to task over the delay in implementing the RTS, build it ourselves and send the bill to the authorities.

MB reported he had received a letter from the Forestry Commission regarding the problem with processionary moths. This was followed by a contractor arriving to spray the trees and MB questioned why some other oak trees on other land area in and around the village had not been inspected. MB felt this was not effectively controlling action to stop the spread and potential return of the moths to MB's trees which would result in a statutory fine of £5,000. NR also reminded us that they are a potential lethal hazard to children. As the problem is spreading it was agreed that NR liaise with MB and a letter should be sent from TWRA to the Forestry Commission.

BH reported that Simco Homes are targeting landowners in the Ward, offering to pay a deposit with a conditional option to buy, pending planning permission.

Close of meeting

NR thanked everyone for coming and invited all to stay for refreshments. The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.