

**THORPE WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT  
THE RUTHERWYKE ROOM  
MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The meeting opened at 8.00 pm and was attended by Thorpe Councillors and County Councillor Jonathan Hulley. Six committee members were also in attendance

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for taking the time to attend.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Recorded

**3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

Due to COVID there was no AGM in 2020 and the minutes from the 2019 AGM were distributed . It was proposed and seconded that the minutes from 2019 be accepted. and then put to the vote of those attending and there was no objections.

**4. Chairman's Report**

During the recent COVID Pandemic the Association has been meeting via video link, these meetings as these were recorded made the role of the Secretary much easier and the minutes of the meetings more accurate. It also enabled the acting Secretary to join in the discussions more often rather than concentrating on getting written down all the relevant details of the meeting. Prior Surrey County Councillor retired during the pandemic and he served the Association very well during his 12 years tenure, he was replaced on Surrey County by Cllr Jonathan Hulley and we also have attending the meeting Cllr Robert King who represents the northern edge of the Ward.

The Association also had video meetings with Dr Ben Spencer MP mainly dealing with the Thames Relief programme and this is progressing well with the Government releasing the first £60 million for the project.

The Association continues to review all planning applications submitted for Thorpe Ward, in particular those in Flood Zone 3B, where they are most prone to flooding. TWRA object as a matter of course to all these applications.

We have also submitted our objections to the Muse Development along Thorpe lea Road and the Gravel Extractions at Whitehall Farm although this is not in the Ward the effect from this site will be felt due to the HGV traffic associated with the site. This application is going to come before the Surrey County Council Planning Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> December but is quite likely to be deferred to a future date (more of this from Cllr Jonathan Hulley later in the meeting) The new Judo Dojo is almost finished on Thorpe Green and this is very welcome additional amenity for the Ward.

The Chairman also wanted to comment on the fact that for the first time in the history of the Association we have both the role of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Runnymede covered by two of our Independent Councillors Mrs Elaine Gill (Mayor) and Mrs Margaret Harnden (Deputy Mayor).

Questions were then asked from the floor:

A member asked if there would be any funds available to repair the road damage caused by the lorries carrying gravel down Thorpe Lea Road. (Cllr Hulley to give more details in his report)

Another member raised concerns about speeding down Green Road (Cllr Hulley will give more details in his report)

Cllr Linda Gillham advised that the Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum when it has funds would wish to see the "Gates" often seen at other villages at the entrance to the village encouraging motorists to slow down. Also, on the point of flooding along Green Road, those attending were reminded that there was only one pipe in the village running down Green Road for surface water and this was installed a long time before The Gower & Fleetway and many other houses were built in the village.

Another question was raised the point that the village seems to be hard done in respect of littering by dumped cars and overgrowing hedges over public footpaths compared with other areas. It is the responsibility of all residents to report littering to RBC. The Secretary advised the meeting that there is legislation in force dealing with this matter and details can be found on the TWRA web site.

#### **5. Secretary's Report (See attached)**

This distributed to the meeting and time allowed for it to be read, there were no questions raised.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts (See attached)**

This distributed to the meeting and time allowed for it to be read. A question was raised as to the cost of hiring the Rutherwyke Rooms, the Treasurer replied that the cost had risen since the last time the association had hired the room from £9.50 per hour to £16.00 per hour, this increase had been queried to the PCC, but no response had been forthcoming at present.

At this point Cllr Elaine Gill wanted her thanks to be recorded to the Treasurer and his wife for the care and time they take over the War Memorial and the Planter at Norlands Lane and work as Treasurer and lately acting Secretary.

It was commented that it was nice to see quite a lot of people sitting on the new benches at War Memorial and a lot of positive feedback had been received about Thorpe War Memorial.

The Treasurer advised the committee that the Lamp Post Poppies for Remembrance Day were to be extended further this year with the aim eventually to have them on all 83 lampposts in the Village area.

#### **7. Election of Committee**

The names of those on the current committee that are willing to stand for a further term were read out to the meeting

The list was proposed and seconded and there were no objections from the floor of the meeting.

The Chairman asked if any of the visitors to the meeting wishing to join the committee and there were no requests.

## **8. Cllr Jonathan Hulley**

Cllr Hulley congratulated the committee on the work it does for the community in difficult times and he will be attending all the regular meetings of the TWRA, to assist where he can. He also thanked the Association for the £500 plus costs donated by the TWRA to the Runnymede Foodbank and the work undertaken by Cllr Elaine Gill also in this respect. He also wanted to thank Cllr Gill and Cllr Gillham for their work in getting the Local Neighbourhood Plan "made" for Thorpe.

Turning to his role at SCC, he is pleased to represent the Green Lung of Surrey and he is also on the Surrey CC Planning Committee and has also arranged for a speed survey to be undertaken in Rosemary Lane and Timsway to be resurfaced. As the question was raised earlier in the meeting, he will attempt to get a speed survey along Green Road as well. Apparently, SCC is quite keen to see more 20mph speed limits introduced in the County as they are not only good for safety but also the environment.

He visited the Ward with the Director of the Environment for SCC to show her various issues in the Ward, including flooding, speeding and overgrown vegetation over public footpaths and roads. Also noted the lack of road white line markings in the village.

He then turned to Whitehall Farm gravel extraction and although is not in the Thorpe Ward the traffic issues caused by this application will certainly affect the Ward. Thanks to the Thorpe Councillors, RBC had formally issued a strong rejection to this application and Surrey Highways are also concerned about the lorry movements. He advised that the current Surrey Minerals Plan is being reviewed root and branch

## **9. Local Councillors Reports**

Cllr Elaine Gill wanted to take this opportunity of thanking Cllr Linda Gillham for all the hard work undertaken by the steering committee in getting the Thorpe Neighbour Plan "made" in very difficult times. Several issues complicated the matter such as the EA changing the flood zone extents part way through the process and Coltscroft going to appeal which was subsequently rejected by the Inspector.

Cllr Linda Gillham then reported on Planning matters:

- Eden Health renovation of the old CEMEX HQ is ongoing, and they hope to have the first units up for sale by Christmas, although some attendees thought this was unlikely as there appears to have been no work on site for the last couple of months.
- Whitehall Farm – the Surrey Minerals Plan is being reviewed and this as well as changes to Government legislation, means that it would be premature to look at this coming before committee.
- Coltscroft are appealing as they have not received a refusal from RBC,

this is due to go out this week.

- Thorpe Lea Muse Development is currently subquent to 4 applications. The RBC Planners are not happy with the Air Quality, footpaths and affordable housing allocations. RBC have said that the 4 developers need to work together and also produce an Environmental Impact Assessment. The date for objections has been moved out to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021
- Coldharbour Lane being developed because Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum implementing Section 136 to alter Green Belt, this will provide 40 houses, 42 space car park, extended cemetery, sports field and park. Confirmed the full application is to be made soon.

Cllr Elaine Gill added that she hoped as part of her Mayoral projects to have 100 white cherry trees planted in an area of reflection in the new park.

Cllr Linda Gillham then went on to speak about the new Judo Dojo on the Thorpe green (the old disused cricket club building). The owners of the Judo facility has been very resourceful recycling windows and washing and toilet facilities (brand new) from various companies in the locality. They also hope to have an outdoor gym near the car park for residents to use and there is also intended to be police CCTV monitoring of the site. The club has provided Judo activities in the morning and other sports in the afternoon as well as feeding the young people and teaching them about food growing and preparation for a 3 week period recently.

It was mentioned that unlike several surrounding boroughs Runnymede continued to complete the agreed general & garden waste collections as well as the recycling waste.

An ANPR system is to be introduced more widely in Car parks with 5 more areas due to go active.

The following questions were asked by those attending: -

- In previous AGM (2019) it was mentioned that Community Policing would be reintroduced – no sign of it so far. There has also been instances of youths tipping over bins and causing a disturbance. They may have come from a property somewhere in Green Road.
- Also speeding down Green Road was mentioned by several attendees.
- The response to these observations was that there is a new Neighbourhood Police Team and if residents spot antisocial activity they should report it immediately. Cllr Jonathan Hulley thought it might be possible to have a speed check undertaken on Green Road, although it was pointed out when this was done down Stoude Road most of the speeding culprits were residents.

The meeting was reminded of the upcoming MacMillan Coffee Morning in The Gower on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am.

### **Close of meeting**

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming. The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m..