



Shrewsbury Park Residents' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in The Library, Shrewsbury House at
19.30

Thursday June 10th 2010

Present:

Robert Million, Chair
Alex Hayesmore, Secretary
Ralph Million, Treasurer
Nicola Dennis
Chris Higgs
John Hill
Liz McDermott
George Tutheridge
Michael Wood

27 Residents from the Shrewsbury Park Estate

In attendance:

Cllr Dr Jagir Sekhon OBE
Cllr Barry Taylor
PCSO Kevin Denny

The Chairman welcomed residents and guests to the 75th Annual General Meeting.

Item

Action

1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Committee member Martyn Kither, Cllr Thorpe, PC Genovese, Len Newland, Jean Newland, Mr and Mrs Watt.

2 Minutes of the last AGM held on Tuesday 9th June 2009.

The minutes were proposed as a correct record by George Tutheridge and seconded by Elizabeth Tutheridge, they were then signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters arising.

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting. The Chairman read out a largely complimentary letter pertaining to the shrub pruning that had taken place, however, disappointment was expressed at the lack of maintenance to the beds.

4 Chairman's report.

The Chairman started by thanking Len and Jean Newland for their work and commitment to the Shrewsbury Park Residents' Association over the years.



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4 Chairman's report. (continued)

He also thanked current committee members for their contribution, particularly delivering newsletters and collecting subscriptions. Other than the various issues with the Fire Station Mast, the association had a good year and goes from strength to strength. Strong links have been established with local councillors and the police. The pruning of shrubs had finally been achieved following a number of site visits. He reported that the London Borough of Greenwich was to become a Royal Borough in 2012 and felt that this would be a good thing for the estate and wider area. A request was made to the meeting for material for the new website, old photographs etc.

Association vision

As Chairman Robert Million wanted to set out a vision for the future of the association and the estate.

Many original features had been removed from the estate over the years and he would like to attempt to re-instate some of these. For example the shrub bed between 211 and 219 Plum Lane, restoration of street name plates and of some of the original posts to mark the Kinlet Road and Mereworth Drive entrances.

The planting of trees continues replacing those lost during the storm of 1987 and others that had died. 63 trees were lost in the storm and most of these have now been replaced. There is now a line of trees from the Fire Station to the entrance of Shrewsbury Park that have been funded by the association and Greenwich Council.

5 Treasurer's report.

Ralph Million, Treasurer, reported that income was slightly down on last year, but costs had been reduced so there was a greater surplus. Many of the expenses had been met by committee members. Association funds were currently £1,664.72p. Ralph Million thanked Trevor Jones for auditing the accounts. George Tutheridge thanked Chris Higgs in particular for photocopying.

A resident asked what the money was actually for and Ralph Million explained it was for the costs of running the association, such as printing costs and room hire and the various projects he had previously mentioned. Robert Million highlighted the money paid to Greenwich Council for tree planting as a particular example and explained that the various improvement projects would have to be done incrementally.

6 Election of officers.

All committee members with the exception of John Hill were willing to stand again and were duly re-elected. The Chairman asked if anyone was willing to stand from Kinlet Road, no one was. Susan King from Bushmoor Crescent agreed to join the committee.



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7 Neighbourhood watch-Police safer neighbourhood team.

PCSO Kevin Denny addressed the meeting. He explained that he was the longest serving member of the safer neighbourhood team at 3 ½ years.

The safer neighbourhood team hold drop-in surgeries at Shrewsbury House every third Wednesday at 15.30, but so far there has been little support. The team consists of a sergeant, three police constables and three police community support officers. It is a new team, but is working well. Approximately a year ago there was a spike in burglary and vehicle crime, but the new sergeant acted quickly and 15 arrests had been made. One burglar alone had been responsible for 26 break-ins! PCSO Denny reported that over the past month there had been 30 vehicle crimes over the whole ward, One of which was in our area and there had been three burglaries on the estate. He asked for intelligence from the public and assured the meeting that any details given to police would be investigated; he also offered general crime prevention advice.

Liz McDermott asked about damage to cars in Mereworth Drive and Kinlet Road. PCSO Denny confirmed that this was included in the statistics although classed as minor.

A resident asked about the theft of manhole covers. PCSO Denny explained that this was dealt with by Greenwich Council and therefore the police were not usually made aware of this type of crime.

Nicola Dennis raised the matter of motorbikes in Shrewsbury Park. PCSO Denny said that dealing with this was an on-going operation, although he confirmed that 57 bikes had been crushed over the past year.

Cllr Sekhon asked what had happened in the cases of the fifteen arrests mentioned earlier. PCSO Denny explained that officers do not receive details on convictions. She then asked about property recovery, PCSO Denny replied that all this information was contained in the leaflets he had brought along to the meeting.

A resident complained that driving out of Eaglesfield Road onto Shooter's Hill was becoming a problem and something of a bottleneck. PCSO Denny explained that this was an issue for the Greenwich Council, however he requested the resident contact him with the details and he would bring the matter to their attention.

Elizabeth Tutheridge asked if Selectamark DNA was bringing crime down. PCSO Denny replied that there were instances where it had helped to solve crimes, but again the details were not available to him.



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8 Local Councillors.

Cllr Barry Taylor told the meeting that he had lived in the area since 1954, and that he was here to help. He has had meetings with friends of the parks groups and neighbourhood watch. He also assured the meeting that he would immediately look into the Eaglesfield parking issue. Cllr Taylor has also been looking into the equipment on the mast that doesn't have planning permission and it seems that if it has been there for four years there is nothing further that can be done.

Nicola Dennis asked if Cllr Taylor might exert some influence in getting the weeds cleared from beds and pavements around the estate. The Chairman was able to provide an update on this matter. There is now agreement between departments over responsibility and approach. Parks and Open Spaces will look after the shrub beds and Cleansweep will be responsible for weeding pavements. Cllr Sekhon promised to check why this maintenance had yet to be undertaken. A resident mentioned the Sycamore tree problem of self-seeding and the Chairman was able to report the Cllr Fahy is committed to keeping on top of this issue. There followed a general discussion regarding weeding etc. Cllr Taylor felt that the association had the right approach when dealing with the Council.

Chris Higgs voiced concern over planning objections being posted on the Council website. Cllr Sekhon responded by explaining that objections can be made anonymously, residents felt that this should be made clearer by the Council. Cllr Taylor informed the meeting that in appeal an applicant has a right to know who objected and why.

9 Fire station mast.

Chris Higgs thanked the committee and the chair for the association's support of SHAM, he reported that he is currently trying to raise awareness of the health issues linked to Tetra and other communications systems. He reported that many Councils in Scotland and across Europe do not allow communications masts to be sited in densely populated areas. The association and SHAM's main aim is to get the Council to reconsider the locations of all the masts on Shooters Hill, of which there are 11 others in addition to the fire station. He also asked for residents to show their support and SHAM would be holding a stall at the Eaglesfield Park community fete.

Cllr Sekhon offered to present the petition before the full Council meeting at the end of June and put the case in the strongest possible terms.



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10 Any other business

Cllr Sekhon asked Robert Million to write a brief paragraph about the estate's 75th anniversary and she would put this in the local press.

Kenny Earl spoke about a charity football match to raise money for a local hospice. This was to take place on Sunday 25th July and Kenny had leaflets to hand out for those who were interested. Website www.justgiving.com/elthamroyals

Robert Million reminded the meeting about the community fete in Eaglesfield park. Flyers were available.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.04

Date of next committee meeting, Tuesday 14th September 2010.

Signed:
(Chair)

Date: