



Shrewsbury Park Residents' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in The Old Library, Shrewsbury House
at 19.30
Thursday June 9th 2011

Present:

Robert Million, Chair
Alex Hayesmore, Secretary
Nicola Dennis
Chris Higgs
Liz McDermott
Michael Wood

33 Residents from the Shrewsbury Park Estate

In attendance:

Cllr Dr Jagir Sekhon OBE
Cllr Barry Taylor
Cllr Danny Thorpe
PC Richie Sale

The Chairman welcomed residents and guests to the 76th Annual General Meeting.

Item	Action
1 Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Committee member Martyn Kither, Treasurer Ralph Million, Len and Jean Newland and Sarah Heywood.	
2 Minutes of the last AGM held on 10th June 2010 The minutes were proposed as a correct record by Elizabeth Tutheridge and seconded by Derek Wells; they were then signed by the Chairman.	
3 Matters arising. A resident requested a more detailed report on shrub bed maintenance, Robert Million chair hoped to provide this in his report.	
4 Chairman's report. The Chairman began by thanking committee members past and present, Alex Hayesmore (Secretary), Ralph Million (Treasurer) and Liz McDermott for organising the raffle and table decorations. He also extended his thanks to Sue King for her support over the past year, to George Tutheridge and Chris Higgs for their hard work with SHAM (Shooters Hill Against Masts) and to Trevor Jones for auditing the accounts.	



Item

Action

4 Chairman's report. (continued)

He remarked that the Association Committee is well respected and has a positive relationship with both local police and Greenwich Council.

A new regime for pruning of the shrubs had started and bed maintenance, weeding etc. was due to be started in the current month. He felt it was also very encouraging that residents maintained their own hedges and gardens to such a high standard.

He recapped on the vision for the estate that had been put to previous AGMs, which included reinstating some of the original features of the Estate that had been lost and reported on the progress of the various projects.

Plum Lane project

Robert Million re-iterated the committee's desire for a more comprehensive positive response before proceeding with this project to create a shrub bed between 209 and 215 Plum Lane as these properties would be directly affected.

Street name plates and lamp columns

It was explained that the original street name signs were ornate and many had been replaced in the 1960's. In view of Greenwich being awarded Royal Borough status in February 2012, the Committee was awaiting a response from Greenwich Council on their plans to replace street signs. It had been established that it was possible to fit ornamental lamp fittings to the existing columns.

Oak posts

The design is agreed and the posts sourced. Cllr Taylor agreed to donate £50 to this project. The Highways Department of Greenwich Council is generally supportive of such projects. The current cost for the first four posts was estimated at approximately £800. With agreement from the council the first posts will be installed in the next year.

Succession tree planting

Seven trees had been planted around the estate. The Association had paid for 5 and the Council had funded a further 2. The Council had also covered the associated costs of transportation, planting, support and protection.

Simon Heywood responded by saying that despite the assurances from the Council that had been recorded in the minutes at the last AGM, it appeared that still nothing had been done in relation to the maintenance of shrubs and beds around the Estate.



Item

Action

4 Chairman's report. (continued)

He felt that the standard of maintenance was worse than ever and questioned if this aspect of the Estate was safe in Council 'hands', he suggested that residents take a more pro-active approach themselves. RM explained that it was only in recent years that the standards maintained by the Council had declined due to the system changing with responsibility being divided between two different departments. It was the Association's task to seek assurance from the Council that this situation would improve, and indeed, it now had such assurances and work had commenced. Robert Million explained the Committee's position on this matter, citing health and safety and insurance issues as just two of the many reasons why the Association should not be organising residents to undertake such work themselves. He assured the meeting he would be active in checking that this work was carried out satisfactorily by Greenwich Council. A resident asked for clarification of the appearance and location of the oak posts, Robert Million explained how they will look and where they'll be installed. Another resident asked about the problem of street name plates becoming covered by shrubs, this issue came back to the horticultural maintenance previously discussed.

Plum Lane/Brinklow Crescent Junctions.

Robert Million reported that the Association had not been consulted on the alterations to this junction and should have been, as Plum Lane is part of the Estate. He had emailed the Council highlighting this and had received a response. Residents of Plum Lane had also received letters. Robert Million read out the response letter to the meeting and asked how all thought the Association should respond. A vote was proposed. There were 3 votes to do nothing, 17 votes to reinstate original and 3 abstentions.

Shrewsbury House Listing Status

Robert Million explained the current status of Shrewsbury House to the meeting, emphasising that there is little to protect it should its use change from the present. He asked the meeting if it was happy for the Committee to proceed with nominating Shrewsbury House for Grade II listing status. Opinion was divided, but it was agreed that Robert Million should write to English Heritage, as ultimately it would be their decision.

5 Election of Officers

All Committee members were willing to stand again and were duly re-elected. Leslie Smith agreed to join the Committee.



Item

Action

6 Shooters Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team-PC Richie Sale

PC Richie Sale addressed the meeting offering many useful tips for securing property and advising that the Metropolitan Police Service did not support the use of barbed wire. Plastic cones on the top of fences were allowed, but required warning signs.

A resident asked about the crime rate on the Estate. PC Sale reported that it was low, there were still issues with motorcycles in the park, but the Police were working to deal with it. There had been a month of traffic enforcement on Shooters Hill, which resulted in approximately 50 points on licenses, £1500 in fines, some court cases and 4 people had their cars impounded. He also reported that there had been an imprisonment as a result of the last spate of burglaries. He asked residents to raise any concerns with Len Newland, the Associations Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

7 Local Councillors-Cllrs Sekhon, Taylor and Thorpe

Robert Million requested feedback from the Cllrs on the matters of Estate maintenance and the Fire Station mast.

Cllr Thorpe explained that they are working with Robert Million to find a solution to the problem of maintaining the Estate. The Councillors thanked Chris Higgs and George Tutheridge for their campaigning on the mast, which proved there was illegal equipment on it. There was to be a formal hearing against Orange's appeal on the 15th September. Cllr Taylor reported that the works at the junction of Brinklow Crescent and Plum Lane were a mistake and the council officer responsible had been suspended amid an on-going investigation. There was to be a new coat of arms for Greenwich when it becomes a Royal Borough in 2012 and a Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 3rd June 2012. Cllr Sekhon spoke about the Olympics and its legacy; she had a list of events.

Simon Heywood commented that he didn't have a strong sense that there would be a forceful attempt to resolve the maintenance issues. Cllr Thorpe assured him that this was not the case and the matter was being vigorously pursued. Cllr Taylor felt that there needed to be more intervention with those actually carrying out the work. There will be improvements in communications between the departments responsible and between those departments and the Association.

A resident expressed horror at the money 'wasted' in Woolwich and felt it shocking that the maintenance wasn't being carried out due to bureaucracy. Robert Million pointed out to the meeting that the Councillors were committed to getting to the root of the matter.

8 Planning and former Fire Station Mast- Chris Higgs

Chris Higgs thanked the Councillors, the Association, SHAM members and residents for their support. He reported that the deadline for writing to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol was 17th June and requested as many as possible attend the open hearing.



Item	Action
9 Treasurer's Report Robert Million stated that he wouldn't report in Ralph Million's (Treasurer) absence, but requested that any questions regarding the accounts be emailed to Ralph.	
10 Association Website Alexander Hayesmore (Secretary) reported that the Association website was now live and he would appreciate any feedback.	
11 Any other business Sue King read out a prepared statement accusing the Committee of 'apathy', stating that the newsletters were 'boring' and that the Committee should be organising litter picking days etc. Chris Higgs then said he thought the Association should be doing more. There was much discussion, some of which became personal in nature. Alex Hayesmore pointed out that those unhappy with the work of the Committee had the opportunity to oppose their re-election earlier in the meeting, none had done so. Robert Million thanked everyone for attending.	

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.40 and a raffle followed.

Date of next committee meeting, to be confirmed.

Signed:
(Chair)

Date: