



Shrewsbury Park Residents' Association

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

Thursday 19th June 2014

Present:

Robert Million, Chair
Liz McDermott, Vice Chair
Len Newland, Vice Chair and SPRA Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator
Alex Hayesmore, Secretary
Ralph Million, Treasurer
Nicola Dennis
Nick Fry
Clive Inglis
Martyn Kither

Approximately 17 Residents from the Shrewsbury Park Estate

In attendance:

Cllr Danny Thorpe

The Chairman, Robert Million (RM) welcomed residents and guests to the 79th Annual General Meeting. He then asked each member of the committee to introduce themselves.

Item

1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Richard and Carol Buchanan, Val and Ian Williamson, Mrs Druce, Mr and Mrs Cutting, Mr and Mrs Mollinson, Mrs Humphries, Jean Newland, Margaret Bennett, Councillors Kirby and Merrill. Apologies had also been received from committee members John Field, Chris Higgs, Ian Robert and George Tutheridge.

2 Minutes of the last AGM held on 9th September 2013

The minutes of the last AGM were proposed as a correct record by Nick Fry and seconded by Len Newland. They were then signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.



Item

4 Guest.-Councillor Danny Thorpe

Cllr Danny Thorpe reported that he was approaching ten years as a councillor. He apologised on behalf of the councillors who weren't able to attend. Councillors were currently working with the Friends of Shrewsbury Park on Green Flag Status. Restoration work at Severndroog Castle was almost complete and it was hoped it would re-open later in the summer.

Woolwich is changing. The new Tesco store had made a difference, and the arrival of Crossrail would also impact. DLR Woolwich Arsenal was now the second busiest station on the line. The Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) had been awarded Council of the Year. RBG had supported residents and the Association in opposing additional equipment on the Old Fire Station Mast. Airwave's lawyers had embroiled RBG in an appeal. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) had been placed into much needed improvement measures. Cllr Thorpe encouraged anyone who had an experience of the QEH to make it known.

A resident asked about shops moving out of Woolwich Town Centre. Marks and Spencer would be vacating Powis Street.

Another resident said what a shame that Marks and Spencer were leaving Woolwich. RM asked if there was anything the Residents' Association could do. Cllr Thorpe suggested that at the meeting a petition be arranged.

Len Newland (LN) said the proportion of people in the room who actually went into Woolwich on a regular basis was low. Cllr Thorpe replied that Woolwich was 'on the up'. The big issues for retailers 'on the high street' were online shopping and out of town shopping centres.

Another resident expressed the view that RBG needed to be stronger about planning and the use of commercial premises. Woolwich was full of betting shops. Cllr Thorpe said that RBG had fought very hard for Woolwich and the Town Centre and in the future RBG would transform the housing estates that surrounded it.

Elizabeth Tutheridge said she had worked in Woolwich for 35 years and during that time Woolwich was very respectable.

Emily Bennett remarked that the re-location of the Royal Mail sorting office was a problem for people who now have to travel much further to collect mail.

5 Chairman's report.

The chairman began his report by apologising for the AGM clashing with a football match. The SPRA was now in its 80th year. He presented the current committee who introduced themselves. RM thanked the officers and the committee, Ralph Million for managing the finances, and Trevor Jones for auditing the accounts. He also thanked those who'd collected subscriptions and George Tutheridge and Chris Higgs for the work on the Old Fire Station Mast. Towards the end of 2013 a dedicated gardener had been requested for the Estate and we now had one. Members had asked for a more open approach to the Associations involvement in planning applications. Planning comments are now agreed by the whole committee, as requested. RM and LN had meetings with the planning department and consistency of decisions was key. The Association has asked for the 20 mph zone in Plum Lane to be extended and the Association has fostered close links with the Safer Neighbourhood Team.



Item

5 Chairman's report (continued)

Oak posts.

Four posts had been installed and a further two would be as funds permit.

Plum Lane project.

The new shrub bed outside 221-223 Plum Lane had now been installed. Further beds were planned. These would be installed as funds permit.

Succession Tree planting.

The Association had agreed a tree planting schedule with RBG for 2014/15 onward.

Succession Shrub Planting.

155 new shrubs had been planted at a cost of £75 to the Association. RBG has also started a replacement programme at the Association's request.

Planning Guidance Booklet.

This was being updated at the Associations request. It was hoped it would be issued during 2015.

Old Fire Station Mast.

The Association had objected to the retention of the dish that was placed on the mast temporarily for the Olympic Games.

Shooters Hill Addressing (Homes on Shooters Hill).

The SPRA is in discussion with RBG in relation to Shooters Hill being recorded as a distinct area on the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) which is maintained by RBG. At present, all Shooters Hill addresses are listed as Plumstead.

Green Flag Award.

It was hoped an application for Green Flag Status for Shrewsbury Park would be put forward soon.

RM summarised the years achievements which included tree and shrub planting, new shrub beds, 14 new residents packs delivered, 10 new neighbourhood watch signs erected and several hundred information emails for those on LN's email list. Elizabeth Tutheridge thanked RM in particular for the letter objecting to the retention of equipment on the mast post Olympics and thanked LN for his emails.

6 SPRA Welcome Pack Update-Liz McDermott

Liz McDermott explained the purpose of the pack and detailed the content. LMD explained that they are distributed to new residents when they arrive on the Estate. The packs are either delivered by Liz or by a committee member from the relevant street. 14 packs had been delivered in the past year and LMD had delivered 2 that week. A resident asked about bonfires. There was some debate on this as bonfires are not restricted by law, but by restrictive covenants in the title deeds of the properties. LMD gave LN the bonfire information from the welcome pack to distribute via his email list. LN also read out the information from the Association leaflet for the meeting.



Item

7 Treasurer's Report

Ralph Million, Treasurer (RHM) reported on the salient points of the year's accounts. Income was down on the previous year. Subscription total had risen reflecting the increase in rates, there had been a very small drop in the collection rate. Expenditure was less than 2012/2013 resulting in a surplus for the year. There were costs associated with printing and stationery, a donation of £150 had been made to the mayor's charity. The balance was just under £1000. RHM thanked committee members for collection of subs and Trevor Jones for auditing the accounts. Elizabeth Tutheridge and Lorena Walpole offered to collect subscriptions in Bushmoor Crescent if committee members were unable to.

8 Neighbourhood Watch Update- Len Newland

Officers from the local team were unable to attend as they were all on duty that evening. LN encouraged more people to be on the NW email list. LN stressed the importance of reporting everything suspicious. LN requested that if people know their neighbours don't have email to please pass on anything important to them. A resident remarked that the number of cars parked on the street had increased and asked if there was anything that could be done. LN explained that as long as they were taxed and insured anyone could park on the side of the road, LN felt that the parking situation by the Tennis Club was now dangerous. He had spoken to the club but the situation was still bad and felt the only solution was yellow lining. LN asked Cllr Thorpe to look into the situation.

9 Election of Committee

3 members of the committee were standing down; all others were prepared to stand again. Lorena Walpole agreed to join the committee. Clive Inglis proposed all be re-elected, this was seconded by Lillian Crimp.

10 Any Other Business

A resident asked if anyone could shed any light on why the Children's Christmas party hadn't been arranged this year. LN explained what he believed the situation to be with Shrewsbury House.

A resident requested other residents not to feed the foxes.

The residents at 16 Mereworth were moving overseas on the 27th June and there would be a large container lorry outside 16, 18 and 20 Mereworth Drive. RM asked neighbours to please leave this area clear for the lorries to park.

RM thanked everyone for a friendly and peaceful AGM.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.38 and a raffle followed.

Date of next committee meeting, 2nd December 2014

Signed:
(Chair)

Date: