



Shrewsbury Park Residents' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in The Old Library, Shrewsbury House
at 19.30 on Monday 9th September 2013

Present:

Robert Million, Chair
Liz McDermott, Vice Chair
Len Newland, Vice Chair (SPRA Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator)
Alex Hayesmore, Secretary
Ralph Million, Treasurer
Nicola Dennis
Chris Higgs
Clive Inglis
Martyn Kither
George Tutheridge
Michael Wood

49 Residents of the Shrewsbury Park Estate

In attendance:

Cllr Barry Taylor

The Chairman (Robert Million) welcomed residents and guests, especially new residents to the 78th Annual General Meeting.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Rosalind Bedford, Patricia Watt, Margaret Bennett and committee member John Field.

2 Minutes of the last AGM held on 14th June 2012

The minutes were proposed as a correct record by Geraldine Kither and seconded by Clive Inglis. They were then signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters arising

A resident requested the minutes be issued in advance to give people more time to read them. It was agreed that a copy would be posted at Shrewsbury House in advance of the next AGM.

4 Chairman's report

The Chairman began by saying it was an honour to hold the post; he thanked the current committee and asked them to introduce themselves. He was sorry to report that committee members Tania Smith and Leslie Smith did not wish to stand again and thanked them for their contribution over the past year.



4 Chairman's report (continued)

He also apologised for the late date of the AGM. He spoke of the close ties the Association enjoys with other local groups. He also spoke about recent updates to the website and how planning application guidance on the site would eventually cross link to the 'what's my house type?' pages.

The Chairman then updated the meeting on the various ongoing projects.

Oak posts.

The four posts that had been installed had received positive feedback. Another two slightly smaller posts remained to be installed in Plum Lane. Discussions with the Royal Borough of Greenwich were ongoing in relation to this.

Plum Lane project.

The project to create a further shrub bed between 221 and 223 Plum Lane was ongoing.

Street Name Plates.

Six of these had been replaced. The Chairman thanked Len Newland for arranging this.

Succession Tree planting.

The Association had prepared a tree planting schedule covering the whole Estate. Unfortunately, several original trees had been removed in Bushmoor Crescent as they were in poor condition. These would be replaced in due course.

Succession Shrub Planting

155 new shrubs had been planted. The Association contributed £75 to the costs. The committee had also agreed a schedule for shrub planting for the coming year

Shrewsbury House listing status.

Since the 2012 AGM Shrewsbury House, the grounds and boundary wall had been Grade 2 listed. Greengarth (28 Mereworth Drive) and Shrewsbury House Annexe had been given Local Listing status by the Royal Borough.

Conservation Area character appraisal and Management Strategy.

This was adopted in May and some amendments had been made as a result of input from residents and the Association. The Chairman explained to the meeting that this did not mean changes to the Article 4 Direction Planning Controls which remained the same. The Royal Borough had yet to update character appraisals for the other conservation areas in the borough. Should there be any proposed changes to the Article 4 Direction Planning Controls in the future the Royal Borough would run a specific consultation process. The Association would keep residents informed of any changes, should they be proposed, through its newsletters.

Shrub bed maintenance.

The Estate is now serviced by a dedicated Cleansweep team on a weekly basis.



4 Chairman's report (continued)

In summary for 2013 the committee had requested the planting of 8 trees and 155 shrubs. A dedicated Cleansweep team is assigned to the Estate. The website is regularly updated and the committee had requested that the Royal Borough improve the consistency of planning decisions.

The Chairman reported that despite the agreement at last year's AGM to move forward harmoniously with some new committee members on board, within three months of the AGM a new group had been formed. SPESHIG. After a number of attempts by the committee to work together harmoniously, a member of the committee, Simon Heywood had been voted from the committee.

The Chairman read out an extract from correspondence he had received from Simon. The Association secretary had also received correspondence that the committee felt was inappropriate.

Resident John Hill spoke out against the Chairman. The Chairman explained that Simon Heywood had not accepted the committee's position which had been counter to his own view. He had been offered several opportunities to retract statements and apologise to the Chairman and committee for criticising the committee of which he was, at the time, a member. He had refused to do so. Clive Inglis asked to get back to the Agenda. Nicola Dennis explained to the meeting the procedures that had been followed when trying to resolve the situation as she felt the committee had done everything it could to resolve the situation amicably.

Simon Heywood said he should be given the chance to ask questions on the Chairman's Report. This was agreed.

He questioned the Chairman's statement that the Royal Borough would be re-consulting on any future changes to the planning guidelines and asked what the Association's attitude would be towards any future consultation regarding updates to the planning guidelines, as he believed the Royal Borough had made it clear they wouldn't be undertaking any further consultation.

The Chairman explained that if there was a change to the planning guidelines the Association would inform residents and the Royal Borough would allow time for consultation in order for residents to input to the document.

Simon Heywood asked if there was anything in writing to say there would be an update to the planning guidelines. The Chairman explained that the process to update the conservation area documentation had been agreed a number of years earlier and prior to the original CAMS consultation.

At this point a resident suggested moving on with the meeting.

5 Social Events Update-Liz McDermott

Liz McDermott reported that an event hadn't been organised this year, and witnessing the rancour at this evening's meeting felt that wasn't surprising, coupled with a general lack of interest. Liz proposed a gardening evening with a forum and refreshments in May 2014. Liz also thanked all those residents who had helped with events in the past.



6 Treasurer's Report

Ralph Million (Treasurer) reported on the Associations accounts for the year. There had been an increase in income due to a significant contribution from the 'Strawberry Tea' event. Subscription income was relatively stable compared to the previous year although the increase in rates should see that rise. There had been an increase in printing costs due to the production of new 'Welcome Packs'. £400 had been paid the Royal Borough of Greenwich for the installation of the oak posts and creation of shrub beds; this was felt to be significantly less than the actual cost of installation. Ralph thanked those who had collected subscriptions and Trevor Jones for auditing the accounts.

A resident asked what percentage of households paid. Len Newland said he believed 96 households didn't pay last year.

In response to a question Ralph explained there was no reason why rented households couldn't join the Association if they wished. There was also a question regarding the layout of the accounts. Ralph explained.

Liz McDermott asked that people let her know when new residents move in, so that a 'Welcome Pack' can be delivered.

7 Neighbourhood Watch Update-Len Newland

Len Newland reported that there had been some boundary changes for Local Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Some officers have been moved to other areas, although they are transient. He was due to attend a Police Federation meeting which was to discuss the Mayor of London's programme of station closures and he would update residents of the outcome via his email list. There was a new sergeant heading up the local team and the area they covered had got smaller.

Things had been quiet crime wise, but Len stressed the need to report any crime, no matter how small or we could get pushed further down the list of priorities.

Elizabeth Tutheridge thanked Len for all his work on Neighbourhood Watch.

8 Election of Committee

All committee members with the exception of Tania Smith and Leslie Smith were willing to stand again and were duly re-elected.

The Chairman reported that he had received an email from Simon Heywood proposing himself as Chairman. The Chairman felt that as Simon Heywood had formed a separate group (SPESHIG) he ought to leave the Association to carry on its business. A vote was taken to retain the existing chairman. 46 Votes for, 8 against and 6 abstentions. A number of offers came from the floor to join the committee and there were more people willing to stand than places available.

Emily Bennett suggested that all those expressing an interest be invited to a committee meeting to say what they would bring to the committee and a vote be taken by the committee to fill the vacancies. Frances Lennon asked for clarification of this procedure, the Chairman explained.



9 **Any Other Business**

The Chairman asked Kenny Earl to speak. Kenny asked about the Association's role in commenting on planning applications and proposed a motion for a more open approach to planning matters. The Chairman explained that the Association's role was consultative only and comments on applications were in accordance with the planning guidelines. It was the Royal Borough that made the decisions and no one else. Another resident asked if there could be more details of the application discussion process in the minutes. The Secretary explained that as the committee met approximately every three months and planning applications came in regularly the drafting and agreement of comments was via email and it would be impossible for him to provide an account of this in meeting minutes. The minutes of the subsequent meeting set out the agreed position. A vote was proposed on Kenny Earl's original motion. 36 votes for with 6 abstentions.

Len Newland and Nicola Dennis spoke in support of the Chairman's work. Nicola Dennis also suggested people could approach the committee before submitting planning applications. The Chairman explained that it was his intention for outline details to be loaded to the website for the most frequent works such as new doors, garage doors and windows.

A resident asked if visitors to the Estate could be discouraged from parking on street corners. The Chairman replied he would put such a request to the committee for discussion.

Elizabeth Tutheridge spoke about the newsletters, saying that when Len Newland did them they were informative and three times a year. She was disappointed that there had been no mention of the Mayor of London's various clean-up campaigns. She felt Cleansweep couldn't be expected to deal with everything when they have such a small team. There was some debate about litter clearing. The Chairman said that if there are any maintenance issues people should let him know and he would try to get them resolved.

Frances Lennon suggested there be an email list separate from Len Newlands for residents only. The Chairman agreed to discuss this further at committee meetings.

Mrs Earl reported a hole in one of the speed humps in Plum Lane. The Chairman agreed to contact the Royal Borough.

Another resident asked what the committee had done about the planning application for the retention of equipment placed on the LFEPA mast at the former Fire Station for the Olympics. The Chairman replied that the Association had agreed its position as a committee and had objected to the planning application.



9 Any Other Business (Continued)

Frances Lennon expressed the view that dissent was good and could be channelled in a positive way. Liz McDermott felt that committees work to a majority position and that we could only go forward through working in that way.

The final words were with Emily Bennett who thanked the committee for all its efforts and everyone in the room and asked that all be kind to one another.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.39 and a raffle followed.
Date of next committee meeting, to be confirmed.

Signed:
(Chair)

Date: