



## Shrewsbury Park Residents' Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held in Room 3, Shrewsbury House  
at 19.30 on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013-reconvened after previous  
adjournment on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

### **Present:**

Robert Million (RM) Chair,  
Liz McDermott (LMD) Vice Chair,  
Alex Hayesmore (AH) Secretary,  
Ralph Million (RHM) Treasurer,  
Len Newland (LN), NW Area Co-ordinator,  
Nicola Dennis (ND),  
John Field (JF)  
Simon Heywood (SH),  
Chris Higgs (CH),  
Clive Inglis (CI),  
Martyn Kither (MK),  
Tania Smith (TS),  
Leslie Smith (LS),  
George Tutheridge (GT),  
Michael Wood (MW)

Item	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Vote regarding Simon Heywood</b>
	As all were present there were no apologies for absence. [At the meeting on the 12 <sup>th</sup> March SH was given notice by the committee that at the next meeting his expulsion would be the first item on the Agenda.] Robert Million (RM) thanked everyone for attending. RM asked Simon Heywood (SH) to leave the room for the discussion on this item. SH had previously sent out his position statement in the form of a detailed apologia to the committee. SH asked why he should leave the room as he believed he should be able to state his position and answer any questions. Len Newland (LN) said that all had read SH's apologia detailing this and as far as he was aware there had been no response to it from any member of the committee, and SH's comments should be considered to have been duly noted by members of the committee. RM asked the committee if there were any questions for SH regarding the apologia. None were raised.



### **Vote regarding Simon Heywood (continued)**

RM again asked SH to leave the room, who again questioned the reason.

Discussion followed during which Martyn Kither (MK) requested that SH's refusal to leave the room be recorded in the minutes.

RM expressed his view that he thought it would be difficult for the committee to hold an open and balanced discussion relating to an individual who was present in the room. Nicola Dennis (ND) and Tania Smith (TS) agreed with this.

RM once more asked SH to leave the room, on this occasion SH obliged, explaining he'd listened to the views of other members of the committee.

SH left the room.

RM asked if anyone had any questions regarding SH's apology.

RM explained the history of the CAMS consultation and the reason for it, he also outlined the history of SH's SPESHIG campaign and explained that when this campaign got underway SH was a member of the committee and had not raised his concerns at committee. RM felt that this would have been the correct way of addressing these matters. LN recalled how he'd been approached by a resident who said a representative of SPESHIG had knocked on his door and told him he would have to knock his wall down if the CAMS were adopted.

RM spoke about the previous BRAG and Re-energise campaigns and felt that SPESHIG was a continuation of an attack on certain committee members.

ND asked if SH was accepting his inaccuracies. Clive Inglis (CI) replied that SH's apology made it clear he wasn't.

RM said that SH had not apologised to him as requested by the committee at the December meeting for the content of the letter he had sent to Cllr Hyland, criticising the chair, the committee of which he was a member and AGM. MK said that SH refused to accept he had done anything wrong. TS felt SH's behaviour and confrontational approach was a problem. TS asked for acknowledgement that there are things that need to be looked into when any future changes to the planning guidelines are proposed. RM agreed, saying that was the intention and he would ensure that council officers meet with residents if and when the Article 4 guidelines are updated which had been outlined in several newsletters. RM and LN both made the point that SH doesn't discuss things with the committee, but embarks on his own agenda.

RM suggested to the committee that a possible course of action could be to vote SH from the Association under rule 7, if his behaviour was considered sufficiently inappropriate by the committee.



### **Vote regarding Simon Heywood (continued)**

Alex Hayesmore (AH), LN and Liz McDermot (LMD) agreed. Leslie Smith (LS) had reservations about expelling SH from the Association and thought if this were to be done, it should be done at the AGM. LN felt the problem with dealing with it at the AGM was the way those meetings tended to run. MK felt it would be difficult to get across all the details to such a large group of residents. RM acknowledged that there will always be disagreements within any committee, but SH was again unwilling to accept the majority committee decision. All agreed the Association rules allowed the committee to remove committee members.

RM read an extract from a letter sent by SH to AH requesting several sets of committee minutes during the 're-energise' campaign which was threatening and inappropriate in nature.

Chris Higgs (CH) said that it was difficult for him being caught in the middle and felt that the Royal Borough hadn't been clear in their letters. LN thought that they had been quite clear and it was SH's actions that had muddied the water. CH read out a statement detailing how uncomfortable he felt about the situation.

RM said that the crucial issue was SH's inability to work *with* the committee. LMD said he was not a team player. Ralph Million (RHM) said that debate was essential, but there had to be boundaries and the question was had those boundaries been crossed?

A vote was taken: Should SH be expelled from the committee? 11 for, 3 abstentions.

A vote was taken: Should SH be expelled from the Association? 4 for, 10 against.

Further to the second vote all agreed RM would write to SH to inform him that any further action that seeks to undermine the aims of the Association may result in his expulsion from the Association.

RM and LN stated that everything that is discussed by the committee should remain confidential between those present in the room.

SH was invited back into the room and RM handed over to RHM to report on the committee's deliberations as the committee felt this would de-personalise the matter. RHM informed SH that the committee had voted in favour of his expulsion from the committee on the basis of his behaviour as a member of the committee. SH remarked that it had been an interesting time and left the room.



**2 Minutes of last meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.

The minutes of the adjourned meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.

**3 Matters arising.**

There were no matters arising that were not covered under agenda headings.

**4 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation Summer Party**

LMD reported that the date had been booked for 29<sup>th</sup> June 2013, but TS wasn't available to help on that date. LMD also felt that residents would be fed up with all that had been going on and may not support a social event at this time. This event would therefore not take place. LMD said this didn't rule out something being arranged for another date, which could be discussed at future committee meetings. ND felt that the attempt to organise an event should be reported to the AGM. TS thought we should ask for suggestions from the floor at the AGM as to what future events residents would like to be involved with.

LN reported that Shrewsbury House was also trying to organise events. CH thought perhaps we could encourage residents to attend events in the surrounding parks etc. LN explained that the Neighbourhood Watch email list advises residents of all events happening locally.

CI suggested we explain in the next newsletter the reasons for this year's event not proceeding and request suggestions for any future events.

**5 Neighbourhood Watch update**

LN reported that there has been a spate of burglaries mainly of properties with side entrances leading to the rear garden. The boundaries for the safer neighbourhoods teams have been changed meaning some of the more problematic areas are now covered by a different local team. Staffing levels for the Shooters Hill Safer Neighbourhood team are now 1 sergeant, 2 constables and 2 community support officers.

LN requested that people report everything as this is reflected in the crime statistics and underreporting could affect police staffing levels. TS thought LN could say this in his update for the next newsletter. Motorbikes in Shrewsbury Park were on the increase again, however the Shooters Hill Safer Neighbourhoods Team were aware of this.



**6 Association vision  
Plum Lane project**

RM had been in negotiation for plants, but at the time of the meeting had not had the opportunity to move this forward. The new shrub bed outside 221 to 223 Plum Lane needs to be consulted on.

**Succession tree planting**

RM was delighted to report that the Association had agreed seven trees of which six had now been planted. The full cost would have been approximately £3,000. The Royal Borough had provided the trees, accessories and labour at no cost to the Association.

CI asked if any post-planting care was needed.

RM replied that residents were very good at watering trees, if asked.

RM would write to residents living near newly planted trees in the event of a prolonged dry spell.

CH spoke about the cherry tree in the Bushmoor Crescent cul-de-sac where it joins the main crescent. CH thought it didn't look very appropriate. RM said that the yew tree growing in the hedge at the top of the cul-de-sac adjacent to the cherry tree had been cut down by BRAG. RM had previously agreed with Cleansweep that they would reduce the hedge height leaving the yew tree in situ. This was instead of replacing the cherry tree. The yew will regrow, but this will take time.

**Succession shrub planting**

RM reported that Cleansweep are currently working on the verges and shrub beds, once this work is complete any gaps will be exposed. RM had agreement from Cleansweep that they will fill in the gaps with new shrubs. RM asked LS if residents in the cul-de-sac would be upset by the replacement of the tree in the Kinlet cul-de-sac as it had a considerable lean. LS thought residents would not object to a replacement if it were needed.

**Street name plates**

RM thanked LN for his efforts relating to the new Royal Borough street signs of which there were now six in situ:  
3 in Mereworth Drive,  
1 in Bushmoor Crescent,  
2 in Kinlet Road.

LN thought there was another street name plate that should be replaced on the corner of Bushmoor Crescent and Kinlet Road. He also reported that signage showing the way to Shrewsbury House was being replaced and additional directional signs being put up.



### **Street name plates (continued)**

TS asked if new street names should be put in the agenda for the AGM. RM felt that as the item was already an agreed vision area we should carry on getting them replaced on an as needed basis, this would mean no financial cost to the Association and he thought the Royal Borough would be happy to help whenever it can.

## **7 Planning matters**

RM reported that there had been few planning applications since the December meeting.

██████████-demolition of original garage and erection of a two storey side extension-objections raised.

██████████-removal of front hedge and construction of a wall and crazy paved second drive-objections raised.

██████████-work has stopped. The application was inappropriate for a conservation area, what remained of the front garden would have been too small.

*Adoption of draft Character Appraisal and Management Strategy.*

The consultation had ended on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012. RM had no further update on the current position. TS asked that the committee be updated before the next bulletin was issued by the Association regarding the CAMS. RM thanked TS for her input to the Associations December 2012 bulletin. TS asked if she could contact Rebecca Duncan at the Royal Borough regarding the CAMS process. RM would pursue but would be happy for TS to request an update position.

## **8 28 Mereworth Drive (Green Garth)**

The Association had requested of the Royal Borough that this address be considered for local listing.

## **9 Former fire station telecommunications mast**

RM had heard nothing further from Mr Collet at Airwave since writing to him to object to the retention of the equipment and informing him that as an Association we would object to any retrospective application to retain the equipment. CH said that he believed the Royal Borough had not approved an application as they didn't understand the way the application was presented. RM offered to email Neil Willey at the Royal Borough to find out what the situation was and to request enforcement action.



## 10 **Car parking outside Shooters Hill Lawn Tennis Club**

LN had been in correspondence with the Tennis Club and reported that they had been refused permission to use the Golf Club's overflow car park and that the Royal Borough may want to install double yellow lines outside the Tennis Club.

CH wondered if this would simply move the problem to the other side of the road. There was debate on the parking situation.

CI and TS wondered how firm the commitment by the Royal Borough was for double yellow lines.

LN will write to John Ratcliffe at the Tennis Club for an update.

## 11 **Any other business**

*Subscription Collections*-RHM thought we should aim to start subs collections at the beginning of the financial year.

LS had already started Kinlet Road. RHM asked for further volunteers.

The following committee members then volunteered:-

MK and LMD-Mereworth Drive,  
JF and LN-Bushmoor Crescent,  
RHM and RM-Ashridge Crescent,  
CI-Plum Lane

As agreed at the previous AGM subs would rise to £5 per annum, per household.

LN asked if we should call twice before putting a slip through the door. This was agreed. AH will make up the slips.

LS had emailed the Royal Borough regarding potholes, the reply had been that there was no money available so repairs were not going to be made.

RM said that he was happy to write to the Royal Borough on behalf of the Association. LS agreed to forward his email correspondence on the subject to RM.

RM asked for the commitment of committee members thought to be involved with the SPESHIG campaign either directly or by association to cease their involvement and move forward by working constructively with the rest of the committee. CH, Michael Wood (MW) and George Tutheridge (GT) agreed.



**Any other business (continued)**

ND was concerned that the committee made clear to SH that due to the nature of his approach he should not contact RM and AH directly, but also felt that he must be given an avenue by which to contact the Association as necessary. AH explained that he would set up a generic email address which would bounce to all private email addresses of committee members automatically.

RM thanked everyone for attending and apologised for the rather unpleasant beginning of the meeting.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.45**

**Date of next meeting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 19.30, Room 6, Shrewsbury House**