



EASTCOTE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF 84th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 13th May 2015. St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Field End Road, Eastcote.

Present: Committee Members:- Irene Groom, Karen Spink, Allison Holtorp, Jackie Redrup, Elizabeth Beggs, Linda Laurie, Chris Groom, Alison Akerman, Carolyn Derecki, David Payne, Keith Barnard, David Harper, Cllr Becky Haggart, Cllr Michael White, Tom Sharkey, Jean Gibson, Cllr Nick Denys, Cllr Teji Barnes, Dev Chadha, Ian Brooks, Lesley Crowcroft, Pamela Jean Marr, Chief Superintendent Nick Downing, Inspector Rob Bryan, and approximately 70 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Gawain Cox, Ian Murray, Cllr Catherine Dann, David Stephens, Trevor Hyde. Nick Hurd- MP, Boris Johnson-MP

CG opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 84th AGM of the Eastcote Residents Association. CG thanked the church for the use of their facilities and everyone for supporting us during the year. CG introduced the Councillors present and reminded everyone that if they wished to receive email information from ERA to add their name, address and email address to the list on the table at the rear of the hall.

CG then introduced our speaker for this evening, Chief Superintendent Nick Downing who gave details of his brief for reducing crime throughout the Borough. He went on to say that it is very important that the Police, Residents Association and Counsellors work together and communicate to ensure that the Borough is a safe place to live. Chief Superintendent then went on to explain that they had set up a new system to send crime prevention advice direct to your system, to register you details email – XHMailbox.partnership@met.pnn.police.uk. Both Chief Superintendent and Inspector Rob Bryan then answered questions from the floor. CG then gave a vote of thanks.

CG then announced that there is a Open Day at the Basepoint Business Centre in aid of Nepal victims. CG went on to mention that Jacquie Scott, who did an article for our latest Newsletter had written a book called “The Hospital on the Hill” and had brought along a few copies for sale. The price is £20. and copies can be ordered through email – hospitalonthehill@gmail.com – or telephone 0208-872-4900 or 07710- 880419.

1. Minutes of the 83rd AGM were agreed with the following amendments – the name of the speaker should read “Stewart Pomeroy”, the Auditor Caroline Reid should be included under Item 6, under Item 7 the email address of the Contact Centre should be included – contact@hillingdon.gov.uk Minutes Proposed by Keith Barnard, Seconded by Marg Bacon.

2. Matters arising from minutes of 83rd AGM meeting, not on the Agenda: There were no matters arising, (several written questions were submitted after the meeting and these were dealt with privately).

3. Report from the Chairman of the meeting: (Chris Groom) Good evening and thank you all very much for coming to this our 84th Annual General meeting of Eastcote Residents Association. As I said my name is Chris Groom and I am currently the President of ERA. Sounds grand doesn't it. I will keep my report brief to give you time to hear more from other members about what is happening and leave more time for the open forum to allow you to ask questions. Looking back over this past year it has been a little bit more challenging than usual. As you may be aware, we do not have either a permanent Vice Chairman or a Chairman. Thus throughout the year we have alternated the chair at our Committee Meetings amongst a few of the Committee Members and this has generally worked OK but we still most urgently need a new chairman. At a local level we have continued to contribute locally on a variety of issues mostly relating to our 3 priorities which were endorsed at a previous AGM. They were planning; policing; and road safety; along with other issues such as health and conservation. This has proved to be frustrating at times but on occasions perseverance has been rewarded. Some of the details of our efforts are included in our twice yearly ERA News and can also be found on our website. Whilst mentioning our Newsletter you will have recently received our latest Newsletter and I hope you will all agree that every new issue gets better and better and this latest edition with a much greater use of colour gives the Newsletter a really "professional" look. You will hear from a later speaker of our thanks to the Newsletter production team but I would like now to draw your attention to our Road Stewards who distribute the Newsletter.

It is very important to express our sincere thanks to this valuable team of volunteers, at last count numbering over 70, who perform a key role in linking in directly with our members – that's YOU. Not only do they distribute the ERA News twice yearly and collect subscriptions; but they also provide welcome contact with a number of our citizens, young and old.

At this point I should give a special note of thanks to Alison Akerman who has taken over the role as Senior Road Steward. We are always on the look-out for more road stewards. So if you think you could help please have a chat to Alison or put you details on the sheet on the table at the rear of the hall. I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking all Committee members for their hard work over this past year. A lot of work goes on `out of sight` responding to members issues and engaging with a variety of local forums and groups.

Thanks also go to our Councillors for their support of the Association and its members – very often they provide the key that unlocks an issue. I make no excuses for giving out so many thanks as the work of voluntary organisations, such as the ERA, is heavily reliant upon

individuals giving of their time and skills on a voluntary basis.

We spoke last year of possible improvement to the Eastcote Shopping Area in line with improvements in other local shopping areas. These local improvements have generally been driven by the relevant Chamber of Commerce with the help of other organizations such as Residents Associations. Hence I'm pleased to say that this year has seen the reforming and strengthening of an Eastcote Chamber of Commerce. We wish them ever success and I hope we can work closely with them to continue to improve Eastcote. I know this has been said in previous years but it is important that we can collectively work together to contribute to the aims of the ERA. These aims formulated soon after founding of the Association in 1930 have stood the test of time and can be summarised as:-

- To assist the local Council and other organisations in the preservation of the amenities and in the orderly development of the district by making suggestions - and where necessary pressing for the adoption of such suggestions.
- To assist the maintenance and development of the social life of the district.
- To consider any complaint by a member that their amenities has been adversely affected and give advice or other assistance.
- To co-operate with any other organisation whose activities support the above 3 aims.

Finally ladies and gentlemen I would like to say the biggest thank you - to you. By being here you demonstrate your care. Thank you

4. Treasurers Report (Alison Holtorp) Treasurers Report Year Ending 31st March

2015 INCOME -This year almost all subscriptions were collected on time and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief Road Steward, Alison Akerman, and all the Road Stewards for all their hard work making this happen. EXPENDITURE - Running costs have as in previous years been kept to a minimum and again I would like to thank the committee members for their continued support by meeting their own costs incurred whilst carrying out their roles. The bank accounts now have 3 signatories with 2 people to sign thus enabling us to continue to function should the Treasurer be away.

As I reported last year it was decided to spend more on having the Newsletter printed in colour as this allows for the inclusion of more photographs. I think it looks very good, so please join me in thanking Linda Laurie and David Harper for all their hard work making the Newsletter look like something you really want to read. This year we made donations to Warrender Park for bulbs, helped towards the cost of new hedging at the War Memorial, the Commemoration Plinth for Pembroke Park and a new Sensory Garden at Coteford School as well as our usual donation to the Royal British Legion. We also paid a community contribution towards the Christmas Lights.

NET PROFIT - The Association has a net profit for this year of £1013.68. If you know of any local groups which we could help by making a small donation then please encourage them to apply by filling out a form and coming to a monthly committee meeting. BALANCE

SHEET - The Association therefore continues to be in a healthy financial position having £16704.08. These monies are held in two accounts, a current account and a savings account; the statements for these accounts have been seen by a non-committee member of ERA, who has kindly agreed to take on this role and the Accounts signed off to that effect.

AH answered some questions from the floor.

Proposed: Elizabeth Beggs – Seconded Ian Brooks.

5. Representatives Reports

Senior Road Steward : (Alison Ackerman) AA reported that the membership is slightly down for this year but she is confident that it will be brought back up during the forthcoming year as this was all to do with changes in road stewards and some road missing out on collection of subs. AA went on to thank all her Area Road Stewards and Road Stewards for all their hard work during the year, in particular Jean Dixon, who has retired, but did find her own replacement. There were no questions from the floor.

Planning: (Jackie Redrup) JR introduced herself and went on to explain that we do not discuss individual planning applications in open session but that she is always happy to assist when asked. There has been no big planning application this year and none in the pipeline for the near future. There were no questions from the floor.

6. Election of officers: CG read out the list of nominations for the Committee:

Officers:

President – Christopher Groom

Chairman - Vacant

Vice Chairman – Vacant

Treasurer – Alison Holtorp

Senior Road Steward – Alison Akerman

Secretary – Irene Groom

General Committee;

Planning – Jackie Redrup

Health Matters and Community Voice – Elizabeth Beggs

Newsletter – Linda Laurie and David Harper

Digital – Gawain Cox

Transport – Ian Murray

Auditor – Caroline Reid.

Unassigned Committee Members; Keith Barnard, Carolyn Derecki, Karen Spink, David Payne.

These nominations were proposed by Tom Sharkey, Seconded by Ian Brooks and approved by a show of hands.`

7. Open Forum There were several questions from the floor and these were answered by either a committee member or a Counsellor. Cllr Michael White pointed out that there are 20 RAs within the Borough and it is essential that they keep going, and with this in mind he tried to encourage people to come forward to come along to a committee meeting, to see what we do, and possibly coming onto the committee. There was an interest from the floor and that person has been invited to come to the next committee meeting. Sylvia Ladyman thanked CG and all the committee for their hard work during the year. Dates and times of future meeting ;- Meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month, the dates for this year for your diary are:-

- Next meeting 24th June, then 29th July, no August meeting, 30th September, 28th October, and 25th November.
- We meet at the Elsie Fischer Room at St Lawrence Church, Bridle Road at 7.30pm o Meetings are open to all. Bring along your problems and we will try to help. o You can remind yourself of these dates by looking at the “Local Events” on our Website.

CG brought to our attention the Eastcote Summer Community Picnic run by the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens on Saturday 6th June, starting at 11am, being held in Eastcote House Gardens. He also mentioned that there was two other flyers on the table, the collection at Basepoint Business Centre and a Showcase at Winston Churchill Hall.

CG thanked LL and her husband and CD for doing the refreshments and brought the meeting to a close wishing everyone a safe journey home, The meeting finished at 10.00pm.

The date of the next ordinary meeting is WEDNESDAY 24th June 2015 at Elsie Fischer Room, St. Lawrence Church, Bridle Road, at 7.30pm

Apologies to Chris/Irene Groom on Telephone No. 0208 866 0985 (answer phone) or by e-mail.