

EASTCOTE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF 85th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 24th May 2016.
St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Field End Road, Eastcote.

Present: **President** Chris Groom, **Committee Members:** Irene Groom, Karen Spink, Alison Holtorp, Jackie Redrup, Ian Murray, Elizabeth Beggs, Linda Laurie, Alison Akerman, Carolyn Derecki, Keith Barnard, David Harper, Cllrs. Catherine Dann, Nick Denys, Eddy Lavery, Michael White, Teji Barnes, **Visitors:** Dev Chadha, Deesha Chadha, Insp. Rob Bryan, PC Doug Dewey plus the Police Cadets, plus approximately 80 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Gawain Cox, Nick Hurd MP, Boris Johnson MP, Cllr Becky Haggar, David Payne, Pamela Jean Marr, Daphne Waller, Carole Paterson

- CG opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 85th 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.

First Presentation

CG then introduced PC Doug Dewey and the Police Cadets who gave us a verbal & powerpoint presentation on Cyber-crime detailing the different ways in which criminals can gain access to your details on the computer and then tips and advice on how to combat and stop the criminals getting hold of your details. They also left various booklets and leaflets for everyone to take away should they wish.

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AGM

1. Minutes of the 84th AGM were agreed. Minutes Proposed by Elizabeth Beggs, Seconded by Alan Bennett.

2. Matters arising from minutes of 84th 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 the 85th Annual General Meeting of Eastcote Residents Association. I will keep my report brief as we have a second presentation this evening which may spark quite a bit of discussion.

Looking back over this past year it has been a little bit more challenging than usual. As you may be aware, we did 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. However I am pleased to announce that we now have a nomination for Chairman and also two new nominations for Committee Members.

At a local level we have continued to contribute 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. 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. I would like to congratulate our Newsletter production team and also draw your attention to our Road Stewards who do sterling work in distributing the Newsletter and collecting subscriptions. It has been a tough year for Road Stewards as we have lost a number and continue to have difficulty recruiting new stewards with the sad result that we are unable to cover some roads in Eastcote due to the lack of a Road Steward. Please if you can spare a little time please speak to Alison (Akerman) during the break or put your details on the sheet on the table at the rear of the hall.

While we are on the subject of the Newsletter I have been asked to make a special plea to you to find someone to assist in production of our twice yearly Newsletter. This is the putting together and arranging printing, from articles produced by others. If you think you can help please let Linda Laurie know.

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 mentioned last year the possible improvement to the Eastcote Shopping Area in line with improvements in other local shopping areas and this will be the subject of our second presentation. These local improvements are led by Hillingdon Council liaising with the Eastcote Chamber of Commerce but also with the help of other organizations such as Eastcote Residents Association.

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

4. Treasurers Report Year Ending 31st March 2016 (Alison Holtorp)

INCOME - 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 delivering newsletters and collecting subs. Unfortunately the loss of several road stewards means there are some roads we are no longer collecting in, but even so our membership is nearly 1900 households.

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. This year we made donations to the London Green Belt Council via Eastcote Village Conservation Area Advisory Panel, Michael Sobell Hospice, Ewe-knited (a knit and natter group in the High Street) and a contribution towards the coffee bar at the Eastcote Methodist Church which is for community use as well as our usual donation to the Royal British Legion. We also paid the community contribution towards the Christmas Lights and purchased balloons to hand out at the Eastcote Chamber of Commerce fairs.

NET PROFIT - The Association had a net profit for this year of £994.24. 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 or coming to a monthly committee meeting. We have not had many applications, and as there is no need to accumulate further reserves, the Executive Committee feel it incumbent upon themselves to actively seek out projects which would be of benefit to residents and to sponsor them accordingly.

BALANCE SHEET - The Association therefore continues to be in a healthy financial position. 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 have been signed off to that effect.

Proposed by Alison Holtorp, Seconded by Ian Murray and accepted by a show of hands.

5. Election of officers

CG read out the list of nominations

President Christopher Groom

Officers

Chairman – Alison Holtorp

Vice Chairman – Vacant

Treasurer – Alison Holtorp

Secretary – Irene Groom

Senior Road Steward – Alison Akerman

Executive Committee

Planning – Jackie Redrup

Health Matters and Community Voice – Elizabeth Beggs

Newsletter – Linda Laurie and David Harper

Web Administrator – Gawain Cox

Transport – Ian Murray

Parks and Open Spaces – Keith Barnard

Unassigned - Carolyn Derecki, Karen Spink, David Payne, Deesha Chadha and Chris Hankin

Auditor Caroline Reid.

These nominations were proposed by Trevor Hyde, Seconded by Colin Spires and adopted by a show of hands.

Second Presentation

Chris Groom then introduced Cllrs Nick Denys and Eddy Lavery who then gave details of proposals for the refurbishment of the Eastcote shopping area. This included tidying up the street scene, removing the old Christmas Lights above some of the shops, improving car parking information, tidying up the garden areas etc. Some felt that the Mural on the bridge was looking past its best. The Council are aware that the Mural is viewed fondly by some as local schoolchildren contributed to its design. The Council will consider whether to replace the Mural, and if it is to be replaced how to make sure the local community is involved in the new design. Financial help and advice will also be provided to all shop keepers to improve their shop fronts and window displays. This was followed by a question and answer session which not only covered the refurbishment but included a number of other problems and these were noted and will be dealt with privately by the Councillors. The big problem concerned the state of the pavements and although under this present scheme insufficient money is available to completely refurbish the pavements, it was suggested that all shops and members of the public to be encourage to report immediately to the Council any uneven and broken pavements.

Two members of the audience independently thanked the Council for the Town Centre Improvement Scheme and more generally for everything they do for us, the residents.

In closing the meeting CG made the following points.

- Dates and times of future meetings, these are on the last Wednesday of the month, the dates for this year for your diary are:-
 - Next meeting 29th June, then 27th July, no August meeting, 28th September, 26th October, and 30th November, no December meeting.
 - We meet at the Elsie Fischer Room at St Lawrence Church, Bridle Road at 7.30pm
 - Meetings are open to all. Bring along your problems and we will try to help.
 - You can remind yourself of these dates by looking at the “Local Events” on our Website.
- Eastcote Summer Community Picnic run by the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens on Saturday 4th June, starting at 11am, being held in Eastcote House Gardens.
- He 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 29th June 2016 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.