



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 24th September 2014
Venue – Elsie Fischer Room, St Lawrence Church

1. **Present** – Keith Barnard (Acting Chairman for the meeting), Irene Groom, Karen Spink, Alison Holtorp, Jackie Redrup, Elizabeth Beggs, Linda Laurie, Chris Groom, Alison Akerman, Carolyn Derecki, David Harper, Cllr Nick Denys, Dev Chadha. Vince Small (Eastcote Chamber of Commerce Chairman).
2. **Apologies for Absence** Ian Murray, Gawain Cox, Cllr Catherine Dann, Cllr Michael White, Cllr Edward Lavery, Jean Gibson, Pamela Jean Marr, Cllr Becky Haggart, Deesha Chadha.
3. **Welcome** KB opened the meeting by welcoming Vince Small – Chairman of the Eastcote Chamber of Commerce.
4. **Approval of Minutes** The Minutes of the 30th July 2014 were agreed with the following amendments – Planning Appeal Letters – JR will chase the missing items. Missing formal ERA letters – JR raised this matter at the planning meeting she was attended.
5. **Matters arising from 30th April meeting:**
 - The roadside Memorial in Elm Avenue has been removed.
 - Station car-park and footpath alleyway from Field End Road` - car-park has been resurfaced. The footpath is in a very poor state. It is to be inspected and some work carried out. Further works include taking down a tree and installing extra lighting required. **ACTION:- ND**
 - Cannon Lane School-expansion– a meeting has been organized for next Thursday for residents and officials to discuss the anticipated traffic and parking problems.
 - Road Stewards – AA will organize a meeting for the 1st week in October when she has had an answer regarding availability of a room at the Church. **ACTION:- AA**
 - A query was raised regarding the Newsletter – we were advised that it will be available slightly latter than usual in early November as we are not holding an Open Forum this year.
6. **New resident issues:**
 - An elderly Cheney Street resident has asked CD to bring to our attention his concerns regarding the ongoing problems with traffic in Cheney Street. He had contacted the Council himself and was very unhappy with the response from the Council. CD then refreshed our memories of the saga. After discussion it was suggested that CD pass on her report to all of our Councillors, Jean Palmer, Cllr Burroughs and David Knowles, pointing out that it is being sent on behalf of ERA and residents of Cheney Street. **ACTION: -CD**
7. **New Funding Requests**
 - CG made a request on behalf of the local History Society for £100 as ERA's contribution towards the cost of the Pembroke Park Memorial Plaque, which is now being installed – this was agreed by a show of hands.
 - CG also requested the sum of £25 to cover the cost of the Wreath for the Remembrance Day Parade/Service – this was agreed by a show of hands. The Remembrance Day

Parade/Service is Sunday 9th November 2014, starting 10.40am on corner of Abbotsbury Gardens.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Planning – JR

The 2 month Planning Report up to 22nd September 2014 was distributed and will accompany these minutes. JR brought to our attention the following items:

- 40 Coombe Drive – refused.
- 92 Catlins Lane – refused.
- Thatched Cottage – Cuckoo Hill – new application accepted and approved.
- A new Planning Law came into force on the 22nd September 2014 – removing the earlier relaxation on domestic extensions. JR has done an article explaining this law which is included in the Newsletter.
- Audit House – still undecided. Currently planning permission is not required to convert offices to flats.
- TV House – change of use to a Yoga Studio – still undecided.
- Betting Shop (High Road Eastcote) – the roof has been repaired but no planning application has been seen on the website.
- Petrol Station (High Road Eastcote) – the Conservation Area Report says – “no further action” but the planning application appears to be still active.
- Pembroke Park – Community Centre – the recent application to amend the layout of the Community Hall has been refused.
- Some finishing works that Wimpy is responsible for outside the site have yet to be done, also repairs to a wall alongside Flag Walk has not been dealt with. CG will give JR names of senior people inside Wimpy for her to contact. **ACTION:CG**

8.2 Police Matters

- There is a meeting of our Eastcote & East Ruislip SNT Panel this evening – Cllr BH is attending and will report back in due course. **ACTION:BH**
- EB has been invited by Ian Brooks to a meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Board to be held on the 1st October – she will report back in due course. **ACTION:EB**
- EB also reported that the staff numbers for Cavendish has improved and hopefully other areas in the north of the Borough will improve also.

8.3 Transport /Road Safety

- No report.

8.4 Parks Report

Eastcote House Gardens & Long Meadow

London in Bloom results :- The results were announced 8th September 2014. Hillingdon Borough won Gold in the large city category and was category winner. EHG was awarded Gold for Park of the Year and was also category winner i.e best non-royal park in London. Long Meadow entered for the first time as a Conservation Area was awarded Silver Gilt and category winner.

Long Meadow - The river works in Long Meadow are now completed. There are one or two minor adjustments to be made.

Eastcote House Gardens -The works at EHG have been slow to start, but Messenger (the Contractor) is still anticipating a finish date of 8th April 2015. Works have now started on the Stables, and the digging out of tree stumps for the car park, the area behind the south wall will be carried out second. A Bat license has been issued by English Nature, and the Bat Trust are monitoring works on the Stables to make sure roosting sites are not destroyed.

A fortnightly update on the progress at EHG is published on the EHG website also circulated via email.

FEHG thanked ERA for the second donation of £500 for the restoration fund, paid at the end of

August.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Eastcote Conservation Panel & Friends of Eastcote House Gardens will be circulated soon, also they will be on the web site.

Warrender Park - London in Bloom Park of the Year awarded Silver Gilt, last year Warrender received Silver. Highgrove Woods entered into the Small Conservation Area category was awarded Silver Gilt and category winner. The volunteers who look after both Warrender Park and Highgrove Woods should be congratulated on their success. The 6th Eastcote Beavers & Cubs, have been working hard in the Park to keep the old paddling pool bed in order. Some of the perennial plants split up from the EHG borders will be planted here, and the Cubs/Beavers will then have patches within the bed for seasonal planting. The Leaders Jean Pye and Paul Busby should be congratulated for their hard work.

The work on the Tennis Courts is due to start soon. The Friends of Warrender Park will be holding a volunteer day 1st November 2014 to plant the bulbs, donated by ERA. FoWP send their thanks to ERA.

The next QGM of the Friends of Warrender Park is 15th October start 7.30, King College Pavilion.

Bessingby/Cavendish Parks-The Bowls Club will soon be having a new club house. The problem of sewerage leaking and forming a puddle near the club house has returned. **ACTION:- Cllr**

MW

Keep Britain Tidy Campaign 2014 - LBH will be taking part in the nationwide 'Big Tidy Up' Saturday 18th October. The volunteer groups FEHG & Friends of Pinn Meadow will be taking part, FEHG starting in Long Meadow and working through to Elmbridge Drive, FoPM from Elmbridge Drive to Bury Street. Both groups starting at 10am. More details contact lesley.crowcroft@gmail.com

Eastcote War memorial - August 4th 2014, one hundred local residents attended a very simple but very moving candle lit service at the memorial.

The Conservation Panel in conjunction with the Eastcote British Legion and ERA will be holding another work session at the Memorial Gardens Wednesday 8th October, starting at 9.30am. Volunteers welcome. Housing Dept LBH have not yet repaired the rear fence, this is being chased so that the autumn planting can go ahead.

The 2013/2014 Poppy Appeal has so far raised £42,124.26 [at 17th August 2014 another 6 weeks to end of the 2013/14 appeal] This is a Branch record.

Jeff Duley, Branch Chairman/Membership Secretary/Poppy Appeal Organizer/Recruiting Advisor Eastcote Royal British Legion, swelcome extra volunteers for the annual Poppy Appeal collection in October/November please give him a call if. All collections take place at local Supermarkets, there are no door to door sales.

(m) 07808739434.

8.5 Health and Community Voice -EB

- EB reported that she had been unable to attend meetings. EB understands that there are various rebuilding schemes being put forward at the moment – the Gazette reports £20m.

8.6 Webmaster - GC

• Monthly website traffic:

Jan – 515 visits, Feb – 855 visits, Mar – 387 visits, Apr – 499 visits, May – 547 visits, Jun – 388 visits, Jul – 595 visits, Aug – 493 visits, Sep (to date) 361 – visits

• September Stats :- Popular web pages:

Local History - 28%, What's On – 16%, Meeting Minutes – 9%, Our Team – 9% -ERA News – 9%

• Search Engine Traffic:

63% of all visitors navigated to the website via search engines (90.5% of search engine traffic is from Google).

8.7 Finance - AH

- It was agreed by a show of hands that the invoice for the hire of the hall for 2015 AGM can be paid without recourse to the committee. **(POST MEETING:** The hall at St. Thomas More Church Hall has been booked for the AGM on **WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY 2015** and the invoice for £36. has been received and paid)

8.8 Road Stewards - AA

- AA is preparing a flyer to be sent out with the Newsletters to try and recruit more Area Road Stewards and Road Stewards for various areas.

8.9 Newsletter - LL

- The Newsletter is being prepared at the moment. It will be in full colour. A number of articles have been received and they have sufficient for the moment.

8.10 HARA - IG

- IG was unable to attend the last meeting and no Minutes have been forthcoming.

9. AOB –

- **EASTCOTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – Vince Small introduced himself and went on to report that they now have a Committee and approximately 60 members, not only shop keepers but office workers as well. There is to be the first full members meeting which is to be attended by the Mayor – Cllr CD. He then went on to give details of some of the function they are hoping to organise during the year, namely a competition for children during Half-term, Halloween readings in the Library, switching on of the Xmas Lights on Thursday 13th November 2014 with, hopefully, a small Xmas market in the area adjacent to Initial House. For 2015 Xmas they are already working forward on this. CG suggested that he be provided with flyers to be put on our Notice Boards and also items for the Website. Another idea being investigated is to encourage other traders, like the Thursday Fish Man, to visit Eastcote, once a week, once a month etc. One of the issues they are working on at the moment is to have the road verge, garden medium walls repaired and the garden improved. Any other ideas very welcome.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15.

The next Committee Meeting will be on WEDNESDAY 29th October 2014 at the Elsie Fischer Room, St. Lawrence Church starting at 7.30pm.

PLEASE EMAIL/PHONE YOUR APOLOGIES AND REPORTS TO IRENE GROOM.
Elizabeth Beggs will be chairing this meeting.