

Amersham & Districts Residents' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25th April 2017 at Amersham Free Church Hall

1 Chairman's Welcome

Carolyn Spencer standing in as Chairman welcomed approximately 46 members to the 56th Meeting of the Association.

2 Apologies for Absence

Bron Curley, Ros Makins, Brian & Bridget Woods, Linda & Peter Harper, Liz Walsh, Tony & Irene Glyn-Jones, Gordon Barratt, George Allison, Colin Wills, Judith Mead, David & Janet Kirchheimer, Isabel & Tony Westmead, Ernest Newhouse, James & Grace Worthington, Celia Palmer, Vera Head, Evelyn & Bill Andrews, David Flett, Bruce & Theresa Bould, Geoffrey Hook, John & Sigrid Poole, Doreen Vivian, Brian & Maria Lorkin.

3 Minutes of AGM held on 26th April 2016: Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Lynda Wright and seconded by Guru Guruswamy.

4 Treasurer's Report (Geoff Platts)

As attached.

Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Bryan Holroyd and seconded by Christine Standing.

The lower amount of funds compared with previous years is due to fewer subscriptions and the cost of the Newsletter which used to be produced by a member at a low cost. Geoff asked members to consider which projects current funds could support.

5 Planning Officer's Report (Liz Jones)

As attached.

Liz thanked Les Jayatilaka for his guidance over the last year while she took over the role of Planning Officer.

Question about Iceland site – not known who is taking over the retail space. Cllr. Nigel Shepherd said that Planning can't dictate who uses the space. The developers know what is wanted by the community. The issue with the market obstructing access will be resolved eventually.

6 Highways Report (Geoff Platts)

Potholes continue to be a problem on local roads, they are generally being repaired in time after being reported. There have been a lot of complaints about overgrown

hedges blocking pavements. Geoff asked the council to put a note in with council tax demands requesting people to keep their hedges cut but the council does not send out flyers.

Holloway Lane was closed for roadworks for some time. No work was going on so Geoff contacted council who said Affinity Water had put in a request for work. The same day all the roadwork signs were taken down. So if you see anything similar where nothing appears to be happening contact the council.

Member: Asphalt sticking up on the footpath in Bois Avenue near the Willows. Had reported it to Highways but as yet nothing done about it, asked for someone with more influence to contact them.

Member: Westanley Avenue had been resurfaced when it was not necessary but Highland Road had not been done even though it was necessary.

Member: Has reported problems to Fix My Street, an on line site to report problems, but they don't get fixed.

Member: Copperkins Lane is in a poor state.

7 Environment Officer's Report (Linda Flett)

Linda reported that the town is looking good with tulips etc. planted.

Hyrons Bridge problem – drivers are going round the roundabout the wrong way. Linda as been in touch with Cllr. Martin Tett about the problem and sent photos. At the moment nothing can be done due to funding problems. Will continue to press for solution.

Mr. Wilkinson had been in touch about the problem. He had watched cars driving up Highland Road and turning right, 80% were on the wrong side and there will be an accident one day. A suggestion is a sign in Highland Road saying no right turn.

8 Membership Records Officer's Report (Carolyn Spencer)

As attached.

9 Chairman's Report (Carolyn Spencer for Bron Curley)

As attached.

10 Re-election of Committee

No committee members due for re-election

11 Election of new Chairman

In view of the retirement from the committee of Bron Curley, Carolyn Spencer has agreed to be Chairman for one year. Her election was proposed by Vic Faulkner and seconded by Guru Guruswamy.

12 Election of Honorary Auditor

Ernest Newhouse has agreed to continue as Auditor. His re-election was proposed by Geoff Platts and seconded by Daphne Bromley.

13 Open Forum

Membership drive for ADRA. Question was asked how many households in the area were members as a percentage, Carolyn estimated 8 or 9%.

Member: In the past subscriptions were collected by road stewards going door to door to collect and having more contact with local people, now that the majority pay by Standing Order they no longer have this opportunity.

Carolyn Spencer: Several years ago letters were delivered to non-member households by hand, we may need to do this again to contact potential new members. The advantage of road stewards is that they often know when people have moved out or in to the area.

Member: Suggested asking estate agents to let ADRA know when people have moved on.

Member: Need to be on the internet to attract younger members.

Vic Faulkner asked about websites on Amersham. Is there one central website for all information, Amersham.org. Carolyn to instigate updating of our documents on the site. There are plans to put something in Your Amersham and possibly other local magazines.

Member: Suggested electronic copies of newsletter as this may get more feedback. Carolyn said this needed to happen in the future and this method would be cheaper and quicker. Email deliveries get a lot of bounce backs so there will never be total coverage by email.

Geoff Platts commented as a resident on swimming pool complex, that a lot of money had been spent in recent years on various refurbishment projects and he was not convinced that the age of the swimming pool made it uninsurable.

Maldwyn Jones: Reported on people power in relation to the Waste Transfer Station. Residents were responsible for raising money to fight the WTS and the judicial review being organised. People working together is a very strong force.

Member: Asked about proposed trees in Sycamore Road and Hill Avenue. Linda reported that there was funding available but with the current discussion about a one way system in the town it is on hold for a while. At last year's AGM there was not much interest in the trees. Another member thought current planting was adequate and reported that other councils have cut down trees due to high maintenance.

Member: Reported that BCC is thinking of doing away with 4 district council areas. Liz reported that the decision should have been made by Secretary of State by now but had not been done. There is a survey going round asking for views, BCC sponsored. Cllr. Nigel Shepherd said that this was coming from businesses so could be manipulative propaganda. Decision is still to be made, there are papers on the internet with information.

Member proposed vote of thanks to committee.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.