

# **Amersham & Districts Residents' Association**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014 at Amersham Free Church Hall**

- 1 Chairman's Welcome** The Chairman welcomed approximately 75 members to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ADRA and regulations in the case of fire were brought to the meeting's attention.
- 2 Apologies for Absence**  
Chris Wilson, Mr and Mrs Gordon Barratt, Ros Makins, Celia Palmer, Julia Holroyd, Liz Walsh, Rev. Carolynn and Ann Terry.
- 3 Minutes of AGM held on 23 April 2013:** Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Lynda Wright and seconded by Joan Shepherd.
- 4 Re-election of Committee**  
Lyn Josey was the only Committee member up for re-election and Les Jayatilaka was duly elected onto the Committee as a new member. This was proposed by Brian Woods and seconded by Jenny Robinson.
- 5 Election of Honorary Auditor**  
Ernest Newhouse has agreed to continue as Auditor. His re-election was proposed by Geoff Platts and seconded by Liz Davidson.
- 6 Treasurer's Report (Geoff Platts)**  
As attached.  
Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Bryan Holroyd and seconded by Roy Masters.
- 7 Planning Officer's Report (Mr B Guruswamy)**  
As attached.
- 8 Highways Report (Geoff Platts)**  
As attached.
- 9 Environment Officer's Report (Ann Terry)**  
Read by Linda Flett in Mrs Terry's absence. As attached.
- 10 Membership Records Officer's Report (Carolyn Spencer)**  
As attached.
- 11 Chairman's Report (Bron Curley)**  
As attached.
- 12 HS2 Update**  
Cllr Nigel Shepherd reported the following:

The HS2 Bill is about to be railroaded through government. The PM sees this as his vision with business companies' views and the effect on the environment being glossed over. The Secretary of State for Transport, Patrick McLoughlin, is a former Whip and has been put in to deliver at any cost so he is not really listening. David Higgins, who delivered on the Olympic Park project, delivered an HS2+ report a few weeks ago which included changes to the scheme, one of the biggest being a shift from Stage 1 to Birmingham to a proposal to go as far as Crewe by 2027 with Euston to Birmingham by 2026. Huge changes including regeneration are planned at Euston but the figures are being massaged. There is a proposal to spend £43b to build the line as far as Birmingham which does not include the cost of trains or power station required to operate it, and will not connect to Heathrow or the Continent. There was also talk of dropping the line to HS1 linking HS2 & HS1 to the Continent.

It is felt unlikely the Bill will go through this parliament.

On 28<sup>th</sup> April, the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Bill will start and detailed counter proposals will be announced on Friday; however, Amersham will not be affected.

As to individual petitioning, ADRA will be in touch with members at the appropriate time with advice on how to take part.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was duly called by the Chairman to ascertain whether members were in support of ADRA filing a petition against HS2, and the motion was duly carried.

Linda Wright proposed a vote of thanks to the hardworking ADRA Committee.

- 13** The Chairman introduced Mr Colin Oakes who addressed the meeting on the rivalry between Amersham & Chesham in a talk entitled 'Tale of Two Towns'.

**14 Open Forum**

A member queried a cut out by the One Stop shop in White Lion Road which often has a car parked on it and enquired whether there any progress on expanding the pavement there. The Chairman offered to take the matter up with Mayor Nigel Shepherd.

Mrs Lynda Wright raised the problem of Hazel Park which has a salt bin. It was filled very quickly but the Council are not providing new ones. However, if their offices were rung before 8am, the gritter was sent out.

There was concern over the centre of local roundabouts which were not being kept painted white, while the one at the bottom of Rectory Hill was well marked. The Chairman offered to enquire what the policy was.

There was a query about Amersham Town Council's move from Amersham-on-the-Hill to the Old Town as to whether ADRA were consulted. The Chairman informed the meeting that ADRA had reservations which were expressed. The Mayor also responded by saying it was costing £40,000 per year to stay where they were and a decision was made to take a Public Works Board's offer to local Councils of a low interest, 25-yr fixed rate loan of £75,0000 which would result in ATC owning the property.

It was felt a good time to purchase a new building and the rental from retail properties in Station Road would more or less cover the outgoing costs of the new building.

The Mayor stated there was a formal consultation which was advertised and just one

objection received from Amersham Society. Nobody visited their offices at Amersham-on-the-Hill or, if so, very rarely.

The new offices were duly secured and will include a community space with parking plus a children's playground with the '61 Club still open for judo.

Cllr Vera Head said when ATC moved from the dentist in Station Road in 1995 they decided to move somewhere more accessible. Their subsequent move into the Law Courts plus rentals from Station Road provided sufficient money to pay for their stay at the Courts.

The redevelopment of Hervines Park, currently an under-used space, was discussed. The Mayor stated ATC will hold a large consultation at Hervines which will be their next big project. There was also hope to include a Bowls Club on the site. Consultants are already involved with the potential to improve the access and provide more car parking spaces.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm.