

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on
Monday 10th May 2010 at 7.00 pm
in the Letherhead Institute.**

[To be presented to AGM 2011]

Present:

Members: Cheryl Allen, Barbara Bennett, Alison Bentata, Caroline Brown, Ray Brown, Ann Cardew, Flip Cargill, Hubert Carr, Jean Cooksley, Paul Hamilton, Percy Hawkins, Linda Heath, Bridget Lewis-Carr, Margaret Ludford, Duncan Mountford, Hillary Porter, Jane Pratt, Paula Sabine, .Derrick Summerfield, Jane Summerfield.

Visitors: Cllr Tim Hall (SCC, Chairman MVDC), Cllr David Howarth (MVDC), David Sharland (MVDC), R. Seals, G.H. Wolf.

1 Apologies

None

2. Police Report

Because of illness, PC Fran Davey sent a written report which the Secretary read to the meeting. The report stated that over the past month:

- bins have been set alight in the Guildford Road skate park and in three areas of the town centre. Youths have been advised of the dangers of playing with fire, but offenders are unknown and no arrests have been made.
- A male was arrested in the High Street for inappropriate and abusive behaviour while drunk. He pleaded guilty and was fined.
- Police are mindful of antisocial behaviour in Forty Foot Road and St John's Close.

The report concluded by stating that more updates and crime statistics can be viewed on the Surrey Police website.

3 Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 2nd March 2009

The minutes were accepted as correct.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item 7 - Planning, (i) The High Street:

Has there been any further move concerning application by Wearherspoons to retain seating outside the Edmund Tylney public house until 10.30 pm? The issue concerns Highways Department of Surrey County Council. The matter is still "on the table."

Item 8 - Members' Issues):

8 (i) Has any action taken place to renovate the feature at the bottom of the High Street? It was thought that there had been none. It was also asked whether the feature was insured. The Chairman said it was probably not.

8 (iii) Was there any further advance on Leatherhead becoming a 'Transition Town'? The matter is raised at meetings of the Leatherhead Area Partnership (LAP) and is progressing slowly. But there is a need for more volunteers.

8 (vi) Has anything been done about the vegetation from Epsom Road Traffic

Lights to Windfield? This was trimmed back at sometime last year, but has grown back again.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman began by saying that the Association has moved forward in many way, but we must encourage more residents to join. We should aim to get the same proportion of residents' membership as Ashtead, Bookham and Fetcham have achieved.

The Chairman then commented on specific areas where there has been advancement.; in particular:

- the formation of BLeAF, a monthly meeting of the chairs of **B**ookham, **L**eatherhead, **A**shtead and **F**etcham Residents' Associations. This has enabled us to jointly pursue issues raised by individual Associations, e.g.:
 - ◇ Ashtead is particularly concerned with bus provision, and we are now following this up jointly;
 - ◇ Bookham has for some time been pushing the establishment of an FE college in the north of Mole Valley to provide vocational courses which the local schools do not provide; work is now progressing on this jointly
 - ◇ All four associations are pushing for the Ashtead-Leatherhead and Fetcham-Bookham Local Area Forums to be modified in favour of the Leatherhead and District Forum. We consider the Local Area Forums as presently constituted to be redundant in the north of Mole Valley.
- through our representation in the Leatherhead Area Partnership (a limited company which resulted from the Market Town Health Check and was formed to secure funding for local projects) we are able to have input in such things as plans for the future of the High Street (still under consideration) and the recent Public Arts Competition.
- through our participation on the Highways Forum (the Chairman said he would expand this later in the meeting with his report from the Highways Subgroup).

6. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer presented her report (see Appendix I), as well balance sheets which showed the Association at the end of 2009 with a balance of £3689, including the 'General Reserve' of £3000. She thanked Lindsey Thynne for examining the accounts.

The Treasurer proposed that Lyndsey be appointed examiner for 2010; this was seconded by Bridget Lewis-Carr and accepted *nem. con.*

The Chairman thanked Paula Sabine for her work as Treasurer.

7. Election of Officers

The Chairman informed the meeting that the current officers were all prepared to stand for re-election, namely.

- Chairman - Hubert Carr
- Vice-Chair - Hilary Porter
- Secretary - Ray Brown
- Treasurer - Paula Sabine

Linda Heath proposed that the four officers be elected *en bloc*; this was seconded by Ann Cardew and agreed by the meeting *nem. con.*

8. Election of Committee

Flip Cargill proposed that Cheryl Allen, Fran Barnby-Smith and Caroline Brown be re-elected as Committee Members;
this was seconded by Ann Cardew and agreed by the meeting *nem. con.*

Bridget Lewis-Carr proposed that Flip Cargill and Ann Cardew be elected as Committee members;
this was seconded by Cheryl Allen and agreed by the meeting *nem. con.*

The Secretary pointed out that we were still three short of what the Constitution required. However, in the absence of any further proposals, the Chairman decided to move to the next item on the agenda.

9. Reports from Subgroups

(a) Membership - Fran Barnby-Smith reported that we now have 532 households as members of the Association. Of these 235 are in 71 different roads with no Road Stewards, while 297 are in 36 roads with Road Stewards. From this one can see what a difference Road Stewards make to membership; in some roads with Stewards we have 90% membership. The Association desperately needs more Road Stewards; we also need more help in distributing Newsletters.

(b) Planning:

Caroline Brown reported on the matters concerning the Blue Café, Brook Willow Farm, and the Mole Valley Art Project (see Appendix II)..

(c) Highways:

The Chairman (with extra comment from Tim Hall - SCC Councillor) reported that:

- It is not possible for the lights on the pedestrian crossing by the railway bridge on Randalls Road to be phased with the traffic lights at the road junction.
- There is still problem with drainage on Randalls Road at the junction with Oaks Close; there is an ongoing problem caused by water flowing from station property and there are ongoing discussions between Surrey County Council and Southern Trains.
- Maintenance contract for roads will be changed from next March to cover the *whole* of Surrey.
- All Surrey street lighting will be upgraded; it will be two years before this gets to Mole Valley.
- Surrey bus system is to be overhauled over the next three years; Mole Valley will be considered in the final year.

Questions

Fran Barnby-Smith asked whether more school buses would be provided. The Chairman thought it unlikely there would be more specifically for schools. Cllr Tim Hall said that the County had considered having school buses on the American model, but the costs involved were prohibitive

A question was asked about the possibility of a crossing in Waterway Road for

those coming from Fetcham along Mill Lane who wanted to cross into Bridge Street. The Chairman said that SCC Highways were looking into a pedestrian crossing from Mill Lane towards the Town, opposite the Pumping Station. Jane Pratt asked whether there was any more progress on the removal of the stairway to the old station in Station Approach. The Chairman has received drawings from Surrey County Council and has now discovered that the original drawings are held at by an archivist at Waterloo and he is awaiting a reply. He has also been promised a meeting with the SCC Structural Engineer..

10. Summer Newsletter

The Secretary said the Association hoped to publish a Summer Newsletter and would welcome contributions from members; the deadline for contributions is 30th June.

The Secretary was asked whether anything had come of questionnaire included in the Spring Newsletter. He replied that the overwhelming response was to start later, with numbers for 7.30 pm and 8.00 pm being similar. At its last meeting, the Committee had agreed that from June onwards meetings would begin at 7.30 pm. However, on the frequency of meetings, the numbers were more evenly spread and the Committee propose to continue with monthly meetings for the for the rest of the year at least. He promised a break down of results would be given in the next Newsletter

11. Any Other Business

Cheryl Allen informed the meeting that Patrick McCord would be our speaker at the June meeting;; he will be speaking on the North Leatherhead Community Art Project and about the North Leatherhead community garden. She urged all members to come.

The Chairman that the Committee had decided to alternate each month between an invited speaker and the police report. Next month, June, we would have an invited speaker, namely Patrick McCord, and in July we will have the next police report.

Linda Heath suggested that with the next Newsletter, we include a short article about the Association which members could show/ hand to non-members. The Leatherhead Community Association had done this with success. She suggested also that it would be worth leafletting every flat in Linden Court and Windfield.

Jane Pratt said that we already had the majority of households in Windfield as members. It was, however, agreed we should consider targetting Linden Court,

With no other business raised by members, the Secretary reminded the meeting that the next open meeting of the Association would be on Monday, June 7th at 7.30 pm when Patrick McCord will speak to us.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm

Minutes by Ray Brown (Secretary), to be presented to the AGM in 2011.

Appendix I

TREASURER'S REPORT

Provided is a copy of the Association's audited Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31 December 2009. We are indebted to Lindsey Thynne for auditing these Accounts.

As you can see from the Income and Expenditure Account for this year, the committee has been able to cut down expenses by almost half and there is a profit of £114.

The majority of the expense is the hire of meeting rooms and the printing of the newsletter. The amount spent on the hire of meeting rooms went up because the LRA took their turn in paying for the hire of Park House for the Town Centre Forum, after the council stopped supporting it. The newsletter expense was less as only two newsletters were printed last year. The 'Publicity' expense, which includes the public liability insurance which is needed when promoting the LRA in the Swan Centre, is less, as last year the LRA had a banner made up.

The income for the year mainly came from subscriptions, with a small donation from LeatherheadAhead when they joined with the LRA. The three year membership fee has to be split over a three year period in the accounts – a third of it is transferred to the Income and Expenditure account each year and this is the amount of money that can be used for that year, together with the one year membership fees and any donations. The interest received on the deposit account is minimal, which is simply because of the poor interest rates at present.

As you can see from the Balance Sheet, the Leatherhead Residents' Association has a very healthy bank balance at present (£3,689), including the 'General Reserve' of £3000.

In order to give our members good value for their membership fee, anyone joining the Association after 1 September each year is recorded as being a member from January the following year and therefore receives four months free membership. These membership fees received in advance have to go into the accounts for the following year and are shown on the Balance Sheet as 'Subscriptions in Advance' – expenses, however, for those four months will still go into the Income & Expenditure account for that year. The Prepayment amount relates to the website for 2010.

Overall the Balance Sheet shows that at 31 December 2009 the Association has increased its value to £3594.

Paula Sabine
Hon. Treasurer

Appendix II

Planning Report to AGM May 2010

1. The Blue Café has now obtained a license to sell alcohol. They have subsequently submitted an application to put out 4 tables with 4 chairs each and for these to remain until 11 pm. At the actual license hearing, the owner said that the tables and chairs would be brought in at 4 pm. The serving of food and drink until late at night would obviously interfere with the residents' peace and quiet and so the LRA has written to the Planning Authority to alert them to our point of view. We still do not know where or how a flue is to be installed and this was a condition of their obtaining permission to extend the premises.

2. Brook Willow farm has submitted another application for retrospective planning approval for its buildings and business activities. It is very similar to the previous one this time last year but does also contain a proposal to widen the access road and, in so doing, fell the trees which currently line it. Several of the Letters of Representation come from tenants of the owner who do not wish their businesses to be disturbed or be moved and one can see their point of view. However, the fact remains that this mini business park has been established on Green Belt land and had no permission to develop in this way.

3. The Mole Valley art project. I was at the presentation of the ideas and also at the final discussion of them. Although the train got the most votes, it was seen to be the most difficult to implement both from the point of view of cost and from the point of view of upkeep. The recent vandalism in the Red House grounds only proves the point.

The next item to be well received was new and improved signage for the entrance to Leatherhead. However, this would have entailed the loss of the current signs and this was seen as wasteful.

Finally, we tried to incorporate several of the other ideas which were popular, the archway, the theatre lighting and some trees and planters in the High Street. Mr. Rod Shaw will now be looking at these ideas with the aim of recommending one or all of them to the MVDC.