

LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Monday 14th April 2014, At 7.30 p.m. in the Abraham Dixon Hall at the Letherehead Institute.

In attendance:

Hubert Carr (Chairman), Caroline Brown, Hilary Porter, Paula Sabine, Cheryl Allen, Ann Cardew, John Hayball, Roger Hardwick, Kristina Kenworthy, Fran Smith, Norma Tatham-Thompson. SCC Councillor Tim Hall, MVDC Cllr. Bridget Lewis Carr, 18 members and 5 visitors.

Apologies for Absence:

Sir Paul Beresford MP, Cllr and Mrs. D. Sharland, Cllr. R. Dickson,, Mr. & Mrs. Anscomb, John Bleackley, David Banko, Ian Cargill, Vanya and John Moyer, Carol Neeser, Jane Roucca, Mr. & Mrs. Seifert.

MINUTES OF THE 2013 AGM

As posted on the Association website (click on section heading) and circulated were approved without amendment. There were no matters arising from the minutes

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman presented his report on the achievements for the year, the response to the Housing Consultation, concern for the preservation of the Green Belt, on-going concerns for Fortyfoot Road and Leach Grove Woods and the future challenge of the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership. A copy of his report together with reports from the sub-committees are available by clicking here: [Chairman's Annual Report](#), [Planning Report](#), [Environmental Report](#).

TREASURER'S REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Copies of the audited statement of accounts were circulated, and adopted, Proposed by Tim Hall and seconded by Heather Ward. Click on links in the section heading to see the Report and Atatement of Accounts.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Lindsey Thynne was recommended for re-appointment as Auditor proposed by Caroline Brown and Seconded by Norma Tatham-Thompson.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2014 – 2015.

The election was conducted by Cllr Tim Hall. There were no duplicate nominations requiring a vote. The following Officers and committee members were elected nem. con.

Chairman: Caroline Brown - proposed by Fran Smith, seconded by Paula Sabine

Vice Chairman – Hubert Carr – proposed by Caroline Brown, seconded by Hilary Porter

Secretary - Hilary Porter –proposed by Caroline Brown seconded by Norma Tatham-Thomson

Treasurer; Paula Sabine – proposed by Norma Tatham-Thompson seconded by John Hayball

Committee Members (all re-elected, proposed by Hubert Carr, seconded by Paula Sabine)

Cheryl Allen, Ann Cardew, John Hayball, Roger Hardwick, Kristina Kenworthy, Fran Smith, Norma Tatham-Thompson.

Cllr Hall paid tribute to Hubert Carr for his years in office, and welcomed the additional nominations for three new members of the committee:

Louise Herrity, proposed by Cheryl Allen, seconded by Flip Cargill
Pam Wilson - proposed by Caroline Brown, seconded by Hilary Porter
John Wilson. – proposed by Caroline Brown, seconded by Hilary Porter

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Heather Ward (chairman of the Leatherhead and District Forum) announced the date of the next Forum meeting to be on Wednesday 16th April, at 6 p.m., when Graham Pountney would be speaking about the Surrey Hills Community Radio which would be launching in May.

SCC Cllr Tim Hall reported the next meeting for all those concerned about the recent Flooding, would take place at Leatherhead Methodist Church at 7 p.m. on 29th April.

This concluded the business of the AGM. Following a brief interval the meeting was addressed by three excellent speakers:

John Howarth, Director of Towns Alive (formerly Action for Market Towns) gave a presentation emphasizing the importance of potential development for Leatherhead as a result of the fact that MVDC were submitting a substantial bid to Coast to Capital MEP with the intention of designating funding specifically for the benefit of Leatherhead. With the changes in consumer marketing developing through the establishment of supermarkets, out of town Retail parks and Internet shopping, he illustrated comparison of similar Market Towns emphasizing the fact that Leatherhead had only a very low 5 % vacancy rate. The importance of any future development was to ensure that the Town was competitive and that businesses and retailers should be good at promoting themselves; with good access, signage, and parking.

Anne Haigh Manager of Dorking and Leatherhead Citizens Advice Bureau gave an excellent and informative talk on the work of the CAB which as a registered charity gives free, independent and confidential advice with voluntary support from Legal advisors. It was notable that in the past year the largest proportion (40%) of advice given had been related to the effects of Welfare reform. and more recently assistance for victims of flooding with, goods, food vouchers and assistance from Leatherhead Lions for fuel poverty funding. She described the training of the voluntary staff and the contribution of the professional skills they brought to the service and the benefit to their own personal development.

Jim Jones, Surrey Wildlife Officer gave an illustrated and advisory talk of the work of the Surrey Nature Partnership, stressing the importance of water as a sustainable natural resource.

The Clay catchment area of the River Mole brings problems of the speedy rate of flow and flooding in areas where encouragement is need to persuade farmers to allow natural flood plane. Excellent opportunities for voluntary work and training are provided in Partnership for Action, with seasonal surveys of wild life and control of problem plants.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.