

LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Draft Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Monday 13 April 2015 7.30pm in the Abraham Dixon Hall at Letherhead Institute

Present: Committee: Caroline Brown (Chairman), Hubert Carr (Vice Chairman), Paula Sabine (Treasurer), Cheryl Allen, Ann Cardew, Louise Herry, Fran Smith, Norma Tatham-Thompson, Pam Wilson, John Wilson, **LRA Members:** Cllr. Bridget Lewis Carr, SCC Cllr. Tim Hall, and members: Irene and, Ian Seifert, Jen Smith, David Wells, Ray Ward, Martyn Williams, Flip Cargill and Ian Cargill, Christine Smith, Chris and Judy Evans, Caroline Cardew-Smith, David Oinn, Margaret Ludford, Glenda Lamden, Percy Hawkins, Susan Leveritt, Heather Ward, Martin Hogg. **Visitors:** S. Fortescue, Lesley Pearce and MVDC Cllr. Philippa Shimmin.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Rosemary Dixon, Kristina Kenworthy, Hilary Porter.

2. **Minutes of the 2014 AGM**

The Minutes of the AGM Meeting held on 14 April 2014 were approved without amendment. There were no matters arising from these Minutes.

3. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman welcomed those attending and read her report on the Society's work for the year. This included representation on the Community Reference Group working with the Masterplanners who have been appointed by the MVDC for the "Transformation" of Leatherhead; the Litter Pick Up and Art Exhibition; the establishment of a local Flood Forum; work on the legal recognition of Village Green Status for Leach Grove Wood; improvement of Church Street, a new-style Newsletter; help with clearing the banks of the Mole River of Japanese Balsam; helping to nominate Barnett Wood Lane Allotments as an Asset of Community Value and objecting to the closure of beds at Leatherhead Hospital. [Click here for the full report on the LRA website.](#)

4. **Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts**

Copies of the audited statement of accounts were circulated and adopted nem.con. Proposed by Fran Smith, seconded by Hubert Carr

5. **Appointment of Auditor**

The re-appointment of Lindsey Thynne as auditor, proposed by Paula Sabine and seconded by Caroline Brown was approved.

6. **Election of Officers for 2015-2016**

The following re-appointments were proposed by John Wilson and seconded by Tim Hall: Caroline Brown as Chairman, Hubert Carr as Vice Chairman and Paula Sabine as Treasurer. Approved.

Election of Secretary

Caroline Brown reported that Hilary Porter would be stepping down from her Officer role, but continuing with her work on Community Health issues and the LRA Publicity and Membership sub-committee. In the absence of Hilary, Caroline recorded the committee's thanks for all her past and on-going work for the community and the LRA.

Pam Wilson has offered to take on the post as Secretary. Proposed by Caroline Brown and seconded by Louise Herrity – approved.

7. **Re-election of Committee for 2015-2016**

The re-election of the other members of the Committee (Cheryl Allen, Ann Cardew, Louise Herrity, Kristina Kenworthy, Hilary Porter, Fran Smith, Norma Tatham-Thompson, and John Wilson) was proposed by Caroline Brown and seconded by Bridget Carr Lewis – approved

Election of new members to the Committee for 2015-2016

- a. Ian Seifert – proposed by John Wilson, seconded by Fran Smith
 - b. Martyn Williams – proposed by Hubert Carr and seconded by Flip Cargill
- Both were approved by the meeting.

8. **Increase in subscriptions**

The Committee proposed an increase in subscriptions from £2 to £2.50 for one year and from £5 to £6 for three years. Paula Sabine was against the proposal and wanted to work for more members rather than an increase. At the moment the membership stood at 580. More Road Reps were needed to increase membership. Often the LRA was short of funds when it could do more, but restricted by the surplus amount – this year £85.84.

After discussion it was agreed to take a vote: 15 for an increase 11 against. The increases would therefore take effect from 1st January 2016. **Action: PS**

The business of the Annual General Meeting was concluded

Following a brief interval, the meeting was addressed by **Neil Clarke, Surrey's Crime Prevention Officer** to talk on **Scam Scoundrels**.

The Chairman welcomed Neil Clarke who gave apologies from PC Matt Savage, the new Leatherhead Town Officer, who was unable to attend because of Police duties.

He began by speaking on the ever-increasing scams which most of us hope to be aware of, but as soon as one scam is ended another one appears whether by letter, email, phone, cold-calling. A scam is an illicit attempt to "con" another person out of money. The scammers often exploit the most vulnerable in our society and are only interested in taking cash. He said people who were worried by post and phone scams should call Trading Standards on 08454 04 05 06 or email trading.standards@surreycc.gov.uk.

Never give any personal information to anyone – either online, face to face or over the phone before verifying their credentials. It was recommended that either another

phone should be used to check the call or to wait for an interval before phoning the Police or any other number given by the caller as they could still be on the line.

Cold calling doorstep traders who target the elderly and vulnerable cause much concern. They offer services like roofing, block paving, guttering, painting and gardening. There are of course plenty of reputable traders offering this range of services, but they can still be a nuisance if they cold call against your wishes and it is preferable to use a recommended service. Stickers were available to help stop Cold Calling and these are also available from Trading Standards.

Mole Valley particularly, has been hit by Courier Fraud where money is requested on the phone for what seems a "proper" purpose, taken from the bank or building society by the unsuspecting person and then collected by a taxi to drop off somewhere. All sound very credible at the time, but, again, **never** give money to anyone or to any company without verification. The taxi firms are usually bona fide, not part of the fraudsters and have recently helped in identifying some of them. All must sound credible at the time, but again **never** give money to anyone or any company without verification first as above.

"Nottingham Knockers", possibly ex-prisoners, were usually people coming round with an assortment of wares, some of whom have been reported as being very aggressive if they cannot persuade people to buy their goods. These people should have a Pedlar's Licence.

ATM machines should be looked at carefully before drawing out money as it has been found that some are fraudulently fitted with extra pieces of equipment, one to read cards and another of which will protrude from the machine and is known as a "cash grabber". Money coming out of a machine should come out flush with the machine, if not it could roll round inside this equipment and not be accessible. The person trying to draw out the money then goes into the bank or building society to report and, while he is doing so, the money on the cash grabber is taken by the fraudster. Reports have come in of this happening in Ashtead.

The Chairman referred Mr. Clarke to an article from a catalogue about a card which could read details of another person's card from a distance and the catalogue was then selling a device to deter this. Again, as he said in the beginning, it could be a question of more scams to avoid others. He was not sure of the reliability of this security device.

A question was asked about hotel key cards which could contain all the personal details of the person staying in the hotel, especially if they had booked and paid personally. Neil Clarke said he would check on this, but in the meantime it was recommended that the key card should not be handed back at the hotel desk and that all valuables should be locked in the secure safe.

Security in the home was discussed, remembering that most burglaries are opportunistic, leaving open windows, unlocked doors, keys under pots, gives an opportunity, having a burglar alarm and leaving lights on can help to protect. Those wanting a free and impartial home security survey can contact Neil Clarke direct on 01483 630809 or email neil.clarke@surrey.pnn.police.uk.

To contact Surrey Police re any of the above scams, telephone 101 or in the event of a crime being in progress or in an emergency call 999.

The Chairman thanked Neil for his very informative, excellent talk and told members that various leaflets on Scams with stickers and a Neighbourhood & Home Watch booklet were available as they left. More for neighbours etc could be obtained from Neil Clarke or Trading Standards.

Date of next meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be on Monday 11 May (Monday after the Bank Holiday) Room G6 at The Letherhead Institute.