



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of**

**LEATHERHEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**Held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.30 pm at the  
Leatherhead Methodist Church, Church Road, Leatherhead**

**Present:** Caroline Brown\* (CB) Chairman; Hubert Carr\* (HC) Vice Chairman; Paula Sabine\* (PS); Fran Smith\* (FS); Susan Leveritt (SL) Acting Minuting Secretary; Martyn Williams\* (MW); Hilary Porter; Ray Brown; Bridget Carr; Jenny Christie; Ann Clark; Susie Ezzard; Sonia Grove; Julia Jarrett; Sara Kane; Stella King; Tony Russell; Percy Hawkins; Philip Simmons; Paul Sutherland-Waite; Katie Wildash; David Woodhead

**\* denotes LRA Director**

**In Attendance:** Ashley Barr; SCCllr Tim Hall; MVDC Cllr Rosemary Dickson; MVDC Cllr Emma Norman; Guest Speaker MVDC Chairman Cllr Mary Huggins.

Total Attending : 27

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Keira Vyvyan-Robinson; Louise Herrity; Evelyn Stanley; John & Fay Shaw; Ian & Irene Seifert; Pat Harrison; and Trish & Matt O'Shea.
2. **The Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on 1st April 2019 were approved with no amendments.
3. **Matters Arising** – none.
4. **Election of Directors.** The four Directors retiring by rotation, but offering themselves for re-election were Louise Herrity, Paula Sabine, Martyn Williams and Fran Smith. They were re-elected by unanimous assent.
5. **Chairman's Report** ([full report online](#)) CB summarised the eventful period since the last AGM
  - a. The deaths of **Cheryl and Roy Allen** were a great loss to the LRA. However, the memorial fund set up by their children, Ashley and Paul, will fund many LRA activities dear to Cheryl's and Roy's hearts for years to come. A presentation of a "cheque" for £2500 was made by Ashley to CB.
  - b. Progress on Transform Leatherhead has been slow. The necessity for social distancing of shoppers has resulted in the **pedestrianisation of the High Street on Sundays**. The Council is seeking ways to encourage more shoppers into Town.
  - c. An announcement is expected in November regarding the publication of the next draft of the new **Local Plan**, following the strong criticism of the first draft. It is believed that the new draft may better reflect changing trends and may resurrect the idea of a new settlement to the south of the District.

- d. Other planning matters mentioned are two consultations the Government is carrying out. One is a **new method of calculating “housing need,”** the other is a proposal to **zone all land according to its suitability for development.** Whilst Green-Belt would generally be classified as unsuitable, all Green-Belt would have to justify its continuing inclusion in this category.
- e. The Government is also considering whether more **Counties should become Unitary Authorities** and take over the powers of the Borough/District Councils. Surrey CC has put itself forward in this regard as have Mole Valley's 11 District/Borough Councils. A reaction to Surrey's bid is expected by 7<sup>th</sup> October.
- f. Surrey CC and MVDC are proposing to **plant over 1 million trees** over the next 10 years and are inviting suggestions as to where they should be planted.
- g. Finally, CB **asked for volunteers** for various tasks – a - minuting secretary, articles for the Newsletter, someone to be responsible for the LRA's input into the tree planting initiative and volunteers to deliver the Newsletter and other LRA publications.

6. **Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2019** ([full report online](#)) CB stated that the Treasurer's Report and the Accounts for the year 2019 have been signed off by the Directors and have been available on the website .She asked if there were any queries, but there were none. CB thanked Paula Sabine for her work in preparing them.

## 7. Any Other Business

- a. **Christmas Barrow – CB** reported that we hope to have a barrow in the Swan Centre in order to sell “pre-loved” decorations, cards, gift-wrapping, crackers, toys and games. The date will be Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November from 10 a.m. to 4pm. Will be in accord with CV-19 guidelines.
- b. **Randalls Road Traffic & Speeding – CB** said that Member Matt O'Shea, who owns a house in the new Farthing Development on Randalls Road, is concerned about the excessive speed of many HGVs, coaches and vans as well as the vibrations caused to the foundations of the Farthings houses by the large vehicles bouncing on potholes. Tim Hall responded that SCC Highways have carried out a speed survey and found no speeding. He also said that dustcarts serving the far side of the town are supposed to go there via Oaklawn Road rather than through Randalls Road.
- c. **Cycles on Leatherhead High Street - Member Sonia Grove** complained about the disruption and danger caused by cycles being ridden at speed up and down the Street and including through the waterless feature at the bottom of the High St. She argued that parking warden should be able to fine cyclists. Tim Hall responded that cyclists are permitted to use the High Street, but not as a 2-way route.
- d. Hilary Porter asked for explanation of **Blue Badge parking rights** on the High Street. Tim Hall confirmed that outside pedestrian time, they can park anywhere on the High Street, but they must drive up it, not both ways.
- e. A member said she has lived in LH for 55 years and has only been in the Swan Centre car park twice. She wondered about its renovation, but Cllr Norman explained that substantial improvements have already been made to the size of spaces and driving lanes.
- f. **Police Commissioner – Tony Russell** expressed concern that this elected position might be eliminated, which he would regard as a retrograde step.
- g. **All Saints School / nursery – Tony Russell** expressed concern as to whether the sale of these premises will include provision for part at least to continue in use as a community facility. Cllr Norman responded that such a provision is part of the criteria by which offers for the property are to be considered .She also said that MVDC have submitted a bid for the property in order to ensure its continued community use.

8. **Guest Speaker: Mole Valley Chairman, Councillor Mary Huggins** gave a most interesting review of her career as a Councillor and the way in which MVDC has evolved over the period of her career.
9. **Date of Next Open Meeting** – no date has been set, but in light of circumstances, it is likely to be a “Zoom” meeting. Members will be advised.
10. **The meeting concluded at 8.50pm**