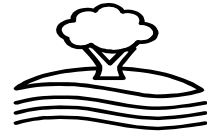


Knoll Residents Association



Minutes of the 37th AGM held at St John's URC, Lynwood Grove on Tuesday 15 November 2011, starting at 7.50pm

Apologies: Jo Johnson MP, Councillors Tony Owen, Douglas Auld & William Huntington-Thresher, Chris Tait and Dr Langtree

1. Opening from Chairman Paul Savage & Minister Jennifer Millington

Paul thanked all KRA members and invited guests for their attendance; Councillors Simon Fawthrop, Pauline Tunnicliffe & Lydia Buttinger; local SNT Sgt Russell Lamb; Town Centre Manager Cheryl Curr; LBB Patrick Phillips ; GLA member James Cleverly; and representatives from Petts Wood & Crofton RAs.

Jennifer welcomed all to St John's URC on behalf of the congregation and thanked the Chairman for advertising the activities taking place at St John's URC every week in the last newsletter.

2. Minutes of 36th AGM

Agreed as stated¹.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Association's accounts to 30 September 2011 were made available to all and were accepted without challenge². Ian Black confirmed that the Constitution Change approved by the membership at the 36th AGM had been implemented and a Barclays Bank account is now in operation. The Nationwide account remains open despite Ian's two letters requesting closure, only 1p is in the account.

4. Election of Auditor

Theresa Ansett audited the accounts and has kindly agreed to continue as auditor³.

5. Election of Committee

11 members of the existing committee have offered to re-stand and were duly re-elected⁴. Paul Savage made a plea for a new committee member.

6. Chairman's Report

Paul thanked Treasurer Ian Black, Secretary Hilary Robson, the remaining Committee members and all road wardens for their contributions & continuing support in 2011.

Key activities this year have included the on-going dialogue with the Station Manager & Network Rail to keep the approach paths/roads clean; dialogues with the Post Office re the excessive amount of Royal Mail van parking in Vinson Close; parking restrictions in St Kilda Rd; launch of the 'new look' KRA website; continual monitoring of planning applications and representations being made where necessary; the on-going reviews of the trees in 'our patch'; and commenting on the consultative strategy for ideas to improve the High St.

Next year the big issue for us all are the proposed 25% funding cuts for LBB. Paul urged all to contribute to the [Tough Choices](#) debates.

7. Cheryl Curr addressed the floor

This year's highlights include the library move in May – visitor numbers have increased by 50% and the summer's reading challenge for children had 1400 subscribers compared to the historic 800 each summer. A successful dance event was held at the time of the library opening and the summer fêtes in the High St & Priory Gardens were well received.

The quarterly Orpington Magazine is continuing and is paid for by local business advertising, 13000 copies are currently produced. The Orpington Business Forum has 50 paid-up members and meet bi-monthly.

The [Orpington Christmas switch-on](#) is Wednesday 23 November from 4-7pm. The Mayor's 'out of London fund' has given £90000 to help out the town centre and some has been used for new lights and tree with a three-year lifespan. The Methodist Church [Tree Festival](#) will have appropriately dressed trees from local businesses.

The Walnuts have been sold and the new owners are keen to develop the area despite the challenging economic

¹ Proposed W Swan, seconded K Wilkins

² Proposed B Wilkin, seconded N Collins

³ Proposed W Swan, seconded C Gray

⁴ Proposed G Gadkary, seconded Mrs Humby

times. 2-hours free parking is being trialled in December.

LBB are reviewing Town Centre Management in the current economic climate. Setting-up a business improvement district initiative is under consideration. The Metropolitan Police are keen to sell their Walnuts site.

A parking leaflet has been produced and all present agreed the wide variations can be confusing.

Q: Who has bought the Walnuts? A: A Kuwaiti company and other big companies such as Workman are involved.

Q: What is happening re the ground floor of the Village Hall? A: The Hall Trust are seeking to rent the space out to maximise revenue for the running of the Hall and benefit of Orpington residents but have yet to lease the space. The ground floor restaurant area is very large and it has been suggested that it be split into 3 areas. All the flats above are taken.

Q: What became of the MasterPlan? A: The highway and library funding has been spent but the Plan was not adopted. The medium & long-term developments were always dependent on developers coming forward.

8. Sgt Russell Lamb addressed the floor

Petts Wood & Knoll and Orpington are still separate wards and SNTs, it is only that five sergeant posts have gone in the Borough and as a result he is now in charge of both Orpington and Petts Wood & Knoll SNTs. Crime is at an all-time low in the area and Sgt Lamb's teams will continue to work to maintain that.

Orpington Police Station has not been open for over one year. Police cars parade in different areas at different times and will respond to 999 calls wherever they are. Keeping a building open in these days of cutbacks is an unnecessary draw on public funds. Stations are only needed for custody. To contact the Police it is very straightforward - call **999 for emergencies** and **101 for non-emergencies**.

Two members commented on personal burglaries, low-level petty crimes and the role of Neighbourhood Watch. Sgt Lamb asked all to consider how they would get into their home if they had lost their keys and then take action to prevent such entry to minimise becoming a victim of thieves. This could be better locks, planting prickly bushes etc. His teams can give advice if requested. NHW is effective but is run by LBB not the Police.

9. Patrick Phillips, Head of Parks & Green spaces

Patrick delivered an entertaining history of his career in local government and the changes in parks and green space management since the late-1970s.

There are 156 parks/open spaces in LB Bromley and the biggest change in recent years has been the involvement of local residents. 50% of the Borough's parks are run by sports clubs or groups such as Friends of Priory gardens. The emphasis is about 'ownership', not doing the council's work, and has now extended to [Street Friends](#) and the latest initiative [Snow Friends](#).

Q: Are there plans to introduce car parking charges at High Elms and Keston Ponds? A: They are both small car parks & the speaker has not heard of any such plans.

10. Open Forum

Q: Parking in Irene Rd used to be limited to 3 tons but two large vehicles now park there as the signage has gone. A: Cllr Simon Fawthrop to speak to questioner afterwards.

Q: Any news re former library buildings? A: (Cheryl Curr) The Heritage Lottery application was praised but did not get an award. A further application to a more local source was suggested.

Q: Any update on the potential land sale at the top of Dale Wood Rd? A: (Cllr Simon Fawthrop) Nothing has been put forward in planning applications.

Q: Some pavements need re-surfacing etc and perhaps some trees put in. A: (Cllr Fawthrop & J Cleverly) Details will be taken but in current economic times there is limited funding. TfL have a different timetable and funding and it can be that their roads get done more regularly and promptly. James does chase TfL and they did contribute £5m towards the Chislehurst Bridge works.

Q: Is traffic disruption due to Chislehurst Bridge works and also Tesco parking being monitored? A: (Cllr Simon Fawthrop & James Cleverly) Yes, Cllr Tony Owen maintains a constant look at Tesco. TfL will be asked to have impact review but they already have traffic mitigation in place.

Q: What are KRA doing to keep a watch on Biggin Hill? A (Paul Savage) KRA receive all the information that Crofton RA get and do maintain a watch on any changes that would impact members. Cllr Fawthrop – all Petts Wood & Knoll councillors oppose any changes to the current lease.

With thanks to all, the Chairman brought formal proceedings to a close at 9.25pm and welcomed all to join the Committee & invited guests for refreshments.