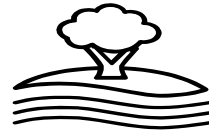


Knoll Residents Association



Minutes of the 38th AGM held at St John's URC, Lynwood Grove on Tuesday 13 November 2012, starting at 7.50pm

1) Opening from Chairman Paul Savage

Paul thanked all KRA members; Carl Shoben (Communications Director South London Healthcare Trust); Councillors Tony Owen, Simon Fawthrop, Douglas Auld & William Huntington-Thresher; Rev Jennifer Millington; and representatives from local Residents Associations for their attendance, and gave apologies on behalf of James Cleverly (GLA Member).

2) Welcome from Minister Jennifer Millington

Jennifer welcomed all to St John's URC, the "building in the heart of the community". St John's Jubilee Beacon event was the highlight of 2012 and Jennifer, Dave Thomas & Wendy Swan would like to receive ideas & suggestions for possible future activities.

All are invited to "Carols under Starlight" on Thursday 20 December.

3) Minutes of 37th AGM

Agreed as stated¹.

4) Proposed changes to the Constitution

The changes proposed are to sections:

- 5) *The management of the Association between general meetings shall be in the hands of the Committee comprising not more than 12 members elected at the Annual General meeting. **Amend 12 to 15 to help in the managing & sharing-out the work of the Committee.***
- 2)d) *To conform to the Neighbourhood Watch constitution as prescribed by the Metropolitan Police. **To be deleted as the the links between KRA and the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) scheme are lost in history and for many years the Association has not acted as part of the NHW scheme. It would be unreasonable to ask our road wardens en masse to act as NHW wardens, although, of course, individually they may wish to do so, and indeed some already are.***
- 17) *The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of November every year and the business to be transacted shall include matters relating to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, the election of the Committee. ...**Delete " the Neighbourhood Watch scheme" for reasons given above.***

All changes proposed were approved².

5) Election of Committee

11 members of the existing committee have offered to re-stand plus Miriam Harries as the Road Safety representative. All were duly re-elected³.

6) Vacancies

Paul made a plea for new committee members to bring the Committee to 15 and for a replacement road warden for the middle part of Knoll Rise.

7) Treasurer's Report

The accounts to 30 September 2012 have been audited by Theresa Ansett. Although the subscriptions have increased compared to the accounts for the y/e 30/09/11 this actually reflects a return to the previous years' subscription levels, following the 2011 'dip'.

Paper costs have increased some 20-30% over the year but a contrary saving has been made by only having paper copies of the previous year's AGM Minutes available at the AGM and posting them electronically on the KRA website for all members to view. Historically a copy of the AGM Minutes were delivered to every members' home with the Autumn Newsletter.

The meeting costs have risen in 2012 because a road warden event was held in June 2012. The balance sheet

¹ Proposed R Vaughan, seconded J Savage

² Section 5 proposed C Tait, seconded C Gray. Sections 2)d) & 17) removal of NHW proposed K Wilkins, seconded C Gray

³ Proposed P Robson, seconded R Healey

remains healthy⁴.

8) Election of Auditor

Theresa Ansett has kindly agreed to continue as auditor⁵.

9) Chairman's look forward

Paul reminded all that the Chislehurst Road bridge is due to be reopened from 12:00 on 16 November; Bromley are running winter driving courses as part of their on-going [road safety driver training](#); and Orpington Chorale perform their festival of hymns & carols at All Saints on 8 December.

10) Carl Shoben addressed the floor

South London Healthcare Trust is the first UK trust of its kind to be put into administration. The Trust was formed 3 years ago as the product of the merger of three smaller hospital trusts - Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust (QMS), Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust (QEH) and Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust (BHT) – the Trust includes the PRUH, Orpington Hospital, Erith Hospital and the Beckenham Beacon.

The hospitals serve a population of over one million and came together to with “the best of intentions” to address quality issues. The stroke unit at the PRUH is one of the best in the country. Historically the hospitals had higher mortality rates than nationally but over the last two years the Doctor Foster measures show that the Trust hospitals have moved from being some of the worst to being in the top six performers. In 2011 there were only two MRSA cases and to date this year there have been none. This is one of the lowest infection rates nationally. It is important that these important gains are not lost going forward.

Carl went on to describe the three key issues the Administrator had found and the possible responses. These can all be read in the Administrator's [Draft Report](#). The Report will be sent to The Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, at the close of the consultation period in December 2012 and he has until February 2013 to accept, reject or make suggestions. The new organisation could be in place by April 2013 or the following quarter July 2013. Patients will not notice any immediate changes, NHS staff will be paid from a different fund.

Q: Whatever the outcome of the Draft Report proposals what happens to the PFI payments – will they still be a burden? A: There has been a bit of a 'bailout' from central Government and now PFI contracts are better & fairer.
Q: Is there anything in statute that says how many A&Es are needed per head of population etc? A: There is nothing in law but there are recommendations by nursing bodies etc around maximum travel times. Going to a centre of expertise such as Kings for heart attack victims and the PRUH for stroke victims is seen as best practice.
Q: Block contract⁶ – is it still going on? A: Yes but it will not go on into next year. The block contract is not just a hospital issue, it applies to councillors, GPs etc and is affected by the change in demographics, life expectancy increases etc. There is only one pot of money and decisions have to be made about how it will be split-up and where it is most needed.

Responses to questions about Orpington Hospital – the hospital is between an acute hospital and a cottage hospital. Patients with acute problems are sent to the specialist hospitals such as QM for dermatology or the PRUH for strokes. Non-acute matters do not involve such specialist equipment and can be done in many places such as GP clinics. Cannot say if the site will be sold off for house-building.

Q: What can the Trust realistically do to improve the financial position? A: The efficiency savings being proposed are the same as were made at the outset and that does mean a reduction in staff. There is an issue with doctors' rotas that is not resolved, for example there are not enough appointments being made on Friday afternoons and getting doctors present then will make savings. Some back-office staff will also be cut.

Q: Why is £30m being spent on agency staff? A: Historically it has been difficult to recruit people, especially the use of short-term contracts. However there have been some successes such as midwifery where there are now 100 full-time staff.

11) Councillors' addresses

In the absence of Cllr Stephen Carr, Cheryl Curr and Sgt Lamb the attending councillors kindly agreed to address the floor on recent developments.

- Douglas Auld – Chislehurst Road Bridge

This is a good news story. The First bridge had lasted 100 years and was rebuilt in the 1950s. Unfortunately the materials used then were inferior to modern standards and a survey revealed danger of a sudden catastrophic collapse. The weight limit was immediately reduced from 35 tonnes to 8 tonnes whilst negotiations with British Rail and a tender took place. The bridge is owned by Bromley but as it is used by TfL buses a vast part of the money

⁴ Approval of accounts proposed B Wilkin, seconded R Vaughan

⁵ Proposed C Tait, seconded Mrs Vaughan

⁶ The KRA Secretary researched this link to understand more re the block contract [NHS South East London Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention \(QIPP\) Strategic Commissioning Intentions 2011/12 to 2014/15](#)

came from them.

HOCHTIEF was chosen by tender – they offered the cheapest rate; to finish the contact 6-months ahead of the other bidders; and to put in an initial platform so that the works could be carried out without any interference to BR. Despite this year's weather problems and restricted working times due to BR (2/3 hours per night on average) the contact came in on time and slightly under budget.

The 61 bus will resume its original route and the bus lane in Cray Avenue is no longer going to be a bus lane. Cllr Huntington-Thresher added that the traffic light sequences along the whole road from Nugent Park to Orpington High St, are to be looked at over the next 18-months to introduce a convoy method.

- Simon Fawthrop - planning matters

The Government are planning changes to planning laws that are issues for LBB. Firstly there is the proposed relaxation of green belt planning laws that could see councils being incentivised to sell off green belt land as they could retain some of the sale proceeds.

Simon does not believe that we should speculate on the value of land going up (or not). Over 50% of LBB is green belt land. Secondly the Government are proposing to allow 8m extensions without planning permission. This could radically change the look/make-up of areas and may result in extension wars between neighbours and second homes being 'squeezed in' without any provision for parking etc.

Simon has written to the Secretary of State for Planning & Development in objection and his fellow councillors have voted overwhelmingly to get involved.

- Tony Owen & William Huntington-Thresher - questions from the floor

Q: How are LBB going to make £30m savings? A: part of the answer is efficiency savings, for instance Bromley has joined with Bexley to combine library services and next week a combining of Bromley & Bexleys' parking teams is being looked at. Bromley parking staff would transfer to Bexley. However, if the severe cuts continue, there will come a point where hard decisions have to be made e.g. bathing an elderly person or repairing a pothole.

General Q re the state of the road in Orpington High St. Cllr Huntington-Thresher acknowledged the poor state and explained that the contractor is coming back to repair under the warranty terms. The work will commence shortly – it was not started during the summer because of the Olympic Travel restrictions. Conways are the usual contractors and their work is usually of a better standard.

In response to further general Qs about Orpington High St & the vicinity Cllrs Owen & Huntington-Thresher mentioned the possible cinema opening in 2014, the Orpington Improvement District, the Priory Museum success for lottery funding and the refusal of some restaurant applications in the High St to try and return the High St to a more viable retail location.

With thanks to all, the Chairman brought formal proceedings to a close at 9:15 and welcomed all to join the Committee & invited guests for refreshments.

Subsequent to the AGM the Chairman/Secretary received late apologies from Councillor Stephen Carr and Cheryl Curr. Sgt Lamb also confirmed his apologies following his previous tentative acceptance.