

Knoll Residents Association

Minutes of the 39th AGM held at St John's URC, Lynwood Gr on Tuesday 12 November 2013, starting at 7.50pm

1) Opening from Chairman Paul Savage

Paul thanked all KRA members; Paul Donohoe Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; Sia Bodbin & Sharon Baldwin Orpington BID; Rob Vale LBB Trading Standards; Phil Waller Orpington History org; Councillors Tony Owen, Simon Fawthrop, Douglas Auld & William Huntington-Thresher; Rev Jennifer Millington; and Bob Hadley & Ted Fenwick from Crofton RA for their attendance, and gave apologies on behalf of James Cleverly (GLA Member) and Petts Wood & District RA.

2) Welcome from Minister Jennifer Millington

Jennifer welcomed everyone to St John's URC and wished all a successful evening.

3) Minutes of 38th AGM

Agreed¹.

4) Election of Committee

Paul recorded his grateful thanks to retiring members Carol Gray (planning) and Richard Healey (tree warden) for their hard work and long-service to the KRA. He welcomed new members Mike Marriott and Dave Thomas. All other members are happy to stand for re-election².

5) Vacancies

Paul made a plea for three new committee members to bring the team size to the full 15 as per the Constitution; and for a replacement road warden for the middle part of Knoll Rise.

6) Treasurer's Report

The accounts to 30 September 2013³ have been audited by Theresa Ansett.

The printing costs have fluctuated in recent years but show a fall this year. The balance sheet shows a sound surplus.

7) Election of Honorary Auditor

Theresa Ansett has kindly agreed to continue as auditor⁴.

8) Paul Donohoe addressed the floor

Paul's PowerPoint presentation is on the News/Events page of our website at <http://www.kra.orp.org.uk/>

Key comments:

- Orpington Hospital – is to be an orthopaedics centre, the hydrotherapy pool is staying and three wards will remain open (two are currently working);
- outreach kidney clinic now running at the PRUH to reduce travel for kidney patients;
- one of big themes and direction of travel is 24/7 consultant availability and increases in efficiency & productivity; and
- please help – become a volunteer, member, send comments, enrol in clinical research trials, become a fundraiser, take part in GP events - see here for fuller details <http://www.kch.nhs.uk/about/get-involved>

Questions from the floor

- Q: what has brought about this positive turnaround compared to the message at a Crofton Halls PRUH forum two year's ago? A: ring-fencing of resource has been key.
- Q: is the PRUH still under PFI? A: Yes.
- Q: has the large amount of agency staff been addressed? A: efficiency is being increased through retention of staff and rota working to cover all days/shifts.
- Q: as the elderly population grows are hospitals working closer with social workers? A: the Denmark Hill site has a community liaison member.
- Q: how is the shortage of A&E registrars being handled? A: by maintaining contact with staff, readily identifying where resource is 'tight' and ensuring that agency staff are only deployed when there are 'safety gaps'.
- Q: where is the money coming from to keep Orpington Hospital open and implement the changes at the PRUH? A: Efficiency projects, reduction in salary spend and better patient throughput. Orthopaedic surgery is ring-fenced and is well funded.

¹ Proposed J Savage, seconded J Whitehead

² Election of committee proposed Mr Gadkary, seconded K Wilkins

³ Agreement of accounts proposed C Tait, seconded J Savage

⁴ Proposed B Wilkin, seconded C Tait

- Q: are there any plans to stop current clinics? A: no, and indeed the kidney clinic has increased the number of clinics running

1) Sharon Baldwin & Sia Bodbin addressed the floor

Key comments:

- BIDs are legislated by Government for high streets to take more control and improve their localities They also have some delegated powers from local councils;
- the Orpington BID is the 150th in UK and covers the area running south to north along the High Street plus part of Perry Hall Rd;
- the campaign started in October 2012;
- the BID is not a charity but is non-profit making. The BID is paid for by the businesses and not by the residents through their Council Tax as was the case with the former Orpington Town Centre management;
- Cllr Huntington-Thresher is on the board;
- to date £156,000 has been collected via a levy on business rates and will be topped-up to £200,000 by other means such as advertising revenue;
- Sharon has been appointed as the centre manager and meets with the local businesses on a day-to-day basis;
- the board are working with LBB for solutions to alleviate the High St parking issues; and
- please support local businesses whenever you can and join the Orpington loyalty card scheme <http://my-loyalty-card.com/orpington/>

Questions from the floor

- Q: are we getting a cinema? A: yes, a second tenant has been secured and building work should begin in February 2014, lasting 12 months. Anytime Gym is moving into the Village Hall and a hotel is coming into town.
- Q: what is happening re Priory Gardens? A: (Cllr Huntington-Thresher) there was an initial bid to the Lottery for the area around the former library which will get disabled access. To secure the full Lottery funding there has to be an on-going commercial activity. The bid for this second element has to be submitted in May 2014. (BID) an events firm has been engaged to promote the Gardens.
- Q: what can be done re Skunkworks, such businesses are a concern locally and as reported in the national press e.g. an 18 year-old died of a heart attack after buying from the Canterbury branch? A: although this it is not a business-type that the BID would like to promote Sharon has been in to meet the owners and the shop is a member of the Orpington BID.

1) Rob Vale addressed the floor

The LBB PowerPoint presentation is on the News/Events page of our website at <http://www.kra.org.uk/>

Key comments:

- 'legal highs' outlets are very difficult to deal with. As soon as one substance is banned an alternative is brought onto the market; and
- current activities by fraudsters to be wary of include scam mail, doorstep callers offering services and equipment-hire fraud. Please use the 07903 852090 Rapid Response number if you witness a fraud in action and make sure all elderly neighbours and family are not being targeted

Questions from the floor

- Q: are you working with the Post Office to detect scam mail? A: yes, some in-roads have been made.
- Q: what about email scams? A: there are many forms in circulation. The key is to remain vigilant at all times and do not respond.

1) Phil Waller addressed the floor

Phil's PowerPoint presentation is on the News/Events page of our website at <http://www.kra.org.uk/>

Key comments:

- the OHO website has already has 12,000 'hits' on the photographs of last Sunday's Remembrance Service; and
- Phil is the first chairman of LBB's Heritage and Arts Forum which will shortly be launching a website etc.

1) General questions from the floor

- Q: is Orpington Station car park extension going ahead? A: yes. It is being funded by Southeastern Trains with no subsidies from rail fares. Sharon Baldwin has received lots of questions re entry location, waiting times etc as we are all keen to know.
- Q: how can suggestions be fed to the BID team? A: via Sharon's email and/or the BID website.
- Q: Is Orpington Police Station up for sale? If so where will the service for blood tests that is moving out of Orpington Hospital be located? A: the Police Station is for sale but there are no further details at present
- Q: can the councillors give an update on the budget shortfall? A: To date cuts made have totalled £57m and a further £65m cuts have to be achieved by 2017. Zero-based reviews have been/are being undertaken; questions such as 'is it statutory' are being asked and, if it is, can the services/works be done cheaper or better?

With thanks to all, the Chairman brought formal proceedings to a close at 9:30pm and welcomed all to join the Committee & invited guests for refreshments.

