

# Knoll Residents Association



Minutes of 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM held at St John's URC, Lynwood Grove on Tuesday 22 November 2016, at 7:45pm

## 1. Speakers and Guests

Sally Pennington – OPCH; Sharon Baldwin – Orpington BID

Councillors: Kim Botting, Tony Owen, Simon Fawthrop and William Huntington- Thresher.

Reverend Jennifer Millington; Ted Fenwick and Bob Hadley – Crofton RA; Elizabeth Strachan – PW&DRA.

## 2. Opening from Chairman Paul Savage

Paul thanked all KRA members and invited guests and speakers for their attendance.

## 3. Welcome from Minister Jennifer Millington

Jennifer welcomed everyone to St John's URC saying how pleased she was that the church is used by local groups.

## 4. Minutes of 41<sup>st</sup> AGM

Agreed<sup>1</sup>

## 5. Election of Committee<sup>2</sup>

Paul explained that he is moving out of the area and Ian Black will take over as Chair. He welcomed Christabel Drakes to the committee and made a plea for further new members.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, independently examined by Brian Pow were approved.<sup>3</sup>

## 7. Election of Honorary Auditor

Brian Pow has kindly agreed to continue as independent examiner and was reappointed for a further year.<sup>4</sup> Ian Black thanked Paul for all his hard work as Chairman and also his wife Jane who was a road warden for many years. He extended best wishes to them both.

## 8. Update by Cllr Kim Botting

As no police representatives were attending Kim Botting gave an update on several issues which were raised at the committee meeting with councillors. The High St Police team have worked with Tesco security to patrol the area behind the store where drug use was a problem. Steps have been taken to crack down on gangs cycling on the pavement. Police have looked at the issue of speeding in Mayfield Avenue.

## Questions from the floor

Aggressive cycling is still a problem. Kim Botting will e mail Police again.

## 9. Appeal by Tina Wheeler

Tina Wheeler spoke on behalf of uniformed groups who use the church. She appealed for more helpers as some groups will have to close at Christmas unless new leaders can be found.

## 10. Presentation by OPCH

Sally Pennington gave an update on the future of Orpington Priory. The council will lease the building to V22 – a company which hires out studios to artists. OPCH have talked to them about the two organisations working together. The studios will be located in the old library and OPCH are hopeful that they will be able to use the main building for community events as outlined in their own bid. They would not have a large space but could overcome this by using marquees in the park. They would have use of the Great hall and the adjoining room as well as the large room upstairs. Having a tea room would not be a problem. All other proposed activities could be accommodated and there are plenty of sessions still available. She believes it could be a beneficial partnership which will ensure the Priory continues to be used by the local community.

### **Questions from the floor**

Bromley Council will still be the freeholder but V22 will be responsible for upkeep. Grants are available for some repairs but the building can be used straight away. V22 does not have charitable status.

### **11. Presentation by Orpington BID**

Sharon Baldwin explained she will resign as a trustee of OPCH so that she can negotiate with V22 in her role as director of BID. She commented on the issues raised by Kim Botting. Police have confiscated some bicycles and visited the homes of offenders. There is not a huge drugs problem locally and there are regular Police patrols of frequently used areas. The biggest problem is retail crime – BID has worked with businesses to improve security measures including making CCTV available right away and sharing photographs of known suspects. They support the High Street Police team of 2 constables and 4 PCSOs and have provided them with office space and a computer. The next priority for BID is to improve retail. They are working with developers and owners to create larger units (e.g. Temple Gate House) which they hope will attract chains such as Debenhams. The Walnuts is being revamped by the new owners, Rockspring, and the empty units are under negotiation. The area round the cinema is now a food quarter and a Nandos will be opening soon. The market square is being renovated with new lighting and the market will be run by the Walnuts and regenerated. The new wine bar and bakery at BR6 are under construction and the Berkeley Homes development is well under way. 16 Houses will be demolished in Homefield Rise and 3 low-rise blocks comprising 104 flats will be built. The White Hart has been sold and will become sports bar. The Post office will move into W H Smith but the sorting office is staying.

### **Questions from the floor**

The hotel is doing well and is full most nights during the week.

### **12. Highlights from general audience questions**

William Huntington- Thresher replied to a number of questions and comments about traffic congestion in the High Street. He clarified that the ramps are not zebra crossings and agreed that the crossing near the war memorial roundabout might be better located further along the High Street. The council will be conducting a survey of traffic flow in Station Road next year. Simon Fawthrop reported that the current overspend on the council budget is £8 million. The council will have to take some difficult decisions including raising council tax. He urged residents to report any waste of resources they become aware of. Tony Owen confirmed that Pepys Rise has been sold for £31, 000.

With thanks to everyone, the Chairman brought formal proceedings to a close at 9.35 pm and welcomed all to join the committee and invited guests for refreshments.

<sup>1</sup> Proposed J Savage, seconded D Thomas

<sup>2</sup> Proposed R Burton, seconded T Wheeler

<sup>3</sup> Proposed B Wilkin, seconded K Wilkins

<sup>4</sup> Proposed S Taylor, seconded J Savage