

Knoll Residents Association



Minutes of 43rd AGM held at St John's URC, Lynwood Grove on Tuesday 21 November 2017, at 7:45pm

1. Speakers and Guests

Sharon Baldwin - Orpington BID

SGT Nick McLaughlin, PC Taj Mahil, PCSO Colin Bissett

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

Rev Wendy Swan - St John's URC

Susan Radford - Treasurer, PW&DRA.

2. Opening from Chairman Ian Black

Ian welcomed all KRA members and invited guests and thanked the speakers for their attendance.

3. Welcome from Reverend Wendy Swan

Wendy welcomed everyone to St John's URC saying that the church is glad that it continues to provide space for use by the local community.

4. Minutes of 42nd AGM

Agreed¹

5. Election of Committee

Nominations have been received from existing committee members and they were duly elected for a further year.²

6. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year ended 30th September 2017, independently examined by Brian Pow, were approved.³

7. Election of Honorary Auditor

Brian Pow has kindly agreed to continue as independent examiner and was reappointed for a further year.⁴

8. Review of the Year

Planning continues to be the most challenging issue facing Knoll Residents, especially large scale projects by development companies. So far all these have been refused by LBB.

Ian extended his thanks to the committee members for all playing their part, to Michael Latham for supporting Sue Smith in her role monitoring planning applications and to the Councillors for continuing to actively support Knoll Residents Association.

9. Presentation by Sgt Nick McLaughlin

Due to an increase in crime in the London area alongside reduced budgets the police are having to change the way they operate. PC Taj Mahil and PCSO Colin Bissett do the leg work in the area. Recently their focus has been on dangerous dogs, gathering evidence re anti-social households and licensing applications providing a balanced view for LBB. They support public safety at events such as Remembrance Day and Christmas Lights events.

Police can be contacted via the Metropolitan Police website and speaking to officers on the beat.

Questions from the floor

Q - Any comments about the fact that crime seems to be increasing?

A - In our area the statistics remain stable but there are issues with the same people re-offending once they are released from jail.

Q - What is being done about the continued irresponsible use of bicycles ?

A - Body cameras are helping identify persistent offenders, and some cycles have been seized.

11. Presentation by Orpington BID

Sharon Baldwin was pleased to announce that Orpington BID has won another five year term, receiving funding until 2023. It is now engaging with a larger percentage of businesses and for the first time Tesco has become involved. The renewal document of Orpington BID can be viewed online.

Premier Inn and the Odeon cinema continue to do well and are making a positive contribution to Orpington Town Centre.

Berkeley Homes are beginning to be occupied and the Dairy Crest site and Bancroft House are being developed for housing.

Many events were organised this year, including a Business Show, the Big O Festival and Priory Live. Flavours of Orpington drew large crowds and the High Street continues to be a good place to eat or have coffee.

Recent events included the Christmas Lights and Fireworks, and Charity Fashion Show, a visit from the Bishop of Rochester, sponsoring Aladdin at the Village Hall and a Santa Dash.

Questions from the floor

Q - Is there any news about large vacant premises in Orpington?

A - There has been some interest in some venues. Dorothy Perkins will become Caffe Nero and the old Post Office is likely to be a restaurant.

Q - Market Square is a good improvement, are Orpington BID involved in managing it?

A - It is run by the Walnuts and BID are working with them to encourage more stall holders. Hopefully the public toilets will be relocated within the Walnuts.

Q - What is being done about affordable housing as the Brunswick Square apartments are very expensive?

A - Bancroft House will have more affordable studio apartments.

12. Highlights from general audience comments

Complaint about the state of the roof on platforms at Orpington Station have not been answered.

- Sharon and William Huntington-Thresher will take up the issue.

Badly aligned paving is dangerous for elderly and other users

- William Huntington-Thresher said that there is a programme of repairs as funding allows.

Concern was raised about an application to open a day nursery

- Tony Owen confirmed that Councillors are made aware of such applications and explained that they act immediately to get them considered at committee rather than being dealt with under delegated powers. It is worth being very specific when objecting because if there is an appeal the Planning Inspectorate have to address every objection.

With thanks to everyone, the Chairman brought formal proceedings to a close at 9.30 pm and welcomed everyone to join the committee and invited guests for refreshments.

¹ Proposed D Thomas, seconded B Wilkin

² Proposed H Robson, seconded R Burton

³ Proposed H Robson, seconded J Brown

⁴ Proposed W Swan, seconded S Wood