

**Minutes of Knoll 50th AGM
held at St John's URC Church
on Thursday 27 November 2024 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Stephen Sangster, Brian Bates, Carol Pitman, Nick Baker, Malcolm Stoodley, Chris Newton, Anjala Belandran and Duncan Garrett (Committee) and Knoll Residents and guests.

Apologies for absence: Gareth Bacon MP, Keith Onslow, Councillor, Jenny Collins, Ray Humby, Graham Casey and Wendy Swan.

Guests: Alice Hammick-Smith, Met Police, Tony Owen and Simon Fawthrop – local councillors, Thomas Turrell – GLA member, representatives from CRA and PW RA

Meeting was opened by Brian Bates, Secretary of Residents' Association who, after welcoming everyone, and thanking St. John's and Tina Wheeler, mentioned that there is a Question & Answer Session at the end. If anyone had a pressing question to ask of our guests, then do ask during main meeting.

Official Business of Residents' Association

a) Minutes of 49th AGM were approved. Proposed by Shirley Sinclair and seconded by Allison Burns.

(b) Election of new Committee:

Name	Proposed	Seconded
Stephen Sangster	Johnstone Brown	Steve Bebbington
Nick Baker	Shirley Sinclair	Allison Burns
Carol Pitman	Louise Friend	Allison Dennis
Brian Bates	Evgeniy Bogdanov	Kavita Savur
Malcolm Stoodley	Shirley Sinclair	Alison Burns
Chris Newton	Tony Owen	Tina Wheeler
Anjala Balendran	Steve Bebbington	Jackie Bebbington
Duncan Garrett	Sanjay Gupta	Richard Burton

(c) Treasurer's Report. Carol Pitman outlined the main expenditure items inside the report and included the expense and upkeep of the defibrillators and on-going training. Acceptance of Brian Pow as the Independent Examiner was proposed by Louis West and seconded by Evgeniy Bogdanov.

The Accounts were approved by a majority show of hands.

(d) Constitution Amendments (see appendix 1). These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were accepted by a majority show of hands.

Chairman's Update

Stephen Sangster outlined the three underpinning headlines that the KRA had adopted. These were A Collective Voice for the Knoll / Building a Closer Community / Effective & Efficient KRA. His update included an explanation of the change in funding with voluntary donations now the main source of income.

SNT Police Team Update

Alice Hammick- Smith spoke about Petts Wood and Knoll activities.

She outlined:

- Increase in burglaries in Petts Wood
- Impact of shoplifters on the community. Updated meeting that six people had been charged with 30 offences.
- Speed gun – first has been used and she anticipates there will be six in total. She explained that they are only used for around 20 mins at each location as social media is employed by drivers to warn each other of locations.
- Ward panel meeting – these are held every 3 months to hear residents views and issues. The next one is to be held on 14 Jan 2025.
- Alice mentioned that there is a PCO drop-in meeting in Orpington Library.
- She also mentioned the gang of motorcycles in Farnborough and appealed for all residents to report any incidents. These could then be collated.

Residents then asked some questions concerning ASB orders. Again, she asked all residents to report any anti-social behaviour to her.

Councillors' Update

Tony Owen gave updates on the following:

- Walnuts Leisure Centre – gym closing at Christmas. Full closure of centre by March 2025 with reopening in April 2026.
- Tony also outlined the financial pressures on the council of adult social care, SEN and homelessness. He mentioned the 5% cap on income from council tax, the impact of the NI contributions on wage

bill. He warned of an uncertain future for the Churchill Theatre, Library provision and The Walnuts.

Simon Fawthrop gave the following update:

- He reinforced Tony's comments and warned that if Commissioners came in then they might sell as much as they could.
- Positive news – Bromley is now hoping to recycle six times more waste than before.
- Simon reported that the KRA request to create a community garden on the land adjacent to the alleyway to Orpington Station was progressing through the council and was expected to be formally approved sometime in the new year.
- He pointed out that Government grants seemed to favour bad financial behaviour. He gave the example of Bromley vs Lewisham where Bromley had set the second lowest budget in London, whereas Lewisham had one of the highest.
- He also mentioned that Bromley had been given the target of building 2,300 new homes per year.

GLA Update

Thomas Turrell spoke about his role in the London Assembly which was to hold the Mayor of London to account. Thomas's own responsibilities included transport (accessibility, lifts etc), the environment and the Fire community culture.

He was trying to improve the connectivity of Outer London by working with TfL. He felt that Outer London isn't being listened to by TfL.

He mentioned that the British Transport Police are given £5m to police the railways which is part funded by TfL and local councils. He questioned whether it was value for money.

Thomas also spoke about houses being built on the green belt to align with new Government targets.

Q & A from the floor

There was a lively engagement with our guests during this time with other questions being raised.

The meeting officially finished at 8.50pm when residents and guests then partook of refreshments and had the opportunity to informally meet and talk with our guests.