

**Minutes of Knoll 51st AGM  
held at St John's URC Church  
on Thursday 20 November 2025 at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Stephen Sangster, Brian Bates, Malcolm Stoodley, Chris Newton, Fiona Tolmie, Ramanuja Ravichandran. Shirley Sinclair (Committee), Knoll Residents and guests.

**Apologies for absence:** Gareth Bacon MP, Keith Onslow, Councillor, Jenny Collins and Duncan Garrett.

**Guests:** Peter Blunden, Met Police, Tony Owen and Simon Fawthrop – local councillors, Gavin James (organiser of Hill View Garden) Thomas Turrell – GLA member, and Tyler Smith, Orpington 1<sup>st</sup>, John Greaves and John Perkins - Crofton RA and Andrea Stevens from PW RA.

Meeting was opened by Brian Bates, Secretary of Residents' Association who, after welcoming everyone, and thanking St. John's, Rev Sohail Ejaz 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 they should ask during the main meeting.

Rev Sohail Ejaz gave a short welcome to everyone.

**Official Business of Residents' Association**

a) Minutes of 50<sup>th</sup> AGM were approved – proposed by John Landeryou and seconded by Jackie Treacher.

(b) Election of new Committee: With several members resigning this year, namely Brian Bates, Carol Pitman and Anjala Balendran, the new members who had agreed to stand were introduced. These are: Shirley Sinclair, Ramanuja Ravichandran and Fiona Tolmie. The election was proposed by Wendy Swann and seconded by Johnstone Brown.

(c) Treasurer's Report. Malcolm Stoodley outlined the main expenditure items inside the report and included the expense and upkeep of the defibrillators and on-going training. He outlined how the two accounts worked and explained the necessity for the separate account for defibrillator upkeep. Acceptance of Accounts and for Brian Pow as the Independent Examiner was proposed by Michelle Barns and seconded by Margaret Collins

## **Chairman's Update**

Prior to starting his update, Stephen Sangester thanked the departing members of the committee individually and thanked them for their amazing contribution to the KRA:-

Anjala Balendran – her background as a lawyer had been extremely helpful to the KRA and had helped our policies.

Brian Bates – started during lockdown for one newsletter, then became secretary and has been part of the modern KRA we have today. Set up social media and is known as having fire starting capabilities along with many more attributes.

Carol Pitman – originally worked on the first Walnuts Planning application and with her finance background put the KRA accounts into the excellent shape we see today.

All three departing members were given photo montages to represent their work within the KRA over the years.

He used his 'word salad' slide to illustrate that the KRA is firmly focussed on 'community'. Stephen further outlined how this community is now becoming what feels like a 'village' and the word 'vessel' was used to show how the KRA can be given an idea from anyone and then use their various channels to promote these ideas. He invited everyone present and on-line to keep sending in these ideas.

## **SNT Police Team Update**

PC Peter Blunden outlined how he feels policing in the SNT ward is working. Together with PC Dan O'Neill they take on practical policing such as kids riding illegal e-bikes. He explained how difficult it was to stop such activities as safety has to be paramount.

He had been involved in large scale police raids in the High St, Pett Wood and St. Mary Cray. They had targeted 10 prolific people who were responsible for 80% of shop lifting, 40% of burglaries and 60% of car thefts. He did encourage everyone to keep sending in CCTV of car thefts as it helps build up the Police intelligence.

Ward panel meetings – these are held every 3 months to hear residents views and issues.

To finish, PC Blunden mentioned that his colleague, PC O'Neill had only completed 3 full shifts in SNT in month September/October as he was seconded to Central London to cover various marches, festivals, to

Bromley. PC Blunden himself had been given another full shift task today, at no notice, to cover Ops, so would not be able to stay after his talk. He did take a few questions but reiterated that all residents should report all crime via 999, 101 and on-line. He also mentioned that burglary and motor vehicle theft was the highest incidence of crime in the Knoll.

### **Tyler Smith, Orpington First**

He outlined Orpington First's role as supporting businesses in the High St and in the Public Realm.

Tyler highlighted the success of the pop-up park in the High St where he said it was estimated that "over 100,000 people used and sat in that park". He also talked about the "On the High St" initiative and how businesses in the High St are able to share offers and discounts with Knoll residents more easily.

Tyler also mentioned other initiatives such as car shows, chimpanzee installation, the Santa Dash and their collaboration with CASPA.

He took some questions and generally felt that the vacancy rate in the High St was better than elsewhere.

### **Councillors' Update**

Simon Fawthrop had made an excellent video explaining how the Council finance worked which was well received by the meeting. He followed this up in the Q&A session later.

### **Gavin James – Hill View Hollow**

He started his presentation by explaining how he is managing the piece of land now known as Hill View Hollow which he described as the 'Gateway to the Knoll' from Orpington Station. He talked about the site as it is now and used other slides to illustrate the way it could be developed. He invited anyone who was interested in helping with this new venture, from writing grant applications to physical gardening, to contact him via: [theknollgardens@gmail.com](mailto:theknollgardens@gmail.com).

### **GLA Update**

Thomas Turrell spoke about his role in the London Assembly which involved holding the London Mayor to account around 3 areas: namely crime, transport and housing.

### *Housing:*

His talk was about the plans to build housing on the Green Belt under new Government policies. Locally these were in Hayes, The Crays and Biggin Hill. He talked about the downside of building on the Green Belt and felt strongly that the London housing supply could be improved if sites that already had planning permission were built on.

### *Crime:*

Thomas talked about motor vehicle theft and gave statistics from the RAC that indicated that in over 1000 postal towns, 8 out of the top 10 were in London of which Beckenham and Bromley were no. 7.

He wanted the ULEZ cameras to be ANPR upgraded so that any cars stolen could be identified and potentially tracked to the location where they are put into containers. He felt many cars were stolen to order.

He told the meeting that there were no checks on what went into containers at all and suggested that organised crime is involved.

He was calling for dedicated police officers to patrol town centres but knew this would not happen any time soon.

### *Transport:*

He walked about the 358 bus issues, fare evasion and pointed out that TfL are losing £190m which could be used to upgrade infrastructure.

## **Q & A from the floor**

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

Simon Fawthrop was on hand to update the meeting following his video earlier. On the question of Council reserves, he felt that there might be 3 more financial years during which time the council could use their reserves. There is no increase in Government grants to Bromley this year and they are not inflation linked. He also mentioned that Bromley had the second lowest council tax in the whole of London.

Other questions were raised and answered.

The meeting officially finished at 9.10pm when residents and guests then partook of refreshments and had the opportunity to informally meet and talk with our guests.