



**MINUTES OF THE 87th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
HELD AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL  
WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2019**

The **Chairman** opened the meeting at 8PM with a welcome to all.

**APOLOGIES:** Mr & Mrs Batley, Marian Lee, Liz Keable, Cllr Rowlands, The Rev. Ian Welsh

**MINUTES OF THE 86<sup>th</sup> AGM HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018**

Proposed by Ted Rowlands, seconded by Astrid Chklar and it was unanimously resolved that,

**The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2018 be and are hereby approved as a true record.**

**THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The chairman reported that it had been another busy year for the MRA and went on to mention just a few topics including the creation of a footpath around Foxes Field (with thanks to Cllr Cartwright for his assistance); the new Memorial Plaque on the bench in the corner of Foxes Field; the continual monitoring of planning applications and the making of representations to the respective Councils where it was felt necessary to protect the area; and the continued efforts to improve the Christmas Lights, with particular thanks to Rebecca Young and Liz Keable who have taken over the coordination of them, and to all those residents and shopkeepers that responded to the appeal.

It was noted that Eltham College seem to please and displease the community in equal measures. The planting of over 200 trees in the grounds is broadly welcomed although it is appreciated that some residents have been, or will in years to come, have sight and light issues. Two proposed new gatehouses, one at the main entrance and one at the Gallery entrance in Mottingham Lane have been approved but the erection of the bright blue signs on the corner of Mottingham Lane were erected without planning permission and we still await their removal or approved alteration. The recent proposal to erect a fence around the entire college grounds is also causing upset although it appears that this is in response to safety issues raised by the Schools Inspectorate.

The Chairman drew attention to the ongoing lack of Police coverage in the Bromley part of the area where we effectively have one PCSO covering the Ward area on her own, despite being advised by Bromley Police in February, at a Chairs meeting, that every Ward would have 2 PC's and a PCSO. Of the two dedicated PCs we should have one has never been on the ward and the other, after numerous extractions for other duties leaves the Borough on Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. (*See also Cllr Cartwright's comments below*). No sign of any replacements.

Residents' attention was drawn to the War Memorial currently undergoing a clean and repair following continued pressure on the Council from the MRA and Cllr Cartwright. The Chairman also thanked Churches Together, the Mottingham Band, Warr's for allowing the use of their forecourt and the Police for closing the roads and controlling traffic all of which went to make last year's memorial service a successful event.

The problem of excess traffic using West Hallows as a cut through to the A20 was also mentioned as an ongoing battle notwithstanding Greenwich Council's plans to impose a 20 MPH speed limit in the area (*See also comments under AOB below*).

Bromley residents were encouraged to use the new Credit Union facility being run on a Thursday morning in the Church at St Edwards Hall. Cllr Hartley subsequently pointed out that a similar facility run by the Greenwich and Bexley Credit Union is available to Greenwich residents.

Residents were also given an update on the issue of the Porcupine site where the MRA recognised that everyone was fed up with the blue hoarding around what is becoming a derelict site. Unfortunately we are not in the driving seat here although Lidl do appear to have put the site up for sale again. Bromley are also considering a Compulsory Purchase Order but no further details of what would then happen to the site are known at this stage.

The Chairman closed his report with thanks to the Executive committee for all their hard work in ensuring the MRA runs as smoothly as possible. Particular thanks were given to Richard Mainwaring-Burton for production of the newsletters and to Lesley Robins for keeping the membership records up to date and handling the various mail outs. A final thanks was expressed to Ray Andrew for providing the PA system.

**THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT** was presented by Lesley Robins.

She again expressed appreciation to the hard working Road Stewards without whom we would not be able to operate. She was also pleased to report that two new volunteers have come forward following the appeal in the AGM Notice. It was noted however that more volunteers were still needed as some Road Stewards currently cover several Roads.

Although membership was down again last year it was felt that this was due to a number of factors not least an aging population but also to the increasing number of rental properties. Unfortunately those renting tend to be short term and do not always consider themselves as Residents.

A question was raised about the labour intensive methods of subscription collections and whether an on-line facility might be made available through the website. The Chairman accepted the comment and undertook to look into the possibility, though a Direct Debit scheme was unlikely due to set up costs.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Laurie Bell advised that the accounts for the year to 31 March 2019 have been produced and audited and were available to residents on the entrance table. Thanks were expressed to Mr Hawes for his timely work on the audit enabling the accounts to be available for this meeting. Mr Bell summarised the accounts by noting that total income for the year was £2,272, down by £293, £258 of which was a reduction in Membership income. Costs had again been controlled however although there was an increase in total expenditure due to a 5 year renewal payment for website support which, although amounting to £240, actually saved the MRA some £200 over the term.

The year provided an overall surplus of £665 taking total cash reserves to £15,743. Mr Les Huxley asked the purpose of building such a large reserve and it was pointed out that the stated policy was to create a fighting fund sufficient to enable us to pay for professional help should it be required. As an example we may need to buy expertise should Lidl put in another planning application for the Porcupine site.

The recommendation of the Treasurer is that subscriptions continue at the current level of £2.50pa.

There being no other questions on the accounts **Richard Mainwaring -Burton proposed, Seconded by Tom Biro that:**

**The Audited accounts for the Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 be and are hereby received and adopted.**

**Duly carried nem. con.**

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

We now come to the election of officers, All the current officers have agreed to continue if required to do so but Members are able to propose alternatives if they wish and such proposals should be made at the appropriate point.

**At this point Mr Richard Mainwaring-Burton, Deputy Chairman took the Chair.**

### **The Position of CHAIRMAN**

Laurie Bell has agreed to stand for re-election to the role of Chairman. The Executive Committee propose that Laurie Bell be appointed as Chairman.

There being no other candidates coming forward **Bernie Hawes proposed, seconded by Sheila Blanks that:**

**Laurie Bell be and is hereby appointed Chairman of the MRA for the coming year.**

**Duly carried nem.con**

### **TREASURER**

There being no other Candidates coming forward **Sally Bettesworth proposed, seconded by Tessa Andrew that: Laurie Bell be and is hereby re-appointed Treasurer for a further year.**

**Duly carried nem.con**

Having dealt with the two posts held by Laurie Bell the Deputy Chairman passed the Chair back to Mr Bell to continue the meeting.

### **DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Executive Committee recommended that Richard Mainwaring-Burton be re-appointed Deputy Chair. With no other candidates coming forward **Cllr John Hills proposed, seconded by Les Huxley that:**

**Richard Mainwaring-Burton be and is hereby appointed Deputy Chairman for the coming year.**

**Duly carried nem.con**

### **SECRETARY**

There being no other candidates coming forward for the role of Secretary **Cllr John Hills proposed, seconded by Edmund Cavendish that:**

**Robert Blanks be and is hereby reappointed Secretary for a further year.**

**Duly carried nem.con**

### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

The Executive Committee also recommended that Lesley Robins be re-appointed Membership Secretary.

**Proposed by Sheila Blanks, seconded by Richard Mainwaring-Burton that:**

**Lesley Robins be and is hereby appointed Membership Secretary for the coming year.**

**Duly carried nem.con**

## **AUDITOR**

**Proposed by Laurie Bell, seconded by Astrid Chklar that:**

**Mr Bernie Hawes be and is hereby appointed Auditor for the coming year.**

**Duly carried nem.con**

Following the election of Officers it remained to re-elect the remaining members of the Executive Committee.

The remaining Committee members are all standing for re-election and it was agreed to consider their re-election in one block.

**David Cartwright Proposed, seconded by Tom Biro that:**

**Sally Bettsworth, Edmund Cavendish, Jane Cornish, Liz Keable, and Rebecca Young**

**Be and are hereby re-appointed as Members of the Executive Committee for a further year.**

**Duly carried nem.con**

It was noted that Mrs Carol Borhani had attended the March meeting of the Executive Committee which she was interested in joining. The Chairman thanked Mrs Borhani for her interest and welcomed her to the Committee asking whether anyone else would be interested and encouraging them to come to one of the future executive committee meetings to see what was involved.

**Mrs Carol Borhani was duly elected to the Executive Committee.**

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Tom Biro drew attention to the new Noticeboard that had been erected in his front garden on the corner of West Park/ West Hallows and appealed for more information to include on it.

Mr Nigel Dews raised the issue of the traffic in West Hallows asking what more the residents could do. Councillor Hartley responded by stating that both the MRA and then the Councillors themselves had carried out surveys amongst the residents and reported the results to the Council. All three Greenwich Councillors are in agreement with the MRA that the 20mph speed limit will not solve the issue of the volume of traffic using West Hallows and he, along with Mrs Roberts a resident of West Hallows, had attended and spoke at a Council Meeting on the issue. The Council were however going ahead with the planned traffic calming measures but had agreed to review the situation again if they did not solve the problem. It was proposed to bring the Councillor responsible down to the site to see the situation for herself.

The Chairman then welcomed Cllr's Matt Hartley and David Cartwright and asked them to each say a few words.

**Cllr Hartley** began by expressing his gratitude to residents for re-electing himself and Cllr John Hills at last year's elections, which had prevented them taking an active role in last year's AGM, and for electing the new Cllr Roger Tester – all three were in attendance this evening and were pleased to be able to support the MRA in its community support activities. They continue to hold open surgeries in the Library on the last Friday of every month. The issue of West Hallows had already been covered but he did want to mention the impact that Crossrail is expected to have on the north of the borough. Councillors are intent on trying to extend those benefits to the Eltham area as well. They have proposed a new X161 bus route but it is not yet clear

whether it will be approved.

Following on from the comments regarding the Christmas lights Cllr Hartley mentioned a £30,000 Council Fund for community initiatives and he was in touch with Liz Keable with a view to trying to secure some of this funding for the lights. He is also open to supporting any other funding requirements that might qualify and asked for suggestions. Finally he mentioned the Friends of Coldharbour open Space, a new volunteer group seeking to protect and maintain open spaces throughout the Eltham area.

**Cllr Cartwright:** Despite the police issue mentioned by the Chairman Cllr Cartwright stressed that Bromley was one of the safest boroughs in London although things were not quite so good in the Penge area due to an increase in gang activity. He mentioned that Burglary was on the increase and urged residents to be careful and not to leave doors open even if they were just in the garden for a few minutes. Serious crime in the area is down but anti-social behaviour is on the increase and there is increasing pressure on police to take note of it. That said it appears to have plateaued in Mottingham although this appears more to do with a reduction in reporting. Previous experience has been that the 101 system was too cumbersome, took too long to get through etc. however the system is being improved and residents were urged to report incidents as the more reports - the more resources. The fact remains that Bromley is unable to provide the resources needed to meet the Mayor of London's policing plans and County Hall has been notified of that fact.

Bromley Council is still having to make savings and the regrettable increase in Council Tax will actually be taken up entirely by increased statutory duties namely expenditure on adult and social care. Bromley is however free of debt so every penny of the Council Tax goes to provide services unlike some boroughs, for example Lewisham where 30% of the rates goes on servicing debts.

Parking in Mottingham Lane remains a problem and there are currently attempts to get some temporary cameras installed to try to alleviate the issue. Fly tipping is also a perpetual problem and residents are urged to use 'fix my street' to report issues as they tend to be dealt with very quickly and efficiently.

Cllr Cartwright is also receiving reports of the new 'Econopizza' staying open until the early hours which is in contravention of their licence. They appear to be using the back door for motorcycle based deliveries but they are difficult to catch in the act. Cllr Cartwright asked that if anyone sees evidence of this please report it.

Finally Cllr Cartwright stressed that he and his colleagues work closely and well with their Greenwich compatriots.

The meeting then broke at 9.10pm for a tea break before the evenings talk by Ian Small,

#### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Following the break for refreshments the Chairman introduced Mr Ian Small who is a volunteer at Severnordroog Castle. Mr Small gave a very enthusiastic talk on the history of the building, how and why it was built and the more recent efforts to fund its restoration.

The meeting thanked Mr Small for a very entertaining talk and there being no other Business the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.20