

# Northwood Residents' Association

Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 29 October 2020 by Zoom

**PRESENT:** 12 officers and members of the NRA executive committee, and 21 residents and associate members

**APOLOGIES:** Hoda Lacey, Andrew Egan

**INTRODUCTION.** Tony Ellis, chairman, welcomed everyone to the 54th AGM of the NRA, and explained the purpose of the meeting, which was to ensure the proper conduct of the association by approval of 2019 accounts, subscriptions for the next year and officers and committee members.

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS.** Treasurer David Blowers had prepared the accounts which had been approved by the Hon Auditor, Chris Rogers. They had been distributed before the meeting. The chairman thanked David and Chris.

The accounts were approved with no one present dissenting.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The Treasurer said that as many members pay more than the minimum subscription, the low minimum sub can be maintained. The proposal to continue with a minimum rate of £2 per household and the Business member rate of £10 was approved with no one present dissenting. There were no questions.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS.** President Valerie Mellor conducted the election of the chairman, who then conducted the elections of the other officers. There being no new nominations for the officers' positions, the following were elected for the year with no one present dissenting:

Chairman – Tony Ellis; Vice Chairman – Miles Gillman; Treasurer – David Blowers; Auditor – Chris Rogers

**ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** The Chairman introduced each of the members standing for (re-)election.

Those elected for the year, with no one present dissenting, are:

Paul Barker - membership and chief road steward

Andrew Egan - environment

Philip Green - police liaison

Hoda Lacey – business membership

Dr Amir Lakha – health matters

Peter Lansdown - traffic and highways

Ros Plume - secretary

Trevor Sherling - planning advisor

The Chairman asked for volunteers to take on the positions of Schools Liaison and IT. Also to help with Businesses and events.

**ELECTION OF PRESIDENT** Valerie Mellor was proposed as President. This was agreed with no one present dissenting.

## **NEW WEB SITE**

The Chairman described the requirement for a new more functional web site, which has been extensively discussed by the Committee. It is likely to cost more than the normal expenditure approved by the Committee. The last big expenditure was about £4000 on the clock, and this could be of that order or more. Chris Duffy, Legal Advisor, pointed out that we have a legal obligation to have proper working systems in place to manage the Association. Expenditure greater than 5% of NRA funds was approved with no one present dissenting.

David Sandler said his son, Mark Sandler is prepared to look at our requirements and advise. He was asked to contact the Chairman.

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## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Safety in the Gravel Pits area. Several participants were concerned about the safety in that area, particularly after the recent attack. Philip Green also noted that Copsewood Way is often flooded after rain and keeping dry requires using the gravel pits paths, which he has reported to Cllr Richard Lewis. Rosemary Mastin, Langton Grove, suggested a warning notice and lights at night. Cllr Reena Ranger, Moor Park and Eastbury, Kewferry Road, thought that night time lights might be unacceptable due to its effect on wildlife. David Blowers said there could not be a 'No Go' zone and lights or policing were the answer. Tony Ellis suggested either raising a petition or getting the matter raised at a Council Meeting by Cllr Richard Lewis. He said the matter would be discussed at the next NRA committee meeting.
2. Spending money. Stephanie Lindley, Reginald Road asked for more Christmas lights. Miles Gillman said that the grant from LBH was the same as for 2019, but two strings by Clive Parade that were not working last year have been repaired. It was noted that the High Street has more lights than Green Lane proportionally to the number of shops they have. Cllr Reena Ranger suggested a water fountain. Peter Swindells, Copsewood Way, asked about money collected for the protest about TfL's plans. Tony Ellis said that money is in the Save Our Northwood account, quite separate from the NRA.
3. Jennifer Phillips, Drakes Drive, asked about other methods of subscription payments. David Blowers said many people have asked about this and described the present problems of direct transfer payments but said that a new data base and different ways of handling subscriptions may help in future. Options of cash payments must always be available. Paul Barker asked that Road Stewards encourage members to give their e-mail addresses as this makes communications so much easier. Fewer than half the members have done so. Chris Duffy said that though alternative payment methods may be necessary, it was important for Road Stewards to have contact with members.
4. Cllr Reena Ranger volunteered to publicize the Association's need for new Committee members on WhatsApp groups she knows.
5. Alvan Seth-Smith, Sandy Lodge Way, asked about the future of the Mount Vernon hospital. Tony Ellis, as Lead Governor of the Hillingdon Hospital Trust, said that at present the site is 'green', that is, it does not take Covid patients. The Cancer Centre has been deemed to be unsuitable for in-patients as if they are very ill they would have to be transferred to Watford General. Its future is being looked at and UCLH will take it over in 2022. The Mount Vernon hospital has a long term future which will include some use for Hillingdon Hospital functions, during the rebuilding of Hillingdon.

**There being no further questions, the chairman thanked everyone for participating and said he hoped to run the next AGM in normal circumstances next April or May. He closed the meeting at 20.50.**