

Northwood Residents' Association

Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 30 September 2021 at
Oaklands Gate Methodist Church

PRESENT: 14 officers and members of the NRA executive committee, David Simmonds MP, and Cllrs Carol Melvin and Richard Lewis, and 56 residents and associate members.

APOLOGIES: Stephen Plume, Estelle Burnside, Charlie Bough, Hemant Vyas, Sue Girvan, Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby

INTRODUCTION

Tony Ellis, chairman, welcomed everyone to the 55th AGM of the NRA and the fact that we could meet again in person. He regretted that the Police had been unable to find anyone to attend.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The chairman said the last year had seen major road works, particularly when Affinity Water are replacing pipes, a process not yet completed. During the works, businesses in The High Street suffered financially without any redress. Plans for the new Hillingdon hospital will be described in the NRA Newsletter due out next month. The future of the Cancer Centre is still under discussion.

There will be a 2022 Jubilee Celebration on Thursday 2 June from 2- 6 pm, in the Chestnut Avenue park.

The NRA Committee has held monthly meetings as usual, but, until recently, on Zoom.

The last AGM approved the expenditure of more than 5% of NRA funds for a new web site and data base. The web site is now in place and the database is being worked on.

During 2019 some residents of the Hertfordshire area of HA6 asked if they could become members. The Executive Committee decided to seek a change of the constitution (later on the Agenda) to admit them as non-voting Associate Members.

We are very grateful to David Blowers for all his work as Treasurer over many years. As he has now resigned, Rashmi Chauhan has been co-opted as Treasurer.

We have needed a specialist IT Committee representative and Sunil Shah has also been co-opted to fill this important role.

The Chairman thanked the following for their hard work for the Association since the last AGM;

Committee members

Chris Rogers

All the Road Stewards and Area Road Stewards

DAVID SIMMONDS MP

DS welcomed the first opportunity to meet NRA members since lockdown. He noted that the constituency as an outer London constituency is made up of villages and communities.

Planning: new homes with a balance for local communities are required. Builders should be building homes they already have permission for rather than developing green belt land. Central government is now having a rethink of their previously suggested plans. Green belt building development should be unnecessary.

Pandemic: In this area banks have reported that businesses and individuals are typically holding 40% more cash than they did before the pandemic, so it is to be hoped that more benefit will flow to local businesses.

Social Care: LBH spends just over 50% of its budget on Social Care of all types. As Social Care is generally recognised to need improvement, new models must be looked at, possibly including other European countries' models.

Adrian Patterson asked about the extension of the congestion charge area. DS said he understood the London Mayor is looking again at plans for this, and at the proposed boundary charge in the light of comments received.

Philip Newfield asked when we will see our GPs at the previous rate again. DS said he would pass this back to the Secretary of State and that he hoped things would get back to normal as soon as possible.

Sandra McCarthy asked two questions referred to our councillors, see below

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Vanessa Edwards pointed out that the present care system does not allow carers to provide personal understanding and relationship development. She will take this up with DS at his surgery next week.

Howard White asked about HS2 development. DS said to stop it now with contracts already signed would cost more than continuing, so he is focussing on mitigating the effects on residents and ensuring compensation is paid.

Tony Ellis highlighted the reduction in police presence in the area, including almost total lack of senior officers.

Should not neighbourhood policing be brought back? DS said there is a government plan to get 25000 more police officers back onto the streets. Hillingdon funds 20 extra police officers for cover neighbourhood visibility and hot spots.

Philip Green cited many facts about police non-presence including Ward Panel meetings which DS will highlight to his police contacts.

Valerie Mellor gave David Simmonds a vote of thanks which was warmly endorsed by the meeting.

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 – Rashmi Chauhan; Independent Examiner – 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 - business membership

Hoda Lacey – police liaison

Dr Amir Lakha – health matters

Peter Lansdown - traffic and highways

Ros Plume - secretary

Trevor Sherling - planning advisor

Sunil Shah – IT

Sue Mansfield - minutes

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

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS. Treasurer Rashmi Chauhan presented the accounts prepared by the previous treasurer, David Blowers which had been approved by the Hon Independent Examiner, Chris Rogers.

The accounts were approved with no one present dissenting.

The Treasurer asked for suggestions for local projects to spend our money on. Rosemary Mastin suggested a permanent record of the 2022 Jubilee. The meeting was asked for specific ideas for this promising suggestion, and planting trees was proposed. Cllr Richard Lewis pointed out the Queens Green Canopy project – he will provide details to Tony Ellis.

Carol Melvin noted that no month or day was provided on the printed copy of the accounts, the Treasurer said they were created in February 2021.

A Road Steward asked how to get subscription money to the bank, the Treasurer said he was happy to collect it from Road Stewards.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Treasurer said that as many members pay more than the minimum subscription, the low minimum sub can be

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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.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The proposal to allow Hertfordshire residents of HA6 to become non-voting Associate members was approved. Also the changes to constitution wording to specify Independent Examiner rather than Auditor.
2. Vanessa Edwards asked where the NRA advertises itself.
 - a. Three notice boards
 - b. Emails to those whose addresses we have
 - c. The web site
 - d. The newsletter
 - e. Events such as the recent 'meet the NRA' at the War Memorial last Saturday morning

COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME

1. Sandra McCarthy said the junction of Green Lane and the Rickmansworth Road is dangerous for pedestrians crossing. The Councillors said the junction is TfL's responsibility and it is on the Council's agenda. Sandra also asked why street lamps are blocked out by trees, leaving dark pavements.
2. Hazel Paterson said there is always flooding in Copsewood Way when it rains. Cllr Lewis said the drains are owned by Thames Water and the Council are responsible for clearing them. He noted that Thames Water need to clear drains which take water running off the cricket pitch which floods at the junction of the Rickmansworth Road and Ducks Hill Road. Andrew Egan in answer said the problem is that drains were laid down in the area in the 60s and now are possibly inadequate for the increase in population, and changes such as bricking over of front gardens. It would cost Thames Water millions to upgrade their pipes which that company is unlikely to now afford. What we should ensure that we report flooding and that the drains we now have are cleaned regularly to clear away debris. It was noted that Affinity Water is upgrading some of its pipe network and that roadworks disruption would occur for quite some time ahead.
3. In answer to a comment from the floor about a smelly small pond in the entrance to the woods from the Broadwalk, Andrew Egan said it is likely that some technician may have connected one of the houses to the wrong drain and it is not possible to find out which house may have a mis-connected drain.
4. Dennis Sare asked about the status of the Police Station. Cllr Melvin spoke warmly about the Iron Aid Foundation which has bought it and intends to run it as a community centre for the elderly and children. There will also be Friday prayers but no call to prayer. It will not be a mosque. Philip Green said Richard Farmery had pursued the future of the listed items: the lamp, the phone box and boundary fence and gates, and planning has required the owners to make plans to preserve them appropriately. The plans for the whole building will be available for comments in the normal way.
5. Anna Mackenzie, a resident of The Glen asked about speeding, particularly by motor bikes in Green Lane. Cllr Lewis said a camera can only be put up where there has been a serious accident – not the case here
6. Rosemary Mastin asked about getting builders to rectify damage done to pavements by builders and people parking, particularly in Kewferry Road and Moor Park Road. Cllr Lewis said builders have an obligation to make good any damage they do and should be held to that, and that parking need immediate notification to we should keep sending in reports to LBH. Also can a roundabout be put on Batchworth Heath? Tony Ellis said he has taken this up with Three Rivers who say it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and they cannot make space for one.
7. Stephen Lee recommended using the Council web site to report potholes and pavement problems.
8. Tony Ellis asked if the security cameras were active and could LBH obtain evidence from them
9. A resident praised the quality of Haste Hill Golf Course and asked if there were plans to reopen the premises as a venue for hire. Answer – not sure yet.

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10. Emma Brown asked about residents obtaining dropped kerbs outside their houses then completely covering their front gardens with concrete or paving. Cllr Melvin said it is a condition of putting in a dropped pavement that some vegetation is left in the front garden and breaches of this should be reported.

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 21.45.