

The Old Ratton Residents' Association
www.orra.online

Chairman
Mr Mark Thornton
2 The Close
Ratton
Eastbourne
BN20 9BW
chairman@orra.online



Treasurer
Mrs Lisa Olliff
23 Walnut Tree Walk
Ratton
Eastbourne
BN20 9BP
treasurer@orra.online

**MINUTES OF THE
OLD RATTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2018
AT ST.MARY'S CHURCH HALL, WILLINGDON AT 7.45 PM**

PRESENT

Officers and Committee Members

Mark Thornton, Lisa Olliff, June Harvey, Peter Dunn, Rose Kiley, Angela Potter, Sandy Boyce-Sharpe, Julia Coxhead, Phil Tong.

34 Properties were represented as follows:

Linkway: 8
Ratton Drive: 2, 13, 14, 17, 26, 28, 30, 42
Ratton Garden: 5, 6, 8, 17
The Close: 2, 3, 4, 8, 10
The Grove: 2, 10, 12, 13
Upper Ratton Drive: 50, 52
Walnut Tree Walk: 1, 3, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 28.

Also in attendance:

Cllrs Colin Belsey, Tony Freebody, Colin Murdoch.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Chairman, Mark Thornton, began by thanking all those in attendance and welcoming everyone to the meeting. He then introduced three guests to the meeting. They were Councillors Colin Belsey, Tony Freebody and Colin Murdoch, all of whom take a special interest in our Ward.

The Chairman also confirmed there was a Quorum.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following:

Mike and Karen Doel, M J Everett, Elisabeth Trustam, Sylvia and Peter Hawkins, Chris and Jean Clark, Matt and Louisa Veitch, Mr and Mrs Stevens, Richard and Jill Kill, Garry and Carol Jarvis, Penny and Barry Hempstead, John and Susan Cudd, Mrs Hinett, Alan and Ann Huggett, Ian Brogden, Sue Greenley, Dr and Mrs Fan.

3 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM HELD ON 18 MAY 2017

Proposed by Phil Tong and seconded by Rose Kiley.

The Old Ratton Residents' Association
www.orra.online

4 TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2017/18

The Chairman reported that the last year had been a quiet year as we sought to strengthen our financial position following the years of little income following the advance contribution in 2015 to cover the road re-surfacing costs. However, the Committee had been busy with matters concerning tree surgery, planning applications, road safety issues and our own planning process regarding future works needed. This year instead of just adding a percentage to last year's Maintenance Charge the Chairman had produced a Budget of anticipated costs for the coming 3 years. This year's Maintenance Charge would be based on those projections. The Chairman will ask for a vote on his proposals at Item 7 on the Agenda. The Chairman then summarised works carried out in the past year and anticipated works needed for some of the main items in the Budget, namely: Roads, Gullies and Trees.

The Chairman then reported on Finances and advised that ORRA had been granted a generous donation of £4,750 from Ratton Ward in support of our traffic calming efforts, covering the cost of the speed limit stickers, LED actual speed sign and new road signs. The Chairman also explained the origin of the "Lions Fund", a "windfall" fund of £8,000, in memory of ORRA stalwarts, Peter Holder, Derek Jones and Peter Pavey. This fund is to be spent for the benefit of all ORRA residents. The Chairman also outlined his plan to introduce into the Budget an item "Transfer to Reserves".

The Chairman also advised that many more time-consuming conveyancing enquiries from solicitors are being received and he would propose to introduce a fixed fee for this service in the sum of £100. He will be asking for approval from the members.

The Chairman then reminded everyone about some items already reported on in the Newsletter recently circulated, namely the road safety actions to be put in place and the 50th Anniversary Afternoon Tea on 14th July.

The Chairman then thanked all committee members for their support over the past year and advised that all are willing to stand again this year. June Harvey will stand down as Secretary but remain a committee member and Phil Tong will take over as Secretary.

Finally the Chairman asked for a vote on the conveyancing enquiry fee of £100. The vote was unanimous in favour.

5 TO RECEIVE, APPROVE AND ADOPT THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018 AND AUDITORS REPORT

All attendees had a copy of the ORRA Income and Expenditure Accounts.

The Treasurer reported that the Balance Sheet was healthy, but for the past year the Lions Fund has kept us afloat.

The motion to adopt the Accounts was proposed by Mr Clarke and seconded by Sandy Boyce-Sharpe.

6 TO ELECT AN AUDITOR

The Chairman reported that for the first time we had this year used a professional auditor as we do not currently have a volunteer. We will continue to seek a volunteer but may again have to pay for this service in future.

7 TO FIX THE SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2018/19

In reply to questions from the floor the Chairman advised that the £10,870 allocated to Drainage was an estimate following research and consultation with various contractors. However, it is likely that to fully repair all drains and gullies it would cost considerably more and could take a number of years.

The Chairman advised that ORRA often gets a number of quotations for work to trees, in fact 5 quotations were obtained for the felling of the turkey oak - Chaffins were the cheapest. ORRA also gets quotations from smaller contractors and given that tree surgery costs are increasing, more competitive tendering will take place.

There was a query as to whether £3,000 budget for transfer to Reserves was enough. The Chairman and Treasurer pointed out that there was already £7,000 in the Reserve and so it could total £10,000 by the end of the coming year.

There was a query regarding non-payers, and the Chairman and Treasurer assured that they chased any outstanding amounts. They also explained that the debt is owed by the property and not the owner, so on completion of a sale any debt to ORRA can be recovered.

The proposal for this year is £95 for Council Tax band C, £130 for D, £160 for E, £190 for F and £220 for G, which was approved with a vote of 23 in favour and 3 against. A copy of the expenditure plan is attached to these Minutes.

8 TO ELECT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2018/19

The Chairman advised that all current members have been nominated for re-election. A vote was taken and there was a unanimous decision for re-election.

9 TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The chairman reported that not many concerns had been raised ahead of the AGM. But there had been requests for consideration to be shown to neighbours generally and particularly during construction works.

Peter Davy asked how the actual speed sign would be powered. The Chairman confirmed it would have re-chargeable batteries. It would record all traffic movement and speed. It can be moved from one location to another. The previous traffic survey was inconclusive. The sign should arrive in the next 3 weeks. It does not record number plates. However, it should give us the evidence we need to inform decisions for any future traffic calming measures.

Chris and Anne-Marie Smith asked for signage politely requesting drivers to slow down and also raised awareness of regular blockage of the Ratton Drive entrance to the estate due to inconsiderate driving and confusion over right of way. Or perhaps to write to all residents beyond ORRA boundaries with the same request.

The Chairman reported that there will be new signs at entry points into Old Ratton on Ratton Drive, Walnut Tree Walk and Upper Ratton Drive. They will be a shade of dark green and replace the current white signs. They will remind drivers of speed limit, weight restriction and access only.

The Old Rotton Residents' Association
www.orra.online

There then followed general discussion about road traffic:

Cyclists on mountain bikes at speed;

Some traffic does use Babylon Way;

There may be a Residents Association in Upper Rotton we could contact to discuss traffic issues;

Committee surveyed traffic at different times and different days of the week;

Please put supplied speed stickers on bins;

David Harris pointed out that ORRA has a database of its residents, and asked if they are aware of the new GDPR regulations? He would be happy to assist in this matter if needed.

Carol Fage asked if volunteers are required for the Anniversary Afternoon Tea. The Chairman confirmed. Please contact Angela Potter.

Phil Tong urged everyone to make full use of the ORRA website and FaceBook pages.

The Chairman reminded everyone that on their way out there are booklets from Sussex Police with advice regarding Scams that they may pick up. Also Jenny from The Close had a Christian Aid Week donation opportunity for any interested members.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm.

The Old Rotton Residents' Association
www.orra.online

ORRA APPROVED BUDGET 2018 / 19		
TREES	£7,000	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE; BI-ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT SURVEY; RECOMMENDED SAFETY WORK INCLUDING FELLING DISEASED TREES
ROADS	£2,000	CONTINGENCY FOR REPAIRS
DRAINAGE	£10,870	GULLY CLEANING; SOAKAWAY EMPTYING; BLOCKAGE INVESTIGATION; BLOCKAGE CLEARANCE; GULLY REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS
GRASS / LEAVES	£1,250	ANNUAL CARE OF ORRA COMMUNAL GROUNDS; LEAF COLLECTION
INSURANCE / SUNDRIES	£2,000	INSURANCE PROTECTION; WEBSITE; MEETINGS; PRINTING; AUDIT FEES
TRANSFER TO RESERVES	£3,000	START BUILDING A RESERVE FUND TO COVER UNFORESEEN EVENTS

		COUNCIL TAX BAND	APPROVED ANNUAL CHARGE	INCREASE ON LAST YEAR	EQUIVALENT INCREASE PER WEEK
TOTAL	£26,120	C	£95	£30	58p
		D	£130	£41	79p
		E	£160	£51	98p
		F	£190	£61	£1.17
		G	£220	£69	£1.33