

**MINUTES OF THE  
OLD RATTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON 16th MAY 2019 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, Julia Batchelor, Phil Tong, Gary Robinson.

**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, but only just.

**2 APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM:**

Richard and Jill Kill, Judy Jones, Mo Teale, Amanda Loftus, Sylvia Duggan/Terry Clark, Lucy and David Farrington, Elizabeth Trustam, Myriam Boufassa, John and Denise Dunning, Jeremy and Jacquie Clarke, Matt and Luisa Vetch, Graham and Jane Carn, Paul and Julia Crysell, Mr and Mrs Barnhorn, Natasha and Ray Caliendo, Angela and Neil Potter, Sandy and Richard Boyce Sharpe, Dianne and Gary Schooling, Dr and Mrs YS Fan.

**PROPERTIES REPRESENTED:**

Linkway: 1 household; Manor Way : 2 households; The Close: 3 households; The Grove: 5 households; Ratton Drive: 4 households; Upper Ratton Drive: 1 household; Walnut Tree Walk: 10 households; Ratton Court: No residents attended; Ratton Garden: 4 households

**3 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM HELD ON 17th MAY 2018**

Proposed by Rose Kiley and seconded by Julia Batchelor

**4 TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2018/19**

The Chairman offered a warm welcome to everyone in what was to be his last AGM as Chair of ORRA. He thanked the committee for their work and stressed the need for new volunteers to keep the work of ORRA going. He went on to talk about Roads and detailed issues that continue to be monitored such as cracking in the tarmac in Ratton Drive and also said that some resurfacing in The Grove will be considered by the Committee once all the development work has been completed. He reported that last year's contingency budget of £2,000 had not been required and that this year's was set at £5,000 for planned and unforeseen repairs. He detailed the work that has taken place to ascertain the layout and structure of the drainage on the estate and that some detailed CCTV work had taken place. He reported that investigations would continue and that four dangerously dilapidated gully grids had been replaced with bespoke items manufactured by Glynde Forge in the absence of anything compatible available 'off the shelf'. He noted that the proposed budget for this continuing work had been set at £5,700. Turning to Trees he addressed the concerns expressed by some residents about the policy for cutting trees down on the estate. He confirmed that there would be another Summer Tea Party this year on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and encouraged everyone to contribute and come along.

Finally he handed over to Phil Tong to report on the matter of road safety and the traffic survey that has been undertaken over the last year.

Phil reported that, thanks to our three local councillors who had arranged funding for the traffic monitor, the speed camera had been in operation since 1st August 2018 and that a summary of the results had been available on the website with the other documents for the AGM. He emphasised that there is still work to do, particularly on gauging the level of traffic entering Old Ratton via Ratton Drive and Walnut Tree Walk. Whilst stressing that these were interim findings he reported that speed and volume of traffic had both been highlighted but not necessarily in the same places. And in addition...

- a) More traffic flows down through Lower Ratton Drive than travels down WTW each day.
- b) The traffic down LRD is fairly constant throughout the daylight hours, with a peak at midday.
- c) The peak travel period down WTW is in the morning, with the busiest hour being from 9.00am; in comparison to LRD this would suggest that it is probably more domestic rather than commercial traffic.
- d) There is no direct correlation in terms of volume between the traffic coming into the estate at the top of Upper Ratton Drive and exiting via LRD but it is interesting to note that the busiest hour for both is 12.00 midday, suggesting that there is some effect caused by traffic entering the estate at the top to find an exit at the bottom - preferring an exit via Ratton Drive to an exit via Babylon Way.
- e) Concern has been expressed about speeding vehicles down LRD - but 50% travel at 19mph or less, with 85% doing 22.9mph or less with only 5% of traffic exceeding 25mph.
- f) Volume of traffic down WTW is approximately half that travelling down LRD. (52% by Ave Vol per day)
- g) Speed of traffic in WTW varies - drivers are generally more respectful at the top end of WTW but as the slope reduces they tend to allow speed to build. Only 35% were under the speed limit once reaching the bottom in the survey period, although nearly 77% were under 25 mph.
- h) Speeding is not really an issue at the entrance to the estate at the top of Upper Ratton Drive.

The full Chairman's Report appears as Appendix 1 to these Minutes and the interim findings for the Traffic Survey are available on the ORRA website.

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

Lisa Olliff as Treasurer reported that ORRA had created a surplus this year and that some funds had been put on deposit, accumulating a modest interest; such reserves were held to offset any unexpected expenditure in the future. Copies of the ORRA Income and Expenditure Accounts were made available to those in the hall.

In response to a question from the floor the Chairman and Treasurer reported that the increase in grounds maintenance expenditure was as a result of increasing the number of leaf clearances from one to two in 2018/19. However it was agreed that this had not been particularly cost effective and that this would not continue into 2019/20. A question was also raised from the floor as to whether the level of non-payment had increased in 2018/19

with the increase in the level of contribution asked for by ORRA. The Chairman and Treasurer were happy to report that there had been no significant increase, and in fact, some arrears had been collected in recent weeks.

The motion to adopt the Accounts was proposed by Peter Dunn and seconded by Marian Thornton.

## **6 TO ELECT AN AUDITOR**

The Treasurer reported that she thought that ORRA should continue to use the services of Advanta in Gildredge Road, Eastbourne as auditor as they had proved efficient in processing the accounts in time for the May AGM. The charge for this service was £300. This was proposed by Mark Thornton and seconded by Nigel Olliff

## **7 TO FIX THE SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2019/20**

The Chairman proposed a 2.2% inflation increase on the fee for 2019/20; a table presented with the accounts showed the impact of that increase on each Council Tax Band. The proposal was seconded by the Treasurer and the vote was carried unanimously

## **8 TO ELECT THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2019/2020**

The Secretary read out the list of those who had been nominated and seconded to serve on the committee next year. These were: Lisa Olliff, June Harvey, Rose Kiley, Julia Batchelor, Phil Tong, Gary Robinson, Angela Potter and Sandy Boyce-Sharpe. It was also noted that Rose Kiley would be interim Chairman in the first instance and Angela Potter would take on the role of Treasurer. Phil Tong would continue as Secretary. These nominations were agreed unanimously.

## **9 TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) **Adoption of the Residents' Charter.** This Charter was welcomed and agreed by the meeting as a good addition to policy in ORRA in that it clarified issues of 'good neighbourliness' and provided a concrete set of guidelines for all. Matters also raised in this section of the meeting concerned drafting a 'resident solicitor' onto the Committee; it was noted that this is something that has happened in the past but which recently has not been possible. A question was raised as to whether local solicitors pass on information about ORRA to prospective buyers in the area. It was noted that some do, and this is something the Committee wish to explore further. The point was made though that Julia Batchelor, as committee member with responsibility for new residents, had visited all new residents and passed them a Welcome Pack with all the relevant information. There was then discussion on the floor as to the growing mix of decoration and building going on about the estate. It was noted that the demographic of residents has changed over the year and finding the balance between traditional and contemporary styles was an ongoing consideration for the Committee. A question was raised about publishing Committee Members addresses. Phil Tong, as Secretary, suggested that as his name appears as Secretary at the foot of the official headed notepaper, should residents wish to write they should send letters to him and he would ensure that these got to the particular committee member concerned. Email addresses of all Committee members can be found on the website.
- b) **Questions and Answers:** The issue was raised by Marian Thornton from the floor about a good neighbour scheme. The Chairman said that some effort had been made to set something up via the website but there had been no

response. He agreed that things probably happen already unofficially and that the Committee would look at reviving a scheme in the future. There were two questions submitted in advance. With regard to the first on Tree Felling policy the Chairman said that in the past they had always used EBC to gain a second opinion. He also confirmed that ORRA was now going to separate 'consultation' on tree health from 'tree maintenance' by employing different specialists to undertake the two aspects of the work. It was noted that ORRA needs to employ specialists to undertake much of this work as there are insurance implications for the Association. With regard to parking in Walnut Tree Walk and Manor Way and the difficulty this creates sometimes, particularly around the junction, all residents were encouraged to park safely and responsibly at all times. Val McGregor raised the issue of slug pellets and the fact that these encourage rats. This developed into a general discussion about pests and the need to avoid 'ground feeding'. Cllr Colin Belsey confirmed that there was currently a rat problem across the town and said that where residents were concerned they should contact environmental health who will deal with the problem humanely. The upkeep of the two pillars at the junction between Ratton Drive and Upper Ratton Drive was raised. Whilst it was recognised that this was likely to be expensive, the Committee did have plans in place to address this situation.

#### **10 PRESENTATION TO THE CHAIRMAN AND PETER DUNN**

In recognition of the service given to ORRA by Mark Thornton as Chairman and Peter Dunn for his work on Trees a small presentation was made by Rose Kiley (Chair Elect) to Mark and Peter.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.59pm