

THE OLD RATTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



Chairman:
Mr John C Cudd
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Hon. Secretary:
Mrs Christine Dunn
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Hon. Treasurer:
Mr Tim Norfolk
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MINUTES OF THE OLD RATTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9th MAY 2013 AT WILLINGDON CHURCH HALL, CHURCH STREET, WILLINGDON.

(To be approved at the 2014 AGM in May)

46 Members were present at the Meeting.

1. Introduction.

The Chairman began by welcoming all those present.

2. Apologies for absence.

Mr Bowker	Mr & Mrs Fage	Mrs Jones
Mr Brogden	Mr Firmin	Mrs Jordan
Mrs Benell	Mr & Mrs Goodman	Dr Long
Ms Ball	Mrs Jervis	Mrs MacAvoy
Ms Boufassa	Mrs Harvey	Mr & Mrs McGregor
Mr & Mrs Clancy	Mr & Mrs Hempstead	Mr Miles
Mr & Mrs Carn	Mr & Mrs Huggett	Mr Ogden
Mr Cooke	Mrs Irons	Miss Trustam
		Mr Walker

3. To approve the Minutes of the last A.G.M held on the 17th May 2012.

As the Minutes are now posted on the ORRA website it was agreed that all addresses should be deleted. There was one amendment under item number 5- an additional sentence was added under item No 5 on the previous AGM agenda.

4. To receive the Chairman's report for 2012/13.

The Chairman delivered out his report (see attachment), and then invited Mr Gary Robinson (Roads), and Mr. Michael Doel (Deputy Chairman) to address the Meeting:-

Michael Doel explained that he had special responsibility for the trees on the Estate and that all recommended work recommended by the tree survey in 2011 had now been completed. He added that ORRA had a signed off copy of the recommendations made in Chaffin's initial report and conclude by saying that a new survey had been commissioned this month at a cost of £410 excluding V.A.T. with a total budget of £3,000 for 2013/14.

Gary Robinson introduced himself and told the Meeting that he was responsible for road maintenance. He reported that the gullies had been cleared, however it was thought that some were still blocked and that further investigation would be needed. Having had yet another Winter in which salt and grit had had to be used the roads had suffered the inevitable damage.

Patching had been arranged for the earlier part of the year but the Contractors had been so busy that the work was put on hold and is now to be done on the 14th of May 2013.

Gary continued by outlining the options that were open to ORRA concerning the roads-do we continue to 'patch and make do' or do we invest a considerable sum in doing the whole of the carriageway? In his view it would be better to take the second option as we are frequently patching on failed patches.

Tim Norfolk supported this view by saying that having the roads re-surfaced would be cost effective in the long run.

In conclusion Gary said that he had obtained two estimates had been obtained from Hailsham Roadways:-

(i) To re- tarmac all roads with the exception of Walnut Tree Walk and The Grove it would cost in the region of £60,000 and

(ii) a cheaper option, using micro-asphalt would cost in the region of £ 40,000.

5. To receive, approve and adopt the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2013 and the Auditor's Report.

Tim Norfolk presented the Statement of Accounts (see attachments) and told the Meeting that he was delighted to say that everyone had paid their Maintenance Charge this year.

Mr Newby asked why some of the money was being held in a current account. Tim replied that the money had been held in a bond and that had only recently matured.

The proposal to approve and adopt the Statement of Accounts was proposed by Mr.C.Abbey and seconded by Mr.P.Dunn.

6. To elect an Auditor.

The Chairman thanked Mrs.Sally Gausden for her hard work as Auditor and presented her with a small gift as a mark of appreciation.

He added that he was pleased to announce that Mrs. Gausden was happy to remain in post for 2013/14 and she was elected unopposed.

7. To fix the subscription rate for 2013/14.

Tim Norfolk said that a 10% increase would probably leave us with a small shortfall at the end of the year that would have to be topped up from our reserve funds and asked for any proposals from the floor.

Mr.Abbey asked if we held a Public Liability Insurance to which Tim replied that we did.

After much discussion it was agreed that the subscription rate and the money for road maintenance should be treated as separate entities on this occasion.

A rise of 10% on the subscription rate was therefore proposed and carried unanimously

8. To elect Officers and Committee Members for the year 2013/14.

The Chairman thanked all the Committee for their hard work and the Secretary read out the nominations:-

Mr J.Cudd as Chairman.

Mr M.Doel as Deputy Chairman.

Mr. T. Norfolk as Hon. Treasurer.

Mrs. C. Dunn as Hon. Secretary.

Committee Members:

Mrs.R.Holder.
Mrs.R.Kiley.
Mrs.D.Kidd.
Mr.G.Robinson.
Mr.T.Uden.
Mr.P.Dunn.

The nominations were proposed by Mr.R. Passingham and seconded by Mrs.V. Cook and the motion was carried unanimously

9. To receive proposals for carrying out major roadworks, including the resurfacing of the tarmac Estate roads.

The chairman began the debate by reminding the Meeting of the four main points to be addressed namely:-

- *The process and evaluation of what requires to be done.
- *Should this work be carried out all at once or phased.
- * Review issues around white lines, speed humps, road signs, etc.
- *and, most importantly, how much will it cost and how will it be funded.

There followed a very lively debate where the various options were discussed in full, including the possibility of raising of levy on each household.

At the end of debate the Chairman thanked all for their contributions. He said that although ORRA did have a small reserve fund, some of it was made up of the so-called 'Heritage Fund'. Several members of the Committee thought that as our late Chairman , Peter Pavey had worked so hard to secure the funds and he had wished to secure the land adjacent to the Main Entrance for the Estate, this money should be used solely for that purpose.

Summing up this important discussion the Chairman said that several major decisions had been made:-

- * the work must be done.
- * the work should be done in stages.
- * the money will be raised by levy.

He suggested that a Sub-Committee should be tasked to investigate how best the work was to be done and present their recommendations to the Residents at a later date.

This was agreed unanimously.

10. To transact any other business.

a) John reported that all the Estate's verges that had been damaged by Contactors lorries had now been re-instated by them.

b) Mr Firmin complained about cars being irresponsibly parked at the top of Walnut Tree Walk and the Chairman said that he would investigate.

c) Mrs Walker was concerned that overgrown vegetation at the entrance to Walnut Tree Walk could cause an accident, as drivers' view was obstructed.

The Chairman said that he would investigate to see what could be done to improve safety.

The Meeting ended at 9.35pm.