

THE OLD RATTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



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Hon. Secretary:
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Hon. Treasurer:
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MINUTES OF THE OLD RATTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17th MAY 2012 AT WILLINGDON CHURCH HALL, CHURCH STREET, WILLINGDON.

(To be approved at the 2013 AGM in May)

49 Members were present at the Meeting.

1. Introduction.

The Chairman began by introducing himself and the members of the Committee.

2. Apologies for absence.

Mr Abbey	Mr Ogden
Mr Bowker	Mr & Mrs Passingham
Mr Brogden	Mr Pridmore
Mr Clarke	Mrs Saunders
Mr & Mrs G Carn	Mrs Smith
Mr & Mrs Dunning	Mrs Trustan
Mrs Everett	Mr & Mrs M Walker
Dr & Mrs Y Fan	
Mrs Green	
Mr & Mrs P Goodman,	
Mr Glassborow	
Mr & Mrs Hawkins	
Mr & Mrs Hempstead	
Dr & Mrs J Ions	
Mrs Jervis	
Mrs Jordan	
Mr & Mrs D Laing	

3. To approve the Minutes of the last A.G.M held on the 19th May 2011.

Mrs S Gausden proposed the nomination and Mrs V Cooke seconded it. The Minutes were passed unanimously.

4. To receive the Chairman's report for 2011/12.

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

Mr Robinson introduced himself by saying that he was responsible for the Estate's roads and gave a brief resume of the work that had been carried out over the last year.

a) He informed the Meeting that many of the gullies at the lower end of the Estate had been found to be blocked and that this problem would need more investigation before it could be resolved.

b) Having researched the matter, Mr Robinson said that he estimated that complete re-surfacing of the roads would cost in the region of £40,000-45,000 pounds, and was currently looking into other, more affordable, options.

c) He said that kerbing on the Estate's verges was a possibility but with a price tag of between £15,000 - £25,000 this would not prove worthwhile.

d) The question of too many signs on the Estate had been raised and that, in his opinion, this did merit further discussion by the Committee.

e) On a final point Mr Robinson warned the Meeting that with above inflation rises in all petroleum based products this would surely lead to even higher costs in the future.

Mr Doel introduced himself and said that he was responsible for the maintenance, security and appearance of the Trees on the Estate.

a) He explained that a Tree survey had been commissioned in 2011 and that all the 126 trees on the Estate had now been surveyed, identified and tagged using G.P.S technology.

b) Of the 126 trees, 114 were deemed to be mature, whilst 12 were considered still in their juvenile phase. The height of the trees ranged from 4 metres to 17 metres. Each tree had been carefully assessed and remedial work was well under way.

c) Mr Doel reported that all the most urgent work on the Estate's trees had now been completed and added that the large tree at the entrance to the Estate had been pruned by the local Council at their expense as it stood on land deemed to be 'bona vacanta'.

5. To consider and resolve the deletion of Clause 5 of the Constitution of the Old Ratton Residents Association

“any Member may terminate his or her membership at any time by notice in writing to the Secretary given not less than fourteen days before the date on which it is intended that such membership shall expire but no subscription or part of a subscription shall be refunded to any resigning member in respect of the financial year for which it shall have been paid”

as proposed by the Committee.

Amendment:- Mr & Mrs Clancy stated that the copy of the constitution that they had received had already been altered.

The Chairman proposed the motion that the clause should be deleted from the Constitution and it was passed unanimously by the Meeting.

6. To receive, approve and adopt the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2012 and the Auditor’s Report.

Mr Tim Norfolk, as Hon. Treasurer, presented the Statement of Accounts to those assembled (see attachment). He asked the Meeting to note that there had been a very good improvement in the matter of the arrears and said it was important to build up a reserve of funds to cover any future expenditure needed for the maintenance of the roads.

The Chairman said that, although the roads were certainly patchwork they were still serviceable. The plan was that over the next 5 years or so, large sections of the roads would be renewed and that the expense of the repair of the gullies was also to be considered when planning expenditure.

The proposal to approve and adopt the Statement of Accounts was proposed by Mr G Doel and seconded by Mr D Cooke.

The motion was carried unanimously.

7. To fix the subscription rate for 2012/13.

The Chairman recommended that a 10% increase would be needed and this motion was supported by Mr D Harris who suggested that a 10% increase should be applied each and every year.

Mrs D Clancy asked why some residents had been slow to pay and said that in her view the increase should be voted on each year at the A.G.M as she feared that a rolling increase would lead to those who had just started to pay to stop.

Mr M Doel agreed with Mrs Clancy, saying that he too thought it sensible to vote on the increase annually.

Mr.G.Doel proposed a rise of 10% and Mrs. C. Fage seconded the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously.

8. 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 was pleased to announce that Mrs Gausden was happy to remain in post for 2012/13 and she was elected unopposed.

9. To elect Officers and Committee Members for the year 2012/13.

The Chairman thanked all the Committee for their hard work and suggested that a vote should be taken 'en bloc' to re-elect them. He added that, should any additional expertise be required, additional members could be co-opted.

Mr Graham Newby objected, saying that before he voted he wanted the matter of the building work at No.39 Ratton Drive to be discussed.

However the general view of the Meeting was that the vote should go ahead.

Consequently Mr G Doel proposed the motion and Mrs Carol Fage seconded it.

The motion to re-elect the Committee was carried.

10. To transact any other business.

a) Mr G Newby demanded to know why the building work at No. 39 Ratton Drive had been sanctioned. In his view this was clearly a property developer who, having bought the house, was in the process of doubling its size.

The Chairman outlined all the measures that were taken before consent was given and told the Meeting that the Ratton Garden Committee had discussed the matter fully before the building work was allowed to go ahead. Only Mr Newby had objected to the final plans.

b) Miss Amanda Loftus raised a problem of parking that had seriously affected her road. A large camper van was constantly parked outside an adjacent house. As The Grove is a narrow cul de sac she said that this posed serious problems should a fire engine need to pass and that the refuse van had been unable to collect the rubbish from the bottom end of the road on several occasions. Surely a sign stating that no parking of large vehicles on the Estate was needed?

The Chairman replied that a letter had been sent to the householder in question but no reply had been received. However the Committee would discuss the matter again at their next meeting.

Mrs Clancy asked why the Covenants could not be changed to restrict the parking of Commercial Vehicles on the Estate.

Mr Michael Doel said changes to the Covenants would be costly and in his view it is far better to generate an Estate that is self governing.

It was decided that this matter would also be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

c) Mr Tony Uden thanked the Chairman for all his hard work throughout the year.

d) The Chairman said that at the last A.G.M the question of a Noticeboard for the Estate had been raised. He then gave a brief resume of the subsequent discussions and said that it had been thought more appropriate in the 21st century that a web site should be set up instead.

Discussions are now being held and any offers of help from the floor would be most appreciated.

e) On a final point the Chairman hoped that the new road work signs had been noticed and approved by the Estate.

The A.G.M closed at 9.45pm.