

Rowly Drive Residents' Association

**Minutes of AGM
Thursday 10th July 2008 at 8pm
Held in Cranleigh Nursery School**

Committee Members Present: John Kearsley (Chair), Roger King (Treasurer), Sue Barrow, Louise Harbutt (Secretary)

Apologies received from Mike Golden and Roy Collison

Association Members Present: As per attached Attendance Sheet, 24 households were represented at the meeting.

Apologies received from Jan Sherriff, Peter Stempt, Rhoda Kirk and Tony Williams

John opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance, and that it was pleasing to see such a good turn out. Apologies for absence were given.

1. Adoption of 2007 Minutes

John gave a summary of the 2007 AGM Minutes and adoption of these as an accurate recording of the meeting was proposed by Patrick Normand at Acorns and seconded by Philip Koniotes of Southcroft.

2. Chair's Report

John presented his report for the previous financial year and started by thanking David Palmer who has recently resigned from the committee for all his contributions and efforts on behalf of the residents' association.

Potholes: – 12 were repaired in February which was delayed from the previous calendar year as Thames Water had advised repairs to the water main needed to be carried out. However this was deferred due to their budget constraints and as yet no date has been confirmed for the work. A quote has been received from another contractor to repair a further 10 potholes but this is significantly more expensive than previous work at £1500. The large pothole outside Cobwebs has been caused by Thames Water, and despite 17 emails no response has yet been received as to when they will repair this, and the matter will be escalated to the Thames Water CEO.

Action – JK

Speed signs: – two 20 mph signs have now been erected at the Guildford Road end and John thanked Louise for obtaining these, and Roy for his efforts in installing the signs, and also for cutting back the brambles around the bus stop.

Flooding around Littlebrook: - John thanked Mike Golden and his son for clearing the drainage path to alleviate this problem.

Planning applications: – in response to a question as to whether it was necessary to deliver these to every member, John commented this was done to avoid any bias with regard to how each application is treated, and gives every member an opportunity to object or support the proposal. In the past year, the committee had not objected to any of the applications submitted.

3. Treasurer's Report

Roger presented the accounts for the 2007/2008 financial year, and the proposed budget for 2008/2009.

Financial year ending 31 May 2008: - The income for the financial year was £4 285 compared to £3 725 last year due to the contribution from the RDA of 4 x the normal subscription, plus the collection of some arrears from the previous year, and an increased number of contributions this year. Less was spent on road repairs (£500) than in the previous year but this is expected to be higher in future. Expenditure associated with the website is £63.19 for registration of domain name and hiring server to host site, and this will be an annual fee. None of the committee members had submitted any expenses for admin, the only reimbursement being for a paint spray can to mark up the potholes. The road resurfacing fund now stands at £9 837.07 on deposit, with £210.02 cash in hand giving a total of £ 10 047.09. £305.20 has been earned in bank interest.

Proposed budget for 2008/2009: - £200 has already been spent on speed limit signs, and the committee wish to increase the spend on pothole repairs this year to £1 200 to try and maintain the road in a better condition. £75 has been set aside to cover admin costs, and the target is to increase the sinking fund by £3 300. Roger proposed that the subscriptions for this financial year are raised to £45 per household due to inflation increases, as it had previously been held at £40 for the last 3 years.

Questions were then invited from the floor, and the following issues were raised.

Non-payers: Roger advised only one household this year had decided not to contribute to the road fund, but there was concern from one member over the way in which subscriptions are collected by knocking on people's doors to chase up non-payments. John replied that many households do not respond to the letters asking for subscriptions, which involves a lot of time on behalf of committee members making calls upon houses. However, these were always conducted as an amiable discussion to perhaps find out why a member may choose to withhold payment, and whether there is anything the committee can do to address any concerns. The committee were concerned to hear that another member commented that no notifications had been put through their letterbox with regard to the amount and due date for subscriptions.

Bank: Roger advised the deposit account was held at the Alliance & Leicester, as this gave the association the best interest rate.

Expenditure on pothole repairs: Several comments were made that the road was in a poor condition and more potholes needed to be repaired to improve this. John put a suggestion to the floor which had been raised by another member that rather than continually repairing potholes, the road should be resurfaced with members being asked to contribute the difference between the cost and the money already on deposit, and a few members were in support of this approach. However, it was suggested that this would have to be after the proposed Thames Water repairs and the various renovations taking place along the drive were completed, although John commented the latter would always be an ongoing issue. Another problem raised is determining the criteria for how much each member should contribute – would it be based on road usage, amount of building work being undertaken, frontage? John responded that the only feasible way was to divide the cost equally between the number of houses. Roger commented that it would be difficult to collect as any members who did not wish to or were unable to contribute a lump sum, would impact upon the amount requested which would then have to be increased. It was agreed that at least the sinking fund allows the amount to be built up steadily. Roger also mentioned that at a previous AGM it was suggested installing mini kerbstones (similar to those in place at Rowly Edge) along the road to prevent the tarmac breaking up at the edges especially to protect against the wear and tear caused by lorries, but this was voted against. It was also commented that maintaining the drive in good condition encourages speeding whereas a poor road surface is more effective than the signs at slowing down drivers. John responded that the road signs were installed following the agreement at the last AGM that this should be done.

A question was raised as to why the quote for resurfacing covered such a large range from £30 000 to £50 000, and best methods for resurfacing such as chip & tar, tar spraying, kerbing, etc were discussed. It was agreed that professional advice should be sought, with money for the fees taken from the fund as required. John will

approach Crouch-Waterfall who previously carried out a survey for an up to date report, and on the basis of their advice obtain quotes.

Action: John Kearsley.

Roger proposed that the subscription be raised to £45 and more of the money allocated to pothole repairs and less to the sinking fund, and this was seconded by Philip Koniotes of Southcroft.

4. Re-election of committee members

Peter Breakwell proposed that the existing committee members be re-elected and this was seconded by Freda Clarke.

5. Website

Usage of and ways to improve the website were discussed, and it was asked how many hits the website receives. Simon Isherwood, the webmaster, did not have any statistics available but commented this was a simple addition to the site. It was generally agreed it can serve as a useful archive for committee documents such as minutes and newsletters, but those members without internet access would still need to receive hard copies of any communications from the committee intended for all members. An automated notification could be sent to members when new items are added. It was also commented the website could be viewed as an asset when a house is put up for sale. Louise commented it may be a good idea to try and make it more of a community tool and it was agreed it could be expanded. Members are very welcome to put forward suggestions to the committee and Simon Isherwood. It was proposed by Alan Page to maintain the website, and seconded by Rachel Harwood. This was also supported by a majority show of hands.

Actions:

Obtain up to date email addresses for members – Committee members

Add hit counter, and automated alert for new items – Simon Isherwood

Send copies of AGM minutes and any future committee documents to Simon – Louise Harbutt

6. Any Other Business

Plot adjacent to Rowly Lodge: It was commented that the plot is very overgrown and has been for several years, detracting from the appearance of the road. John advised he had been visited by the new owners who are submitting a planning application to build an environmentally friendly 2 bedroom bungalow. One member was in favour of the plans, with the other members willing to support an application that was more in keeping with the road. Any planning application submitted will be circulated to members by the committee in the normal way. The floor agreed that the committee can object to any planning application, and feedback was given with regard to the plot adjacent to Rowly Lodge.

Street Party: A vote was taken as to whether it was a good idea to have a street party, with a close result in favour of this. Patrick Normand of Acorns is happy to organise the event and it was agreed to put the idea on the website.

Action: Patrick Normand and Simon Isherwood

'Name & Shame' for non-contributors: The committee did not feel this was warranted as in the last financial year, there was only one household deciding not to contribute to the road fund.

Corner with Rowly Edge: The plot of land at the corner of Rowly Edge is being used for the dumping of garden waste, but it was not known who was responsible for this.

Parking outside Nursery School: Mrs Broadhurst, the owner, has received several distressing but anonymous phone calls from Rowly Drive residents complaining about the parking in Guildford Road obscuring the view from the junction during term-time. Mrs Broadhurst currently sends out to all parents a pre-school information pack which requests them to move on quickly after dropping off or collecting children. It was

suggested that perhaps the RDRA prepare a poster for Mrs Broadhurst to display on the premises reinforcing this.

Action: Committee Members

John closed the meeting and a vote of thanks for all the efforts made by the committee members on behalf of the Rowly Drive residents was warmly made by Peter Molsher.

Attendance Record

Acorns	P Normand
Ardbeg	J Newcomb
Aspen	F Clarke
Aviary Moore	S Luxon
Benmore	I Hood
Broadmead	A Page
Field Gate Cottage	R Harwood
Greenways	D Lloyd
Headley	J Vile
Hill View	J & L Faithfull
Hopwood Cottage	P Collison
Hunters Lodge	J & P Eva
Littlebrook	P Breakwell
Long Copse	P & M O'Hara
Novello	J Smith
Nutley	S Isherwood
Pembury	N & R Norton
Pippins	P Marshall
Primrose Bank	D Coux
Rowly Edge Southcroft	L & P Koniotes
The Little Farm	M Edwards
Wedgeways	L Mansi
West View	F Knul
Willow Bank	P Molsher