

Rowly Drive Residents' Association

Minutes of AGM Thursday 11th July 2012 at 8pm Held in Cranleigh Nursery School

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

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the residents who had made the effort to attend, especially during a heavy downpour.

1. Adoption of 2011 Minutes

The Chairman gave a summary of the 2011 AGM Minutes with an update on issues which had been raised:

- The offer by one of the residents at the AGM to introduce a cheaper contractor for the road repairs had not been forthcoming due to personal reasons.
- Wedgeways planning application (before it became Rowlybrook) was opposed by the committee due to the proposed scale of redevelopment and the application subsequently rejected by the planning officer.
- Suggestions of adding traffic calming measures such as speed bumps along the road are outside the scope of the committee, as the land is privately owned by the Sandeman Trust.
- The proposal to 'name and shame' non-contributors was discussed, and the Chairman commented on the time and effort required by the committee members in collecting subscriptions.
- The committee were re-elected.
- AOB items included non-residents parking in the drive and dog fouling of people's frontages, both of which were highlighted in the last newsletter.
- Following discussions regarding the cost of the website hosting, the committee have been unable to find a cheaper quotation.

It was proposed by Philip Koniotes and seconded by Tony Birtwell and Jan Sherriff that the minutes were an accurate record and be adopted.

2. Chair's Report

The Chairman advised the following activities had been undertaken by the committee during the last financial year:

- Repair of potholes and resurfacing of a particularly bad section
- Objected to the planning application to build a double garage on the derelict land next to Rowly Lodge (one of the members offered the information that this land is associated with the owners of Walton Motors). Another member suggested perhaps the RDRA could purchase the land, but given the difficulties in collecting subscriptions, this was not feasible. Waverley Borough Council had been approached regarding the site, but WBC can only intervene if it contravened the Public Health Act (vermin etc). Some work has been carried out on the plot recently, but the fence has been left on the ground. The Chair will now contact Mr Cookson at East Whipley Farm regarding replacement of the fence (and one that is more in keeping).
- Lobbying of Thames Water to repair the leak outside Holmside, as several tyres had been damaged by the pothole this caused.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer summarised the main points from this year's report:

- Pothole repairs were carried out in April following the spate of bad weather and one section was resurfaced.
- The amount of subscriptions collected this year were up on last year, although some of these were paid late and so will appear on next year's balance sheet.
- There are 15 non-payers, 10 of whom have not paid for 2 or more years.
- Very little expenditure other than road repairs has been incurred as the committee members do not claim for meeting/notice costs etc. Items included £10.48 gift for Mrs Broadhurst for use of the AGM venue, and website hosting.
- A question was asked as to why there is a reserve liability shown on the balance sheet but the Treasurer confirmed there is zero liability and will amend the balance sheet accordingly.
- A question was asked as to why the road repairs this year cost £1400 – the committee responded that all costs have gone up with price of oil, and it was more economical to completely repair an entire section which was in a poor state. The committee proposes to carry on with this plan of repairing potholes and the next worst section each year, as the original proposal to build up a sinking fund to completely resurface the road has not proved sustainable.
- Alternative methods of paying subscriptions – it was decided that BACS was the preferred alternative to cash/cheques, and a note will be circulated to members providing bank details.
- Setting up deposit account in accordance with the constitution – please see AOB.

It was proposed by Philip Koniotes to adopt the Treasurer's Report and this was seconded by Jim Jennings and Jan Sherriff.

4. Re-election of committee members and officers

It was proposed by Jan Sherriff that the existing committee members be re-elected and this was seconded by Jim Jennings with unanimous agreement from the floor.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Subscriptions for 2012/2013

The committee proposed that the subscription rate be raised to £55.00 per household as it had been maintained at £45.00 for the last 3 years. As advised in the Treasurer's Report, the price of repairing the road surface has greatly increased due to the current cost of tar. Comments received were that some people may not be able to pay the increased amount, or perhaps people should be given the option to pay in quarterly instalments. The committee responded that the potholes still need to be fixed, and that the committee spend a considerable amount of time trying to collect an annual subscription, so do not have the resources to visit houses 4 times a year. The budgeting behind the increase is that there are potholes which need to be repaired before the winter, costing around £7000.00, leaving £3000 in the bank for emergency repairs. The increase would then pay for a section of the road to be resurfaced next year, together with another round of pothole repairs in spring 2013. A question was raised regarding the usage of the road by the RDA, and the committee confirmed that the RDA pay 4 times the subscription rate to compensate for this.

The Chairman proposed the subscription be raised to £55.00 and this was carried by 6 out of 7 in favour.

5.2 Deposit Account

At the last AGM it was commented that the constitution requires a deposit account, but the committee felt that with interest rates so low, and the need to access the money for the road repairs it was no longer necessary.

The Chair recommended that this requirement is removed from the constitution, as it can always be reinstated should interests rates rise to a level giving a reasonable rate of return. This was proposed by Bruno Plaskow and seconded by Jim Jennings.

5.3 Maintenance of Guildford Road Gullies

The Chair will once again approach Surrey County Council about clearing the gullies of debris, and asked those present to do likewise.

5.4 Traffic Calming

The efficacy of the 20mph signs was discussed, and it was agreed that at past AGMs the erection of more signs such as 'Kill your speed' and 'Children playing' had been objected to on the grounds of spoiling the rural appearance of the road. It was suggested that residents can put up their own 20mph signs, and that a reminder to watch your speed be added to the next subscription reminders.

5.5 Website

It was commented that Wedgeways still appears as a house name on the website, and the committee will arrange for this to be changed to Rowlybrook.

There were no further issues and John thanked everyone who gave up their time to attend the AGM and called the meeting closed at 9.10 pm. Jan Sherriff proposed a vote of thanks for the efforts and time given by the committee members to the RDRA.

Actions Points Raised

- Website:
 - Treasurer's Report and AGM minutes to be uploaded.
 - Clause requiring Deposit Account to be removed from constitution
 - Wedgeways to be changed to Rowlybrook
- Chair to contact SCC re Guildford Road Gullies
- Committee to circulate to the membership a notice detailing the increase in subscription rate, details of how to pay by BACS, and a reminder about the speed limit.
- Road repairs to be carried out before winter.

Attendance Record

Bruno Plastow
Craster
Rowlybrook
Tony Birtwell
Jill Newcomb
Sally Webster
Jane Huttly

Meadowside
Jan Sherriff
Jim Jennings and Sandra Standela
Robertsley
Ardbeg
Lane End
Marchants, Rowly Edge