



Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 29th October 2019 at Marshalswick Community Centre

Attending

Jim Watson (JW) - Chair

David Warner (DW) – Treasurer

David Turner (DT) — Committee Member

Mary Ternouth (MT) – Secretary

James Burstow (JB) – Membership Secretary

Guest Speakers:

Andrew Taylor, Senior Projects Officer, Hertfordshire County Council

Andy Holloway, Regional Land and Planning Director, Taylor Wimpey

Neighbouring Residents Associations Representatives:

Richard Northcroft (Marshalswick South East RA)

Lyn Bolton and John Harmsworth (Jersey Farm Residents Association)

Approx 60 local residents

Apologies

Councillor John Hale, Carol Chalkley, Sharon Baldwin.

1. Welcome by Chair/Chair's Report

JW welcomed everyone to the meeting, including representatives from neighbouring residents' associations.

In his report, JW reported a successful year for the Association, reflected in the level of support for our Facebook page. The Association has been active during a period of a great change in the area, including the continuing construction of the Oaklands Grange housing on Sandpit Lane.

JW advised that Sandridge Parish Council are developing their Neighbourhood Plan which will set out their vision for the Parish for the next 16 years. This is in addition to the St. Albans Local Plan covering the entire District which includes 14,000 plus new homes over the same period.



The Local Plan, includes two major sites, East St Albans and St Albans North which are either within our ward or immediately adjacent with the combined total of 2,350 new homes plus secondary and two primary schools.

JW confirmed that we receive regular crime statistics updates which we circulate via Facebook, but we do recommend that members subscribe to the Herts. Police 'Owl' notification service for useful crime advice.

Finally JW noted that we do wish to continue to raise the Association profile, but we need more members. The committee are struggling with increased load and we need more members to join the committee or to volunteer to do odd jobs.

2. Minutes of AGM of 9 October 2018

The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed as a true record. Proposed by David Lane, seconded by Grant Peerless.

3. Treasurer's Report

DW referred to the copies of accounts circulated by email to members, showing income and expenditure for the year. Income was £220, representing 22 members renewing subscriptions. (As subscriptions cover a two year period, this only represents a proportion of household membership numbers.) The Association tries to keep spending as low as possible on items such as printing leaflets and the AGM. As of 30 April 2019, the balance was £568.24. Fraser Campbell was thanked for his independent audit of the accounts.

DW appealed for a new Treasurer to come forward as he does not wish to continue in the role after this year.

The MNRA accounts for the year were accepted. Proposed by Colin Smart, seconded Neil Harris.

4. Election of Officers

Existing committee members are still serving terms of office so did not require re-election. No nominations had been received prior to the meeting. Following a further appeal, one non-member (William Green) volunteered to join and a further member (Richard Kiff) offered to help out.

5. Reports on Topics of Interest and Members Meetings

Buses

MT reported on the details of a new bus service, the S6, serving Oaklands Grange and The Quadrant. Timetable copies were provided. Members can access real time information on the 653 service and this should in future also apply to the S6 and S8/9 services. The attention of members was drawn to a survey about future bus policy being run by Herts County Council.



Aircraft Noise

Members were provided with details of the Luton Airport drop-in session (as part of consultation on expansion plans) and the STAQS AGM, which will take place in the next couple of days.

Hatfield Quarry

Brief details of the history of this planning application were given, the Association has represented its concerns about the landowner reneging on an agreement and traffic risks in a formal response. Further details are available from Ellenbrook Residents Association, who also have concerns about future water quality.

Key email and web address information on these topics was made available on sheets at the back of the hall for those interested.

Members' Meetings

JB reported on a members' meeting held last Autumn which highlighted concerns about crime and a willingness to volunteer for tasks to make this a better place to live.

A follow up meeting in February 2019 was addressed by Chris Stokes, the local Police Community Support Officer. Rebecca Pannese, Project and Amenities Officer, Sandridge Parish Council explained how volunteers can be involved in projects to improve the local environment run by the Parish and a number of residents signed up. The next scheduled event will be hedge laying this coming weekend.

JB said the committee would be happy to receive further ideas about topics for meetings/speakers or other activity and invited members to email or chat to one of the committee. Currently, members may have noticed bulb/flower planting initiated by a member at the corners of Barnfield Road over the summer. The Association has been working with the Parish Council to see if we can promote this idea. 4 attendees expressed interest in joining a group and this will be taken forward.

6. Conclusion of Formal Meeting

It was reported that our local MP has raised the issue of water contamination with the Prime Minister and an independent audit has been requested.

JW concluded the formal part of the meeting by referring to significant levels of activity by the Association on local issues during the past year. As a group, we can be much more effective at making our voice heard.



7. Guest Speaker - Andrew Taylor, Senior Projects Officer, Hertfordshire County Council – Jersey Lane Greenspace Action Plan

Andrew outlined the general roles of the Countryside and Rights of Way Service, including Land Management, managing volunteering work, Herts Health Walks, maintenance and improvement of Rights of Way and maintaining the Definitive Map.

Within limited budgets, the Land Management Service aims to improve the local environment through Greenspace Action Plans (GAPs), which attract funding and tackle a list of agreed actions. Volunteers play a crucial role. Anyone can make suggestions for a subject for a Greenspace Action Plan, which cover places from small parks to ex-railway lines. Encouraging Active Travel is a common focus at the moment.

The Jersey Lane GAP 2020-30 is the first action plan for a Right of Way. It focuses on everything within the highway area, including trees and path surfaces. Andrew thanked the Association for responding to the initial consultation. The finished draft Plan will be circulated via the Association and other means such as posters shortly.

Planned actions are likely to focus on restoring the width of the pathway, improving road crossing points, re-surfacing and vegetation management. It will also clarify who is responsible for what.

Questions included the need to 'connect up' walking and cycling routes, detail on crossing improvements, methods of cutting back vegetation and the need for surfacing improvement to the tarmac section in particular.

8. Guest Speaker - Andy Holloway, Regional Land & Planning Director, Taylor Wimpey

Andy introduced Leon McGinty, Production Manager. Holding up a plan of the Oaklands Grange site, they outlined progress so far on the building of the estate and thanked local people for their co-operation over the extended period of roadworks. Around 35 properties will be occupied by the end of 2019, 110 properties are in build and a further 80 planned for 2020. They hope to finish and be off site by 2023.

There will be significant clearance of topsoil starting – 70/100 lorries per day. (JW sought and obtained assurance that all these lorries would exit in an easterly direction from the site.)



They are awaiting installation of a further water connection by Affinity, then the path along to the Verulam School playing fields entrance can be completed. There are a couple of bollards and lamp posts to install and the permanent bus stop to be constructed.

Questions centred mainly on the contouring /size of the roundabout at Barnfield Road, conversion of the show houses, single road access, the state of verges and lighting at night time. Some of these issues are controlled by Herts County Council Highways who are also currently considering any changes to be made at the traffic lights at the junction of Sandpit Lane and Beechwood Avenue.

Leon highlighted the current apprenticeship scheme for bricklayers and carpenters.

9. Conclusion of meeting

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.10pm approximately. Many attendees stayed on for light refreshments and to continue discussions.

Mary Ternouth (Secretary)

30.10.19