

Onslow Gardens Residents' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Onslow Gardens Residents' Association,
held at 8.00pm on Monday 18 July 2011 in the Woodcote Room of Wallington Public Hall.

Agenda Item 1 Welcome and apologies.

Steve Cook (Chairman) welcomed the 27 members present. Carolyn Burton, Hilary Alexander, Mary Wallis, Sgt. Peter LeShirley and Cllr. Jayne McCoy had sent apologies. Sgt. Peter LeShirley was on holiday and Cllr. Jayne McCoy was attending a full Council meeting.

Agenda Item 2 To approve the minutes of the AGM held on 15th July 2010.

The meeting approved the minutes without amendment.

With reference to, the development of land at 52 Blenheim Gardens Jim Mills commented that the appeal against refusal of planning permission had been successful. He added that Tom Brake had lent his support in opposing the Appeal.

Agenda Item 4 Safer Neighbourhood Team Update.

The meeting moved on to Agenda Item 4 as Tom Brake MP had been detained at the House of Commons and was not due to arrive until 9.00pm.

In Sgt. Peter LeShirley's absence David Duncan read the report from the Wallington Safer Neighbourhood Team led by Sgt LeShirley, which is attached.

Agenda Item 5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on the year's events and a copy of his report is attached.

Agenda Item 6 Treasurer's Report

Ann Penberthy (Hon. Treasurer) reported that the Association had a balance of £762.69p. Subscriptions for the year had been received from 162 household out of 479 in the OGRES area. The Carol Singing had raised £190 for the Diamond Riding School, a charity OGRES had supported for many years. Expenditure for the year was £386.49p. This included hire of the hall for the AGM and this year this included the payment for two years' as we now have to pay well in advance for the hiring. This resulted in a small deficit on the year of £18.49p. Other expenditure was on refreshment for the AGM.

In conclusion, Ann commented that the Association needed to raise its membership, not because it needs more in the bank but so that it represents a greater proportion of the residents of its area.

Agenda Item 7 Election of Officers

The Chairman (Steve Cook), Vice Chairman (Jim Mills) and Secretary (Robert Landeryou) were prepared to continue in office for a further year and James Davison was willing to stand as new Treasurer, replacing Anne Penberthy who has stood down. There being no other nominations these were unanimously elected for the coming year. Hilary Alexander, Mary Wallis and Carolyn Burton have all indicated their willingness to remain on the Committee and Ms. Alexandra Loggie (53 Onslow Garden) offered to join both the Committee and as a Road Rep - both were duly elected as Committee Members.

Sec. note- In consequence of the above the road rep list will be changed. It will include Alex Loggie also Jim Mills. Steve Cook will take over Chris Hickson's section of Blenheim, Alex will take over Steve's stretch of Onslow Gardens, and Jim will replace Brian Perryman in Marchmont.

The date of the next committee meeting will be 22nd September 2011 – 8pm at 48 Blenheim Gardens.

Agenda Item 8 Any Other Business

A discussion took place about the re-furbishment of Wallington Town Centre. While a number of residents were pleased with the result, a number made adverse comments. These included the following.

- a) Lack of parking on Woodcote Road was having an adverse effect on trading in the road.
- b) The conditions for using “Loading Bays” were uncertain so people were using them for shopping.
It was felt that the conditions need to be explained more explicitly.
- c) While the traffic moves quicker through the town centre than previously the operation of the pedestrian crossings, still interrupt the flow. Is it possible for these to be synchronised with the traffic movement?
- d) One or two trees recently planted have died, are they to be replaced?
- e) The digital display bus time table boards were still not installed.
- f) Large lorries have had to back out of Beddington Gardens into Woodcote Road, as the turn was too tight for them.
- g) The cycle parking layout was not ideal. James Davison would have some specialist input here.
- h) The meeting was informed that it is planned to review this and the other issues above in the future.

It was agreed that OGRES would take up these comments at the next meeting of the Steering Group Committee.

ACTION

Concern was expressed that the increase in parking at the northern end of Onslow Gardens the dog leg close to Stafford Road has become hazardous and difficult to negotiate. The Committee agreed to raise this at the Area Committee to see if double yellow lines could be extended round the dog-leg.

ACTION

Agenda Item 3 Guest Speaker

Tom Brake MP addressed the meeting and concentrated on local issues. He explained that the economic situation was difficult and local authority’s budgeting was challenging as they along with other organisations such as the police and the NHS were being subject to a 20% cut.

The Council real estate assets were being rationalized and it is expected that some buildings such as those in Denmark Road, The Grove and Stonecote will be closed as a means of making savings and improving efficiency. Other uses will be sought for them.

All the local Secondary Schools have gone for Academy status as they believe they has a better prospect if they all went for academic status at the same time.

The move of the police station to Cross Point House was a benefit as it was a more central position than in the old building in Stafford Road. Locally the community police are being re-structured so that one sergeant will cover more than one ward. South of the Borough will experience these changes as it has less criminal activity than other areas. The old police station is now up for sale.

Shotfield Health Centre is now at the fitting out stage and should be complete in about six months. It will provide hospital care on site. St Helier Hospital is seeking a “transition based partner to obtain Trust Status.

The hospital having split from Epsom Hospital is left in limbo. One possibility would be to go into partnership with St Georges Hospital. One consideration is to keep St. Helier's specialisations such as its renal unit.

In response to questions, Tom explained that the Sutton Hospital is most likely to be redeveloped as residential accommodation. However, the major funding approved is still in place for St Helier refurbishment.

The Magistrates Court is closing but there are no planning briefs yet and the freeholder of Wallington Square has said he will develop the rear of the Square once the work at front is complete.

With the large development in Hackbridge with shops underway close to the station and the new flats in the old Canon building, there was some concern expressed regarding the increase in passenger numbers on the local lines and Tom explained that substantial investment was being made, including Crossrail, which although not local will have an impact. Southern Rail are using all available rolling stock and the new London Bridge timetable has proved more effective.

Tom Brake was thanked warmly for his talk and responding to questions.

The Chairman thanked Dick Embrey for providing the refreshments and Steve Cook was thanked for chairing the meeting. The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Robert Landeryou (Hon Sec.)