

Onslow Gardens Residents Association (OGRES)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association
held at St Elphege's Church Hall, Stafford Road, Wallington
commencing at 7:30pm on Friday 14 September 2018

Agenda item 1 - Welcomes and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the 31 residents present and the guest speakers (Councillor Jayne McCoy, Deputy Leader of Sutton Council, Christine Lindsey, Neighbourhood Watch, Sue Vernon, Springfield Church, and Jean Grima, Christians Against Poverty (CAP)).

Apologies were received from Hilary Alexander, Charlotte Watson and Mr Bangs.

Agenda item 2 - To approve the minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 13 July 2017

Minutes from last's year AGM were distributed and approved. No comments or concerns were received by the OGRES committee.

Agenda item 3 - Election of officers and committee members for the coming year

Election of officers

The current officers of OGRES have all agreed to remain and were elected unanimously.

Chair: Pauline Cook, nominated by Michael Holden and seconded by Carolyn Burton.

Vice chair: Annette Bullen, nominated by Richard Embery, seconded by Pauline Cook.

Secretary: Helen D'Ardenne, nominated by David Duncan, seconded by Richard Embery.

Treasurer: Dan Scull, nominated by Richard Embery, seconded by Annette Bullen.

Election of committee members

The current committee members of OGRES have all agreed to remain and were elected unanimously.

In addition, Priyath Liyanage was nominated by Robert Landeryou and seconded by Michael Holden, to join the committee.

The committee now comprises Robert Landeryou, Carolyn Burton, David Duncan, Richard Embery, Glenise Coxon, Hilary Alexander, John Stone and Priyath Liyanage (in addition to the officers).

The Chair did provide details about the open role of Membership Secretary.

Agenda item 4 - Guest speaker, Jayne McCoy, Planning law and Areas of Special Local Character (ASLC)

Councillor McCoy spoke about planning law and areas of special local character (ASLC). The following notes are a summary of her talk.

- The London Borough of Sutton has adopted its Local Plan, which values the suburban character of Sutton, seeks to protect green spaces, aims to improve town centres, and alleviate the housing crisis. In essence, it contains a medium growth target around town centres, but protects suburban areas.
- The Planning Inspectorate has required some changes be made to the Local Plan. Overall, the inspector wants more affordable housing (aiming for 35% of dwellings on individual sites) and has changed the designation of land around Beddington Lane (to industrial use).
- An ASLC, such as the OGRES area, should conserve and enhance the local character. The Local Plan reinforces the status of ASLCs.
- However, there is also tension in the Local Plan as part of the Onslow Gardens ASLC has been identified as an area of potential intensification (the end closer to the station). The reality though is that any building in an ASLC will have a higher standard to meet and will need to respect the local area. For example, if there were plans to build a block of flats in the Onslow Gardens area, approval would very much depend on the design and impact on the street environment.
- In terms of policy areas that can be quoted when objecting or supporting planning proposals, one can refer to protecting the character and design of an area, scale, mass, height, street design, natural features, views, local amenities, being overbearing, and intrusiveness (among other things).
- The draft London Plan (which is separate to Sutton's Local Plan) contains aggressive building targets for Sutton to meet; 939 units per year. Councillor McCoy is concerned about how Sutton can meet these targets. It will likely involve intensifying small sites and more back garden extensions and conversions.
- The draft London Plan is relatively strict about building on green belt land.
- In terms of dwellings of multiple occupancy, a house can be divided into 5 units under permitted development rights.
- Concerns about parking spaces are not always relevant for small conversions as Wallington is well served by public transport.
- Sutton Council does have a parking strategy and Wallington residents will be consulted about controlled parking zones (CPZs) in due course.

Agenda item 5 – Neighbourhood Watch

Christine Lindsey gave a presentation about how Neighbourhood Watch operates in the Wallington South area. She reminded residents that Neighbourhood Watch is about helping to protect property, increasing community spirit, and watching out for vulnerable members of society. She described the work carried out by Neighbourhood Watch and urged residents to contact her to become a member and receive information.

Agenda item 6 – Chair's report

A copy of the Chair's report is attached to these minutes. Pauline Cook discussed some of the highlights in the meeting, including work to improve street cleaning in the OGRES area and sponsorship received from Wallington Express.

Agenda item 7 – Treasurer's report

The audited accounts for the year were made available at the meeting. Dan Scull reported that OGRES have £3,416.13 funds in the bank.

Agenda item 8 – Election of OGRES representative on Beddington and Wallington Local Committee

The Chair described the role of the Beddington and Wallington Local Committee, but no representative came forward. Pauline Cook will remain as the representative.

Agenda item 9 – Election of auditor

Tony McEvoy was nominated by Robert Landeryou and seconded by Annette Bullen to act as auditor of the accounts.

Agenda item 10 – Update on Wallington Library

The Chair provided an update about the work to Wallington Library and confirmed that the Mallinson Room has been re-opened. One resident expressed concerns about the reading room.

Agenda item 11 – Notices from OGRES community

Sue Vernon gave a presentation about the outreach work Springfield Church does within the community. In particular, she is always happy to receive book donations for the book exchange project that she runs.

Jean Grima gave a presentation about the work she does for CAP, including details about its debt counselling service, life skills course, and job club.

Agenda item 12 – Any other business

The committee received a question about whether they had plans for any social events.

ⁱ Robert Landeryou was nominated by Carolyn Burton and seconded by Annette Bullen. Carolyn Burton was nominated by Michael Holden and seconded by Mr [Chatterton]. David Duncan was nominated by Richard Embery and seconded by Dan Scull. Richard Embery was nominated by David Duncan and seconded by John Stone. Glenise Coxon was nominated by John Stone and seconded by Robert Landeryou. Hilary Alexander was nominated by Carolyn Burton and seconded by Sue Vernon. John Stone was nominated by Michael Holden and seconded by Sue Vernon.