

Whinfield Residents Association
(Incorporating the Friends of Beech Wood)
website: www.whinfieldresidents.co.uk

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 23.11.2016 at Oban Court

Attendees: David Milner, Anne Rudkin, Judith Murray, Alan Hutchinson, Graham Foster, Jean Foster, Roger Fitzpatrick-Odahamier, Allanah Robinson, Peter Voss, Barry Simpson, Carol Milner, Rosemary Adams, Cllr Helen Crumbie, Peter Plant, David Currie.

Apologies: Cllr. Tom Nutt, James Eddy.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Oban Court on the 18.11.2015 were signed as a correct record of the meeting, proposed by Carol Milner and seconded by Peter Voss. David Milner apologised to members re our Outlook account having technical issues, as members had received multiple copies of Minutes and Agendas. The account has now been shut down.

Matters arising from the Minutes: None.

Chair's Report

David Milner thanked everyone for their support in helping us to have a positive year, thanks going to the committee in their efforts to make it all possible. We have achieved DBC Community Funding of £220 for IT equipment and creating our dedicated website, and obtained Public Liability Insurance. We instigated, and took part in an Asda Trolley Competition at Whinfield School, did 3 successful litter picks and held a Table Top Sale at Asda. There had been an Anti Social Behaviour meeting with Darlington Police about an awareness of ASB in Springfield Park resulting in Anna Willey from DBC attending a WRA meeting to follow up the issues. The No.10 bus route campaign with Cllr Crumbie, while not successful, had opened up new lines of communication. There had been ongoing involvement with DBC in the Darlington Local Plan, and continued work throughout the year on the welfare of Beech Wood.

Secretary's Report

Anne Rudkin reported about speeding vehicles, parking at schools, parking for the Doctors Surgery, repairs and painting of play area and new litter bins at Springfield park, issues with Beech Wood, and Litter Picks to help improve the area we live in to benefit the residents of Whinfield.

Treasurer's Report

Judith Murray presented the accounts, which showed the bank balance as at 07/11/16 of £1,122.35 with petty cash at £57.45 giving a total of £1,179.80. The accounts were audited by Mr P Johnston who is a qualified accountant and a signed audited copy is available for inspection. During the year we applied to DBC's Community Fund and successfully received a grant of £220 towards our running costs. This was not the whole £1000 applied for but it is something and it has gone towards paying the website costs, and the public liability insurance, which is important as it enables us to continue with activities such as the litter picks and other events going forward. Our table top sales were very successful and raised £371 with other activities raising over £57, a very successful year in terms of fundraising. The £50 Asda refund relates to a gesture of goodwill from Asda due to an error on their part regarding the table top sale. Unfortunately Asda will no longer permit table top sales to be held on their premises which is a significant blow to our fundraising abilities and going forward into 2017 the Association will have to actively look for further fundraising opportunities. Items of expenditure have included the Trolley Competition prize which we ran in conjunction with Asda and Springfield Primary and also the purchase of a banner to use at our events. Overall this was a very successful financial year with net growth of over £400. Allanah Robinson proposed and Helen Crumbie seconded that the accounts be accepted, and this was agreed.

Election of Officers

It was agreed that Alan Hutchinson take the Chair for this part of the meeting. Elected unopposed were:

Chair: David Milner, proposed by Roger Fitzpatrick-Odahamier and seconded by John Atkinson.

Vice-Chair: Graham Foster, proposed by John Atkinson and seconded by David Milner.

Secretary: Anne Rudkin, proposed by Judith Murray and seconded by Roger Fitzpatrick-Odahamier.

Treasurer: Judith Murray, proposed by Bridget Hutchinson and seconded by Carol Milner.

Fundraising Officer: vacant. It was agreed that the Committee attempts to fill this during the year.

Election of Management Committee Members

Alan Hutchinson was proposed by Anne Rudkin and seconded by Judith Murray, John Atkinson was proposed by Alan Hutchinson and seconded by David Milner, and both were elected. 10 other positions on the Committee remain vacant and the Committee will address this. In response to a question, Jean Foster explained that she had agreed to support a nominated member of the Beech Wood Sub-committee to serve on the Committee, but that no-one had come forward to do this. For future reference it was agreed that any member co-opted onto the Committee must be present at the meeting where they are proposed.

Appointment of Auditors for the Coming Year

It was agreed by the meeting that Mr.P.Johnston be asked to act as auditor for the coming year.

Any other AGM business: None

Before the close of the meeting a Community Award from the retiring Mayor was presented to David Currie for his sterling work keeping litter at bay from Whinfield and surrounding areas, which was greeted with acclamation and a standing ovation by the members present.

Date of next meeting: 7.00pm Wednesday 14th December 2016 at Oban Court

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.