

Whinfield Residents Association

(Incorporating the Friends of Beech Wood)

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd November 2017 at Oban Court

Attendees: Rosemary Adams, John Atkinson, Trishia Carlisle, David Carlisle, Linda Davison, Eric Davison, James Eddy, Graham Foster, Alan Hutchinson, Andy Keir, Ruby Keir, David Lyonette, Alan Macnab, Carol Milner, David Milner, Pat Newton, Tyler Nixon, Barbara Reynolds, David Reynolds, Allannah Robinson, Anne Rudkin, Joan Thompson, John Thompson, Peter Voss.

Apologies: Judith Murray, Roger Fitzpatrick-Odahamier, Bev Hutchinson, Jean Foster, Cllr. Tom Nutt, Barrie Newton, Cllr. Helen Crumbie.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Oban Court on the 23.11.2016 were signed as a correct record of the meeting, proposed by Carol Milner and seconded by Pat Newton.

Matters arising from the Minutes: None.

Chair's Report

David Milner thanked all members for their continued support throughout what had been another positive year for the WRA. During the year two excellent litter picks had been organised, plus a number of encouraging fund raising activities, and two additional special general meetings. With 87 members now on our emailing list the WRA is in good shape for the coming year.

Special thanks were given to the officers and committee members for their efforts throughout the year, most of which go unseen, and which are vital to the success of the WRA. The WRA is all about its members and their aspirations for our area. With this in mind it would be nice to see more of our residents, and existing members, coming along and taking part in meetings, which is vital for the future of the Association. It would also be desirable to see the Friends of Beech Wood members coming back.

Moving forward, there are positions for up to 12 committee members so help is needed from anyone interested and would be greatly appreciated. A replacement for the Beech Wood Sub-committee Coordinator also needs to be found.

Secretary's Report

Anne Rudkin reported that as Secretary of Whinfield Residents Association, it had been a pleasure to have served as an officer for this Association. Anne wished everyone good luck and hoped WRA will go on for years to come. In this is her last report she mentioned some of the main issues from during the past year. Anne considered that WRA has been doing little things but hopefully making a big difference.

Some highlights this year had been WRA arranging for members to visit Haughton Residents Association and attending their Fayre, hopefully improving Beech Wood for residents, trying to resolve parking on grass verges and problem parking at Whinfield Primary School. WRA presenting David Currie with his community award was particularly pleasing.

Judith Murray, Jean Foster, and Anne had attended the Big Car Boot Sale at Middleton St George, raising over £50, then Judith and Anne went again in September, raising about the same amount. The Cake Stall at Oban Court was very enjoyable, as were the litter picks, and the meeting held in August re. the proposed Northern Bypass, which is going to affect us and future generations to come, was a very special event.

Anne thanked everyone, from officers to committee and other members, for their support during her time as Secretary, and finally gave special thanks to Alan Hutchinson for his help and guidance with the minutes and other IT advice, saying: "We made a good team."

Treasurer's Report:

Judith Murray had submitted a written report, which was read out, plus the accounts [copy filed with minutes]:

"The accounts show the bank balance as at 31/10/17 of £1,167.35 with petty cash at £92.14 giving a total of £1,259.49. The accounts were audited by Mr P Johnston who is a qualified accountant and the signed audited copy is available should anyone want to see it.

The net surplus for the year has declined mainly due to the fact that we received a DBC grant in 2016 and we can no longer hold table top sales at Asda. The net surplus for 2017 is £85.70, which is still positive and still shows growth, which given the circumstances, is a great result. The public liability insurance has remained the same, and is important as it enables us to continue with such activities as the litter picks and any other events we may organise. There are no website costs this year as the licence was for 3 years. The other costs mainly relate to costs incurred as part of the Beech Wood wildflower meadow project, which due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control had to be postponed.

Since the termination of the table top sales at Asda we have had to look to other fundraising events which have proved to be successful. The coffee morning was a great success and raised £96. We will look to hold further coffee morning events going forward and hope they will continue to be well supported. We also held 2 successful car boot sales at Durham Tees Valley airport and attended the Haughton Fayre. I must also take this opportunity to thank Cllr Nutt for his very generous contribution for the wildflower seeds. The committee continue to look for other fundraising opportunities and also for projects within our area which we can get involved in going forward."

Allannah Robinson proposed, James Eddy seconded that the accounts be accepted, and this was agreed.

Election of Officers

It was agreed that Alan Hutchinson conduct the procedure for election of Chair. Elected unopposed were:

Chair: David Milner, proposed by Allannah Robinson and seconded by Peter Voss.

Vice-chair: Graham Foster, proposed by Jean Foster and seconded by David Milner.

Secretary: Alan Hutchinson, proposed by Monica Anderson and seconded by Ann Brown.

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

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

Alan Hutchinson agreed to also continue with the role of Webmaster.

Election of Management Committee Members

Anne Rudkin was proposed by Judith Murray and seconded by Graham Foster,

John Atkinson was proposed by Roger Fitzpatrick-Odahamier and seconded by David Milner,

Alan Macnab was proposed by John Atkinson and seconded by Anne Rudkin,

Joan Thompson was proposed by Anne Rudkin and seconded by Alan Hutchinson,

John Thompson was proposed by David Milner and seconded by Anne Rudkin,

Andy Keir was proposed by Alan Hutchinson and seconded by David Milner, and all 6 were elected.

The Committee will try to fill the 6 remaining Management Committee posts by co-option during the year.

Appointment of Auditors for the Coming Year

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

Date of next meeting:

General meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 13th December 2017 at Oban Court.

Committee meeting at 6.30pm on Wednesday 29th November 2017 at Oban Court.

Any other AGM business: None.

The meeting closed at 7.26 pm, followed by an informal social gathering, with refreshments.