

Bownham Park Rodborough Residents' Association Limited

Minutes of 40th Annual General Meeting held at the Bear of Rodborough on Tuesday 16th June 2015, commencing at 8pm

Mr. Hopkins was in the chair and opened the meeting by welcoming Members representing 32 households. The Secretary confirmed that there was a quorum for the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from 2 Members and 9 proxies been given.

2. Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting held on 17th June 2014

The Chairman stated that the minutes from the previous AGM had been circulated together with the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31st March 2015. On the proposition and seconding of Mr. Fincher and Mrs Lane respectively the minutes were unanimously accepted and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the previous Annual General Meeting

All matters arising had been dealt with during the year.

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary stated that his report had been circulated with the notice of the AGM prior to the meeting. The only item was the proposed purchase of a wheelbarrow to assist in filling the salt bins and as always thanks to Sally Davis for being "Salt Fairy". We had plenty of salt for next year There were no comments from the meeting and his report was accepted with thanks.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer commented that our reserves had increased mainly due to low maintenance expenditure. On the proposal of Mrs. Philips and seconding by Mr. Elliott the accounts were approved. The Treasurer, who was stepping down, was thanked for his work over recent years.

6. Annual Maintenance Fee

The Chairman explained the long term budget to create a fund of £100,000 to cover future major expenditure. Because of expensive drain repairs when the previous financial year ended we were only just on budget and therefore a planned increase to £220 was bought forward by one year. This year we had planned expenditure of £7,232 but had only spent £2,362 giving reserves as of 31st March 2015 of £52,974 which the Chairman commented was an excellent result and over half way to the target figure. Our roads are in a good condition and with continued fiscal responsibility your Council do not anticipate an increase in the maintenance fee for some years. Concern was shown that the soakaways would need attention. There are two main soakaways, one in Bownham Mead and one we believe to the rear of number 61 but the latter has not been confirmed. The surface water drains, for which we are responsible, are separate from the foul drains which are now the responsibility of Severn Trent.

Mrs Philips thought that we should invest say £50,000 in a deposit account but the Treasurer stated that interest earned would be taken up by charges in running the account also that the difficulties we recently had in changing signatories every time they changed also caused concern. Therefore he recommended that we did nothing until interest rates increase and by which time our total reserves would have reach a higher level.

Your Council therefore recommended that the maintenance fee remained at £220

On the proposal by Richard Smith and seconding by Mr. Whittaker, the unanimous approval was that the maintenance fee would remain at £220

7. Appointment of Accountants for 2015/16

On the proposition by Mr. Clements and seconding by Mr. Pegg, Messrs Kingscott-Dix were re-appointed as our Accountants for the ensuing year.

8. Election of Council for 2015/16

The Secretary stated that he had received nominations as follows:

Secretary – Mr. Clements (59)

Treasurer – Mrs. Stevens (51)

Council Members – Mr. Hopkins (85), Mr Eyles (23), Mr. Richards (83), Mr. Smith (1) and Mr. Kilmister (46)

On the proposal by Mr. Law and seconding by Mrs. Philips, the nominations were approved unanimously. The Chairman thanked all Council members and in particular Mrs Stevens for taking on the Treasurer position.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

Mrs. Kath Breckon (81) had stepped down as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for which we thank her for her efforts. Mr. Kilmister, one of our Council members, had taken on the role.

In the absence of Mr. Kilmister the Secretary reported that last year had been very quiet and apart of the one incident mentioned earlier this year, there were no other incidents.

10. Any other Business

Mr. Law wanted to know if there was any news on the provision of high speed broadband to the Park. His concern was that the telephone cables to properties were aluminium not copper and that these was deteriorating at faster rate than copper. The Secretary stated that nothing had been heard from Openreach and that it was impossible to contact them. All he could do was monitor the cabinet behind the Bear Hotel to see if there had been any upgrading as well as monitoring official notices. He explained the proposed timescale of work should commence this month but that was only the upgrading of the exchange not the provision of high speed broadband.

Mrs. Bennett stated that there was still a number of residents who were not cutting back their hedges to the haunching. The Secretary outlined the legal situation. “The Association, after having requested the owner to carry out the work and this not being done, they were allowed to cut back the offending hedge and charge the owner for the cost.” A request was made every year for residents to carry out this work where necessary.

Mrs Bennett also asked what could be done about untidy resident’s land around the Park. The Association had no remit to become involved in this matter.

Mrs. Bennett further asked about the private footpath on the northern property line of Bownham Park House. The Chairman explained that this footpath, from the ‘no through road’ to the main upper entrance was probably originally intended as a convenient shortcut for schoolchildren and others who wanted to catch a bus. Mr. Eyles had recently walked the path and did not think it was in an unacceptable condition. The Secretary, knowing that this subject might be brought up at the AGM, had spoken with two of the three residents of the ‘no through road’ and they had stated that although they had used the footpath years ago they were not interested in using it now. The Secretary also had looked at the various legal documents and it was not clear who actually owned the land or was responsible for it. It would need our solicitors to look at the various documents and this could be quite a cost to the Association. Similarly there was no indication in the documents as to what condition the footpath was to be maintained and by whom.

Mr. Whittaker proposed a vote of thanks to the Council for all their work.

The meeting closed at 8.55 with thanks to all who attended