

Bownham Park Rodborough Residents' Association Limited

Minutes of 41st Annual General Meeting held at the Bear of Rodborough on Monday 13th June 2016, commencing at 8pm

Mr. Hopkins was in the chair and opened the meeting by welcoming Members representing 18 households. The Secretary confirmed that there was a quorum for the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from 18 Members and 6 proxies been given.

2. Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting held on 16th June 2015

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 2016. On the proposition and seconding of Mr. Richards and Mr Whittaker 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. There were no comments from the meeting and his report was accepted with thanks.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer commented that during the last financial year our reserves had increased more than usual mainly due to low maintenance expenditure. Following suggestions at the last AGM; on gaining some interest on our funds, the Treasurer has opened an interest bearing account with Aldermore paying 1.1% and currently we are receiving over £50 a month interest. However we will have to pay corporation tax on this interest.

6. Annual Maintenance Fee

The Chairman explained that 5 years ago we drew up a budget to create a reserve fund of £100k over a 10 year period for future major expenditure. During the last two years the maintenance costs have been quite low and at the end of the last financial year our reserves at £65k were £9k+ above target. Unfortunately, the cost of essential replacement and improvement of some surface water drains plus other general expenses will need just about all of the income received during this financial year. Despite this we should still achieve our budget target of £63k+ for the end of this financial year. Your Council therefore recommended that the maintenance fee remained at £220 and providing we can continue to meet our targets, as we have for the past few years, it should remain at that figure for the foreseeable future. On the proposal by Mr. Sims and seconding by Mrs. Lane, the maintenance fee will remain at £220

7. Appointment of Accountants for 2016/17

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

8. Election of Council for 2016/17

The Secretary stated that the current council were willing to continue for another year. There was still one position available on the council but no nominations had been put forward for this position. The following appointments were confirmed:

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)

The Chairman thanked all Council members and in particular Mrs Stevens and Messrs Eyles and Clements for all the work that they had carried out during the year.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

In the absence of Mr. Kilmister the Secretary reported that last year had been very quiet and long may it continue.

10. Any other Business

A discussion on the provision of broadband on the Park took place but the best that could be determined was that the local exchange was now fibre equipped and our local cabinet is still to be upgraded. This was “planned” to occur within the next 5 months but this was also promised a year ago. Mr. Law mentioned the fact that the cabling around the Park was in a poor condition and in some cases not suitable for high speed broadband. All we could was to wait until high speed broadband was available and then badger BT to upgrade the cabling. The method of implementing this would depend on cost.

Mr. Sims enquired if the cost of repair of the lower entrance railings could have been recovered from our insurance policy. Only part of the total costs could have been claimed but the excess payment on the insurance was greater than the cost of that portion.

Mr. Eyles mentioned that the top cattle grid was still satisfactory at present and would not need immediate action.

Mrs Bennett mentioned that the problem with the tree at the top entrance. The roots had pushed up the pavement but it was much better now that the slabs had been re-laid. Cutting roots would probably cause damage to the tree and would not be recommended as it could exacerbate the problem.

The annual leaf sweeping in December may not occur if the new SRDC council contractors could not do the work.

The annual BBQ is planned for 10th July

The meeting closed at 8.44 with thanks to all who attended