

# **BOWNHAM PARK RODBOROUGH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

## **Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held at The Bear of Rodborough on Wednesday July 15th 2009, commencing at 8.00pm**

Mr Allen was in the Chair and opened the Meeting by welcoming Members representing 24 households. The Chairman reminded the Meeting that where properties were jointly owned, both persons were 'the Member' and were welcome to attend and participate, but one vote was allowed in respect of each property. The Chairman also asked Residents to identify themselves by name and house number when participating in discussion. The Chairman confirmed that there was a quorum for the Meeting.

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from 9 Members and the Council had received 3 proxies.

### **2. Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting held on 2nd July 2008**

The Chairman said that the Minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated, together with the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 and the Secretary's Report for the year 2008/09. On the proposition of Mrs Phillips and seconded by Mr Greenwood, the Minutes were unanimously accepted and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

### **3. Matters arising from the previous A.G.M.**

The Chairman said that the issue of speeding, which had been raised at the last Meeting, had been addressed and Mr Lloyd would discuss. The procedure for the election of Council Members, an issue raised by Mrs Clements, had been reviewed. The Chairman said that the Articles of the Association were well crafted, and there was flexibility in the procedure, which was adhered to in respect of officers retiring and re-election.

### **4. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary said that his summary report had been circulated with papers prior to the Meeting, but he would now expand the report. A Newsletter would be circulated later in the summer covering the additional points.

In respect of the issues regarding the eventual road re-surfacing the Secretary stated that after a review of our cash forecast position in five years time it appeared that we were still on course to accumulate 66% of the anticipated requirement for funds needed at that time. This funding target would be kept continually under review taking specific account of inflation and the cost of oil. The Council were also monitoring the potential funds which may be required for maintenance of the drainage system.

Regarding the current financial situation, the Secretary said that the Association would continue to use the safest and largest institutions for banking. With regard to planning applications that had been passed by the local authority, the Association would continue to approve any works, but general covenants should be observed and disruption to neighbours should be minimised. Large delivery lorries had been a problem and possibly contributed to the necessary works to the top grid.

As previously mentioned, the speeding issue would be discussed later, but the Secretary would continue to contact any Residents observed and reported speeding regularly on the Park, and have discussion and possibly send a letter.

## **BOWNHAM PARK RODBOROUGH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

The Secretary said it was important to continue to ensure the ambiance and safety of the road and branches should not overhang the road.

Mrs Phillips asked for clarification regarding the Minutes concerning the Election of Council 2008/09 and the difference between Directors and co-opted Council Members. Mr Clements said that in the past there had been co-opted Council Members and the Secretary said that historically and legally this was acceptable.

The Chairman requested that the Meeting adopt the Report by the Secretary and this was proposed by Mrs Britton and seconded by Mr Greenwood. The Chairman also wished to record thanks to the Secretary for his contribution.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Mrs Hanks, presented the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2009 and reported that the Association's funds at the end of the period totalled £16,774.00 and said that expenditure had been similar to the previous year. Mr Arnison asked about interest rates and the Treasurer said that interest received used to be in the region of £50 per month, but with current low interest rates it was £1. On the proposition of Mr Clements and seconded by Mr Arnison the accounts were signed at the Meeting by the Chairman and the Treasurer. Thanks were extended by the Chairman to the Treasurer for her valued contribution.

### **6. Drainage System and Estate Maintenance**

The Chairman invited Mr Eyles to address the Meeting regarding the future repair to the drainage system. Mr Eyles explained that a full survey had been undertaken by 3 Counties Drain Services, with a camera. As previously known, the drainage system at the lower end of the Park, which consists of pitch fibre pipes, is in poor condition and will need to be replaced over a 5 to 10 year period. The upper part of the Park is basically in good order, just minor repairs in the future. However, in 2008, DEFRA announced that from April 2011 the water companies, Severn Trent in our case, would be compelled to take over private sewers, but this is not yet finalised. The Council were alert to the fact that repair to the drainage at the lower end of the Park was necessary, and would continue to survey. Mrs Phillips expressed thanks to Mr Eyles for his valued contribution in this matter and all agreed.

The matter of the cattle grid was also raised by Mrs Phillips, enquiring regarding the recommended weight limit. The Secretary said that delivery vehicles should have guidance regarding axle weight of their vehicle and Mrs Bennett said that normal recycling and rubbish lorries also played a part in the deterioration of the cattle grid. The Chairman said that where works are being carried out, Residents' contractors should be insured to cover any damage.

### **7. Annual Subscription**

The Chairman said that the recommendation by the Council was that the Annual Subscription should remain at £155 (£150 if paid within 30 days of invoice) and invited any comment. The Secretary said that having reviewed the cash forecast, his view was that the subscription should remain the same and it would be reviewed next year. Mr Hinch said that because interest rates were so low, perhaps the subscription should be increased and Mr Arnison said that an additional £5 would help cover the shortfall in interest. There was some discussion, and Mr Smith said that he respected the decision of the Council. The Chairman said that there was always the option to apply a levy if necessary and moved to adopt the recommended subscription. This was proposed by Mr Blackwell and seconded by Mr Haughton. Mrs Phillips stated that she wished to abstain.

### **8. Appointment of Auditor**

The Treasurer said that she was happy with the current Auditors and the Chairman concurred. On the proposition of Mrs Hanks, seconded by Mrs Bennett, it was unanimously agreed that Kingscott Dix be retained as Auditors for the year 2009/10.

## **BOWNHAM PARK RODBOROUGH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

### **9. Election of Council for 2009-10**

The Chairman explained that all Council Members retired automatically at the end of the Meeting. There had only been one nomination for the position of Secretary and Mr Whittaker had offered to continue in this position. On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Blackwell, Mr Whittaker was re-elected as Secretary. The Chairman then stated that Mrs Hanks, who had been Treasurer for 9 years, was retiring at the end of the Meeting. There had been one nomination for the position of Treasurer, Mrs Lloyd, and he introduced Mrs Lloyd and summarised her current work responsibilities as an IT business professional. The Chairman proposed Mrs Lloyd as the new Treasurer and this was seconded by Mrs Lane.

The Secretary then said that at the last meeting Mrs Clements asked the Council to review the procedure for the election of Council Members. He confirmed that this had been done and he had been advised that the Articles did not require amendment and the procedure would be adhered to. Mrs Britton and Mrs Kelsey and Messrs Allen, Eyles, Greenwood and Lloyd had been nominated to stand for re-election to the Council. The Secretary said that the Council should consist of not less than four and not more than six members and the Council may, under Article 43, appoint two additional members. On the proposition of Mr Blackwell and seconded by Mr Clements, Council Members were elected en bloc.

### **10. Neighbourhood Watch**

Mr Hanks said that there had been no reported crimes on Bownham Park and he had been advised that crime in Stroud had decreased by 18% in the past year. Cold calling was not welcome as this could be a security issue. He stated that he would continue with Neighbourhood Watch for another year and invited any offers to take over this role next year. The Chairman thanked Mr Hanks for his continued contribution in this role.

### **11. Any Other Business**

The Chairman said that speeding had been an issue during the year and Mr Lloyd had spent a considerable amount of time and effort researching the matter, resulting in a summary of the issues and possible action to be taken. Mr Lloyd gave a brief overview but said that the results of the survey circulated to Residents were that a small majority requested no further action in this matter.

Mr Arnison asked what was the technical status of the 20mph speed limit. The Secretary said that it was a private road, owned by a limited company, so the speed limit was enforceable. Mr Lloyd said that if a Resident was reported for consistent speeding, the Police Community Support Officer could be requested to visit the offender. Mr Hanks said that speeding at the top entrance was a frequent occurrence. The Secretary said that the lines needed to be re-established and this would be dealt with in the near future.

The Chairman said that after the close of the Meeting, the new website, developed by Mrs Kelsey, would be reviewed and asked if there were any other items for discussion. Mrs Arnison said that if there were any potentially noisy social events planned by Residents it would be appreciated if neighbours could be informed by telephone or a note. Mr Lloyd said that the summer BBQ would be held in the same location, the selected date 6<sup>th</sup> September, and any contributions would be appreciated, and information on this event would be posted on the Google group.

The Chairman said that he wished to express appreciation for services to the Residents' Association to the retiring Treasurer, Mrs Hanks and Mrs Bennett, and both were presented with floral displays.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.20pm

DKW/JB 09/08/09