

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
PURLEY BEECHES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Wednesday 27 November 2019 at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley on Thames

The Chairman, Barry Kochanek opened the meeting at 8.00pm.

1. **Apologies.** Received from: John & Jenny Dimmock; Judy & Mike Evans; Marjorie & Roger Butler; Freddie & Barbara Hanson
2. **Minutes of previous meeting.** Agreed as read.
3. **Matters arising.** There were no matters arising.
4. **Chairman's report.** The Chairman began by welcoming all present to the AGM. The year had been fairly routine. With the inevitable rise in costs, particularly with tree and wall maintenance, the subscription had to increase after so many years without an increase. He thanked members for their understanding in this matter.

Two planning applications in the area had been brought to the PBRA's attention, one in Theobald Drive and the other at 10 Skerritt Way. It was felt that it was not appropriate for the PBRA to make any objection and both had subsequently been refused.

Following at least one approach, the committee had decided that it was unable to advertise items for sale by issuing e-mails to members.

He thanked those who attended the clear up days, which proved more convenient being on a Saturday with the provision of coffee and a doughnut. He also thanked all the Committee for their contribution throughout the year, for attending meetings, making deliveries or collecting subscriptions. He particularly thanked Jill Brown as secretary, Tony Stener as treasurer and Margaret Rolfe who has, for many years, meticulously arranged the collection of subscriptions.

5. **Treasurer's report.** The final balance as at 31 October 2019 amounted to £9,447.80 in N^o 1 Account and £1,545.83 in N^o 2 Account. Subscriptions for 2019/2020 amounted to £2,125.00. The bulk of the expenditure had been essential tree work and wall repairs totalling around £6,250.00. More tree work would be required over the next two years and, as the wall is delicate in several places, more expenditure would be required there. Full accounts were available at the meeting if any members wanted to scrutinise them.

6. **Maintenance of land and trees.** Our insurance cover requires us to undertake regular tree surveys and there has been major work done this year. There is always concern for trees along the railway and any trees likely to fall on the Oxford Road. Stewart Bee, is our preferred contractor and has worked for the PBRA for some years, is local and knows the woods well. At the 2018 PBRA AGM a resident had suggested paying a retainer for tree work. This had been considered by the PBRA committee but wasn't considered practical for Stewart Bee.

The wall along the Oxford Road had been repaired and looks a lot better for it. We have to continue with repair work before serious deterioration sets in.

Although Network Rail had sent a letters to say that they were considering planting trees and bushes alongside the railway to mitigate the effect of the electrification project, it didn't appear that there had been any planting.

7. **Payment of subscriptions by Direct Debit.** Following a discussion by the PBRA committee, the treasurer had investigated the possibility of paying subscriptions by standing order. This could be put in place but the bank were unable to identify individual payee of funds for us to allocate correctly. It was suggested that to lose the personal collection could have a negative effect.

8. **Clear Up days.** The Clear Up days on Saturday morning were quite successful but it was stressed that more volunteers would be appreciated. It was necessary to keep the areas owned by the Association clear of debris and overgrown foliage so as to keep the environment a pleasant place to live. It was suggested that the council may provide litter pickers for individual residents' use or we could ask the Parish Council for a grant towards the cost of pickers and bags, although the deadline was December 2019.

9. **Defibrillator - update.** Despite much investigation we have been unable to find a suitable site, with access to electricity, for a defibrillator. West Berks Council would consider planning permission for a kerbside installation but the cost of installation and testing and the need for public liability insurance of around £500.00 per year means that this is not a viable option. Unfortunately, after lengthy discussions by the committee, this cannot go ahead at present.

10. **Election of committee and officers.**

Barry Kochanek proposed by Jill Brown, seconded by Anne Ritchie

Tony Stener proposed by Barry Kochanek, seconded by Margaret Richardson

Margaret Rolfe proposed by Mike Williams, seconded by Margaret Richardson

Jill Brown proposed by Barry Kochanek, seconded by Tony Stener

Anne Ritchie proposed by Tony Stener, seconded by Barry Kochanek

(All unanimously elected). No-one was proposed to join the committee.

11. **A.O.B.** None.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Committee Members:

Barry Kochanek (Chairman) 943 3819

Tony Stener (Treasurer) 941 7143

Margaret Rolfe (Memberships) 941 7247

Anne Ritchie 941 2465

Jill Brown (Secretary) 941 2326

Trustees:

Barry Kochanek

Eric Mason 941 3072

Margaret Richardson 942 3274