

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

Tuesday 6 November 2024 at Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley on Thames

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

1. **Apologies.** Received from: Anne Ritchie
2. **Minutes of previous meeting.** Agreed as read.
3. **Matters arising.** There were no matters arising.
4. **Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the AGM and outlined the structure of the meeting:

There were four main topics the Chairman would deal with:

Ash Die Back problem

Fund raising

Quotations

Members for the committee and as Trustees

The Ash Die Back problem has been the pre-occupation of the committee during this year. To meet the costs involved in removing the trees, some 48 in all, required funds to be raised as the funds held in our account did not nearly cover the amount needed. £5,000 was set aside for PBRA by the Good Exchange via the Greenham Common Trust provided that was matched. The PBRA approached the residents for donations and due to many residents generosity that figure was reached and the finer detail would be given by the treasurer. The Chairman said thank you so much as this situation has been of concern to the committee and trustees. There were also donations from some people not within the PBRA.

That was the bright spot but there was a bit of a dark cloud in that the PBRA's usual tree surgeon, whose quote we relied upon, has health issues and cannot go through with the work and other quotations have been sought. At this time two quotes had been submitted a third contractor was coming to the woods on the 13th November to quote. The first quote received was way over the initial quotation we relied on and the second was closer. A decision will need to be made to see how best to approach this new situation. Either to proceed with the work, as far as we can with the funds we have, or try to find more funding. There is a Government scheme called Tree Health Pilot Scheme where grants are available for Ash Die Back. The initial stage is an application called an expression of interest. That will be assessed and you could be invited to apply then for a grant. You have to reveal what other funding you have in that application. I intend to make that application this week. There is no certainty in succeeding.

Replanting will be necessary and we have an offer of mainly Sycamore saplings.

The committee are in urgent need of some new members and trustees to carry on the duties of the PBRA. Two current members are leaving, one to relocate and another for personal reasons. This means those that remain, most aged well over 70 years, have to continue with a very diminished group also having lost another member 18 months ago.

Jo Coombe is relocating and our treasurer will continue until the next AGM only. The Chairman asked that people step forward to help out. He offered his thanks to Jo who has been keen to show interest and offer some sound advice during her year on the committee.

We should have two Trustees under the Trust Deed so can the Chairman urged residents to think hard and put themselves forward to share the tasks and obligations that the trustees and committee have to take on. Details of the constitution and Trust deed are on the Local website.

There had been the usual clear up days, the last being 2nd November. The Chairman wanted to thank all those who attended and helped in clearing the land towards the end of Hazel Road and the main woods abutting the Oxford Road.

5. Treasurer's Report.

The final balance as at 31 October 2024 amounted to £27,298.22, this includes £11,157.50 in the Ash Tree Die Back Reserve. This Reserve is made up of:

Donations £5,360.00

Match Funding £4,660.00

Gift Aid £1,137.50

Full accounts were available at the meeting if any members wanted to scrutinise them.

6. Subscriptions for 2025.

In 2009 the subscriptions increased from £10 to £12, in 2019 they increased from £15 to £17. Therefore it had been 5 years since the last increase and the committee were recommending that the subscriptions should be increased to £20 from 2025. A show of hands at the meeting agreed to this increase with no-one against.

7. Election of committee and officers.

Jill Brown nominated Keith Saunders as a committee member, seconded by Barry Kochanek and unanimously approved by those in attendance.

Barry Kochanek nominated Simon Jackson as a committee member, seconded by Graham Rolfe and unanimously approved by those in attendance.

All existing committee members agreed to stand again and all were elected at the AGM by a show of hands.

8. A.O.B.

The Chairman thanked all the committee for their work over the past year and also thanked all the collectors of subs

Concern was expressed about the state of some of the boundary wall that was not abutting the land owned by the PBRA. A reminder was required on the next Newsletter that each homeowner was responsible for their boundary wall, even if the area was fenced on the inside.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Committee Members:

Barry Kochanek Chairman) 943 3819

Tony Stener (Treasurer) 941 7143

Margaret Rolfe (Memberships) 941 7247

Anne Ritchie 941 2465

Jill Brown (Secretary) 9412 326

Trustees:

Barry Kochanek

Margaret Richardson 942 3274