

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EATON VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT EATON GOLF CLUB, ON 17th OCTOBER 2013

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including City Councillors Caroline Ackroyd, Judith Lubbock and James Wright, County Councillor Brian Watkins, PCSO Julie Sayer and Police Sgt Jason Walford.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Gwen Frazer, Jenny Holcombe, Sharon Atkinson, Chris and Helen Preston.

2 MINUTES

Minutes of the 2012 AGM were circulated and Sarah Cross proposed, seconded by Margaret Bamford, that these should be accepted as correct.

3 MATTERS ARISING

None.

4 THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This was circulated and topics dealt with during the year to March 2013 included:

- The Wentworth Gardens Development
- The proposed felling and replacement of surrounding trees should start in November 2013
- The scarecrow competition
- The continued maintenance of Marston Marshes
- Parking issues which are being addressed
- Ongoing talks to establish responsibility for maintaining the land in the Donkey Lane area
- The seat next to the War Memorial which should be in place before November 11th 2013

5 THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of the accounts were circulated which showed net assets of £3,272.44 and a surplus for the year of £960.69. The accounts were scrutinised by Ken Land.

6 MARSTON MARSHES MAINTENANCE GROUP REPORT

The work undertaken during the year by this volunteer group includes:

- Maintaining and topping up path following winter flood damage
- Making and installing faggots to shore up eroded river bank
- Raking and clearing sedge
- Cutting and burning willow scrub

Popular events organised this year were:

- The Dawn Chorus Walk
- The Wildflower and Butterfly Walk
- The Dyke Dipping Session

More quarterly community work days are planned and these will be publicised on the EVRA website. More volunteers are needed – no previous knowledge necessary!

7 REPORTS FROM LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Brian Watkins - County Councillor

- Discussed concerns that the Anglian bus service in the village was becoming unreliable
- Reported speed awareness signs would be fitted in Greenways as soon as they arrived

James Wright – City Councillor

- Emphasised all local councillors would welcome residents' comments about issues within the area
- Explained the importance of supplying defibrillators at certain points in the village: Waitrose had expressed an interest

Judith Lubbock – City Councillor

- Gave an update on Wentworth Gardens and the residents' management group

Caroline Ackroyd – City Councillor

- Reported the council had promised there would be a seat opposite Waitrose in the spring
- Said the Anglian Buses Operations Manager promised to provide a robust service

Discussion followed, and Brian Watkins undertook to look into the possibility of a timetable at the Cellar House bus stop.

8 REPORTS FROM THE POLICE

PCSO Julie Sayer reported that

- Eaton is still the safest area in Norwich, but mentioned a spate of break-ins during the year, car thefts, and children throwing stones at golfers and elsewhere at cows
- Parking issues around the school and other residential areas were being addressed and speed checks would continue

Police Sgt Jason Walford reported that

- Crime figures are down this year
- Regular Police surgeries are held at Waitrose and Notcutts

9 ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Gerald presented retiring committee members Barbara Heighes and Thelma Cooke with a gift voucher each in recognition of their long-standing service to the committee.

Chairman	Gerald Cooke, proposed by Sarah Cross and seconded by Rosemary Benton
Vice-Chairman	Chris Stebbing, proposed by Sarah Cross and seconded by Caroline Ackroyd
Secretary	Patricia Seadon, proposed by Keith Cross and seconded by Liz Pierce
Treasurer	Sarah Cross, proposed by Betty Trendell and seconded by Caroline Ackroyd
Committee	Rosemary Benton, Sharon Atkinson, Chris and Helen Preston: proposed by Keith Cross and seconded by Kath Westwell

There were no further nominations for Committee Members at the AGM but interest in joining the Committee had been expressed by four couples who were not present at the meeting. It was therefore decided that, following the AGM, the Secretary should invite the other interested people to join the Committee. This was proposed by Sarah Cross and seconded by Julie Sayer.

10 APPOINTMENT OF THE SCRUTINEER

Ken Land has offered to continue as scrutineer.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Chris Stebbing thanked the newsletter distributors for their hard work but said that a distributor was needed for Wentworth Gardens. A resident of Wentworth Gardens subsequently volunteered for this
- Rosemary Benton thanked Chris for his work on the marshes and with the website

- Gerald Cooke apologised for the Quiz and Chips being cancelled but this was because not enough people expressed an interest and the event would not have been financially viable
- All residents were thanked for their subscriptions: the amount received had increased over the year

SHORT BREAK

The meeting continued with a discussion, led by Chris Stebbing, about the future aims of the Association. Three main topic areas were considered.

Environment

- Graffiti is a problem in some areas such as Donkey Lane. The Councillors said that the City Council will not remove this unless it is obscene
- Some areas like Donkey Lane are difficult to clean because barriers obstruct access. County Councillor Brian Watkins would pursue this matter with councillors
- Barriers on paths and overgrowing foliage in some areas are a problem particularly to wheelchair and mobility scooter users
- It was suggested that more trees should be planted in the grounds of the Church of the Latterday Saints to help to enhance the environment

Play Areas

- The play areas around the village were tired and some of them needed to be improved or redeveloped: Eaton Green in particular would benefit from having play equipment for a wider range of ages and a few picnic tables
- Play equipment and maintenance can be very costly and as the Council can offer no funding other organisations should be approached to become involved
- Young people should be involved in the planning
- Eaton Mums have already expressed an interest and should be engaged in any planning
- A longer term strategy should be developed for play areas taking into account how people play and what sort of facilities are needed for this

Events

- Publicity is important – the Waitrose notice board is already used and use is made of the EVRA website. More notice of events is needed in future
- Using social networks like Facebook should be considered along with emailing
- There was agreement that there should be a mixture of events to appeal to a variety of people and interests
- Waitrose and Notcutts are already involved in supporting events but other local organisations should also be approached
- An annual event for Residents to celebrate Marston Marshes should be arranged along the lines of that organised for the opening ceremony