

Northaw and Cuffley Residents Association
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held on 3rd December 2020

Those Present

Michael Green Chair
Mike Clark Web/IT
Diane Draper Treasurer
Linda Stubbs Secretary
Stan Buckley

In total there were 22 members attending

Chairman's Opening Remarks

I) Thank you all for joining us this evening. This will be the most unusual AGM for obvious reasons. We had to postpone the meeting we had planned for April this year and now we cannot meet in person. However, we have to do our best to comply with our Constitution which includes holding an AGM annually (usually in the Spring) and thanks to Zoom (and Mike Clark in particular for organising this), here we are. We are including amendments to our Constitution on the Agenda to cover the changes necessary to be able to hold meetings using Zoom or any other available means as required. This can only be achieved at an AGM.

I thank the whole Committee for the support they have given me during the last year. For various reasons, including two moving away from our Parish and some resigning for health or family reasons, we have unfortunately lost several valuable Members of our Committee. I thank Anna Sharkey for her great work as Secretary and Minute taker, Susan Ashby for her sterling work as Membership Secretary, looking after the subscriptions as they come in and keeping the necessary records. My thanks to Mike Clark who designed the leaflet and together with Anna & Susan updated the leaflet ready for the 2020 print run earlier in the year. Unfortunately due to the current pandemic we were unable to deliver back in March. Another past member of the Committee, Debi O'Sullivan, deserves my thanks for taking on the setting up and initially managing our current website and email systems. I also thank Diane Draper our Treasurer, who is our longest serving Committee Member, continues to keep our accounts in order, produces the annual statements you have been sent recently, and keeps a watchful eye on all planning applications so that in appropriate cases we can submit comments or objections. I also thank our mini-army of volunteers who have recently been delivering our leaflet. Thanks, finally, to all those who have paid their 2020 subs.

Earlier this year we became aware of a minority of critical comments on social media that suggested we were 'not doing enough' or 'we were dealing with matters which affected only some residents'. On a very positive note we have received far more supportive messages from members thanking the Committee for all the voluntary hard work achieved in very trying circumstances.

Turning to the work completed by the Committee for the benefit of members in Northaw & Cuffley, our annual leaflet and our web site give details of the types of matters in which we continue to be involved and the work we do in support of the community. The Committee have taken on individual cases on behalf of members as they have arisen. Depending on the nature of the issue we have been able to assist residents to get a satisfactory conclusion to their issue. Also when asked to do so by members, we do our best to signpost them to the correct contact points to help them resolve their problems. With the intention of being as helpful as possible we

continue with updates about events or actions likely to affect residents, either by email or on our website.

Interested in joining our committee? Please do get in contact for an informal chat. It doesn't take up a lot of your time but it does reward you with being able to 'give back' to the community and help to protect the reasons we live in either of our two lovely rural villages.

We will now move to item 3 on the Agenda which will allow us to continue with the AGM.

2) Apologies

Christine Burrows

3) Amendments to the Constitution due to Coronavirus and any other unforeseen circumstances

There have been 2 questions from a resident regarding the constitution.

1) Re section 5.1 a) The AGM should be held as soon as possible in each year holding face to face meetings or, if required remotely. Question if required by whom?

2) Re section 5.3 The same as above applies?

G explained that the Constitution was not written with COVID in mind and he wished to put forward a draft amendment to use zoom or other media to continue meetings of the RA. But he has now further looked at the Constitution and has concluded that meetings can include virtual meetings and therefore he proposes to change Para 5.1a) which currently reads 'should be held during the first half of the year' to say 'should normally be held during the first half of the year'. If required by any other circumstance that arises he is happy to have a virtual rather than face to face meeting.

It was put to the vote and 12 members were in favour.

Proposal. Agreed

4) Minutes of last AGM 26.4.2019

There were no updates or corrections so the Minutes were agreed with everyone being in favour.

5) Matters Arising

There were none.

6) Treasurers Report and adoption of accounts for 2019

DD thanked Tony Osler for auditing the 2019 accounts. She also wished to thank all of those who had collected the subscriptions.

There were several questions from a resident.

Relating to the accounts

1. Question. Refunds overpayment of subscriptions £255 how did this occur.

DD replied a resident inadvertently paid £250 into the RA account, another resident paid their £5 twice. These were both refunded.

2. Question. Donations to Parish Council towards planting in children's play area £100, Why was this made? The Parish Council is already funded by the Residents through our Council Tax.

DD explained that this was agreed by the previous Chair. It was a delayed invoice from 8/12/18 to pay towards some Yorkshire Willow which was needed to provide a willow walk near the children's playground at the KGV. The total had been £114.85 and the RA had given the £100 to the Parish Council as a donation towards the total cost.

3. Question. Reimbursement for Banners x 2 for meetings £130.56. Reimbursement to whom and for what Banners?

DD replied that two public meetings were held at Northaw & Cuffley which were overwhelmingly voted for at the meeting of the parish when the call for sites and the emerging local plan caused concerns for residents. Banners were done by NCRA to inform residents of these meetings to help them with submitting their objections to the proposed sites

4. Question. Reimbursement for Pollution Brochure £95.84. Reimbursement to whom and for what Brochure?

DD replied that a pollution report was produced by a resident which the then PC refused to fund. NCRA made a gesture of £95.84 towards the cost of this report.

5. Question. You now have over £11,600 in the bank and with subs remaining at the same this will probably total more than £13,000 by the end of the year. What do you envisage this amount of reserves will be for?

DD replied that the total sum is not likely to be as high as this has been a difficult year financially. We are keeping reserves as we are aware of the draft local plan and we do not know what this will bring or in what way we are able to assist residents regarding this.

7) Election of Chair

MG stands down. MC is acting Chair.

A member has suggested that the association invests in a zoom account that doesn't limit meeting lengths. MC explained that this has already been done but it was not possible to change the link which had already been advertised from one account to another, so it was not possible to use the new account on this occasion.

MC proposes MG as chair. The vote is unanimous.

8) Election/re-election of Committee Members - existing committee members are offering themselves for re-election.

MG makes comment that we have lost 7 committee members and we have advertised for new members. MG proposes all standing members. There were no objections and the vote in favour was unanimous.

9) AOB

MG was asked if we wanted to elect a Vice Chair. He explained that traditionally the Vice Chair is elected from the Committee by the Committee and that this would be on the Agenda at the next meeting on January 7th 2021

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.