

# Green Street Green Village Society



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13 MAY 2016

### GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE at 7.30 p.m.

The Chairman, Bob Trott, welcomed many Village Society members and guests to the Meeting.

He introduced the officers: Bob Mills (Vice-Chair), Alan Garelick (Greenwood Treasurer), Colin Warner (Society Treasurer) and Margot Rohan (Secretary).

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from (Cllr) Kim Botting, Pat Clarke, Margaret & Chris Garrard, Stephen & Jo Gates, Richard Gibbons, Joyce Lowes, Geoff & Marjorie Parker and Dot Ryder.

2. **MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 15 MAY 2015**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 15 May 2015 had been posted on the website and copies were available at the meeting. Agreement of the minutes as a true record was proposed by Barrie Newman and seconded by Tony Bradley and the meeting agreed them unanimously.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

None other than those to be raised later in the meeting.

4. **TREASURERS' REPORTS**

Printed accounts were circulated. Copies are filed with the Master Minutes and are also available on the website.

4.1. **GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Alan Garelick presented the report:

- Rents receivable – hiring rates revised to allow for increases in overheads, including commercial cleaning, rises being staggered over the next 18 months
- Cleaning costs increased by £4-500. Next year they will be £3,500.
- Gas/electricity – changed suppliers in 2015 – some of previous year's costs included in this year's accounts.
- Repairs/Maintenance – high increase includes hall refurbishment.
- Cash flow still good. Looking for funding for other projects to continue improvements.

No questions were raised.

The Accounts were agreed. Proposed by Tony Bradley and seconded by Peter Davies. The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

### **GREEN STREET GREEN VILLAGE SOCIETY**

Colin Warner, presented the Report:

- Newsletter £120 more than last year but more than enough funds to cover it – the April edition was 8 pages, rather than the usual 4
- No income from investment of war loan – received lump sum
- Bank balance very healthy - £6,500

No questions were raised.

The Accounts were agreed. Proposed by Peter Davies and seconded by Tamara Galloway. The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

## 5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Bob Trott gave a verbal report:

- Good year – hall looking good – still some work to do at the back of the building
- Biggin Hill Airport – process regarding expansion long and involved. Noise limitations have been introduced with a noise and tracking monitoring system but there are still two problems:
  - Experiencing increase in noise from departures - Airport thought they had found the problem and amended tracking but now it is worse – should be south of the village but most going over the Princess Royal University hospital and clipping the village airspace
  - Airport trying to amend arrival route for runway 03 – instead of Dartford through Locks Bottom, it will be from Dartford tracking to junction 4, turning right and then heading to Biggin Hill. Now path will go just south of GSG.
- Hall hiring rates increased – need to have an equal playing field for all hirers, to comply with Charity Commission rules – Pop In now pays a hire fee.
- Charity Commission issues – 2 years ago we discovered that the governing document is out of date and invalid (lease) – property purchased in 1982. We cannot change the governing document as there is no authority to do so. Charity Commission has not responded so we cannot review and make changes to the Constitution.
- Problems – parking, pedestrian crossing etc. Wall opposite Waitrose to be repaired
- Christmas Pop In – complaints were received about lack of decorations and these have been taken on board in preparation for this year's event
- Newsletter – members wanted more information – latest edition took this on board.
- Village signs – still continuing to pursue this.
- Concerned about possibility of R11 bus route no longer going into Orpington Hospital.
- IT4Charity – meeting – looking at applying for funding to provide laptops, sound system, projector and screen. May apply through Awards for All (Lottery Fund). No cost or risk to the Association.

Tony Bradley expressed concerns about using the IT4 charity as their umbrella company (SME) will supply the equipment. It was suggested that we cost it

ourselves and consider applying independently. The Committee will look at support and after sales service and make comparisons to see if it is good value.

The report was accepted. Proposed by Chris Fleming seconded by Ken Bullen. It was accepted unanimously by the attendees.

## 6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The following members agreed to stand, and were elected in their absence:

- Esther Arnold
- Chris Arnold
- Kim Botting

Proposed by Brenda Newman and seconded by Eddie Sims. Agreed by the attendees.

The following Committee members had agreed to restand:

- Elizabeth Downie
- Tamara Galloway
- Alan Garelick
- Richard Gibbons
- Bob Mills
- Meriel Mills
- Margot Rohan
- Gill Russell
- Dot Ryder
- Eddie Sims
- Janet Stacey
- Bob Trott
- Colin Warner

Proposed en bloc by Brenda Newman and seconded by Chris Fleming. Unanimously agreed by the attendees.

The Meeting then elected officers as follows, the current office holders having agreed to re-stand and there being no other nominees:-

Chairman:	Bob Trott
Vice-Chair:	Bob Mills
Greenwood Centre Treasurer:	Alan Garelick
Village Society Treasurer:	Colin Warner
Secretary:	Margot Rohan

Proposed en bloc by Meriel Mills and seconded by Gwyneth Bradley. Unanimously agreed by the attendees.

No confirmations were received from the following Committee member so it has been assumed he wishes to stand down:

- Rob Clark

Honorary Auditor: Stephen Gates was agreeable to being re-elected.

Proposed by Meriel Mills and seconded by Barrie Newman. Unanimously agreed by the attendees.

## 7. REVISION OF CONSTITUTION

Depending on how the Charity Commission responds, we may need to hold an EGM to agree changes in order to resolve the situation.

Bob Trott explained that currently the Chairman, Vice-Chair, Greenwood Centre Treasurer and Secretary are Trustees of the Greenwood Centre Charity.

This may change in the future, dependent on the decision of the Charity Commission regarding the Greenwood Community Centre governing document.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND OPEN FORUM

**Reserve Fund** – According to the Charity Commission, charities should have an amount but not too much. If not enough then a charity may not be considered sustainable. The situation will be reviewed at the next Committee Meeting.

Tony Bradley gave some historical details about the war loan of £1500 regarding it being in the Village Society account. Originally there was just one account but the Society was formed long after the charity was founded. Subsequently the two entities were split and it was decided to put the war loan into the Village Society account. However he suggested it be considered for moving it into a reserve fund for the charity.

Several concerns were raised about the state of the high street and the need to get the village tidied up.

**Street Cleaning** – Cllr Buttinger mentioned that the Council is looking at new ideas for improving cleaning in certain roads. The Council is also looking at the timing of cleaning and whether evenings/weekends may improve efficiency. Cleaning does take place but is not always done well due to parked cars, not having individual litter pickers etc. The Council will look at individual roads with issues.

- **Weeds on pavements and leaves on eastern side of high street** – A resident commented that the eastern side never seems to get cleaned properly due to cars being parked. When was the high street last cleaned?
- **Footpath from Waitrose through to Glentrammon Gardens** – Peter Davies mentioned that this is never cleaned. Glass broken in the alleyway a year ago is still there as well as a lot of cigarette ends.
- **Beech Road** – Meriel Mills stressed that this is not properly swept.
- **Brittenden Parade** – Meriel also mentioned the cigarette ends outside the betting shop and rubbish in the parking area. She suggested that it could be cleaned early in the morning, before cars are parked there. Cllr Lydia Buttinger gave an assurance that pavement cleaning is done on a rota.
- **World's End Lane** - Eddie Sims mentioned that a number of drains are blocked by leaves which have not been cleared.
- **Street cleaning signs** - Brenda Newman remembered there used to be signs put out asking for no parking. Cllr Lydia Buttinger explained that the Council found people ignored them and got complaints because of inconvenience etc. The preferred option is evening and weekend cleaning. Maybe an alternative would be deep cleaning but not so often – with hand litter pickers – it might be more effective. Cafés with tables and chairs outside create more litter.

**Veolia** (sub-contractor responsible for street cleaning) - Nigel de Gruchy asked what control the Council is exercising over them - are they held to account and fined when they do not perform to standard?

Cllr Lydia Buttinger responded: There are tight service level agreements. Sub-contractors have to respond within a certain number of days to resolve problems.

**Ex Toilets/Car Sales sites** - Brenda Newman raised the issue of these eyesore sites which are privately owned. She queried why the owners are not made to clear them up. She questioned why the Council cannot do something about the state of toilets site – is there a possibility of some enforcement action?

**Toilets site** - It is thought that the toilets site has been sold on by the original purchaser from the Council, who had planning permission for change of use to an office. Cllr Keith Onslow agreed to take up the matter and find out who now owns the site so the Society can approach them to ask what their intentions are for the site. Cllr Lydia Buttinger suggested that an enforcement officer could visit the site to inspect and see if there are any issues which can be addressed. Bob Trott mentioned that rubbish on the outside was blocking the Emergency exit gate from the back of the Greenwood Centre, and this could impact particularly on the Pre-School children should there be a need to evacuate the building this way. Cllr Keith Onslow will follow up with the chair of the Planning Committee to see if anything can be done to improve the site.

**Car Sales site** – Cllr Keith Onslow has taken up the issue of the amount of rubbish with the enforcement team.

**Coal posts** - Brenda Newman has ascertained that these are owned by the City of London. There are 180 around London. The restoration workers will come out to Kent to restore them soon. It was made clear that it would be a criminal offence to 'dig them up', as previously suggested by one of the ward councillors!

**Old milestone outside Waitrose** – Tony Bradley pointed out that it needs repainting. He has been pursuing this for a couple of years but nothing has been done.

**Goal posts on the green** - Brenda Newman explained that these were installed by the previous police sergeant (Karen) but they are now looking tatty and rusty. Waitrose are prepared to provide volunteers to do the work, if the Society provides the paint. This will be discussed (and hopefully agreed) at the next Committee meeting on 23 May.

**Council Ward Officer** - Tony Bradley pointed out that previously a council officer looked after the village as a whole. When he retired, the arrangements were split and it became difficult to find out who is responsible for what.

Cllr Lydia Buttinger responded: One of the changes within council involved looking for ward lead officers who will be able to deal with multiple issues.

Margot Rohan suggested the officer be invited to some Committee Meetings in future.

### **The Priory:**

Margot Rohan gave a brief update:

- Charitable trust registered at Companies House in December, with 9 very able trustees – **Orpington Priory Community Hub**
- Business plan to be submitted to the Council by 20 May
- Hoping to be granted a Community Asset Transfer with a peppercorn or minimal rent for at least 5 years
- The Council has offered the property on the open market for sale or long term lease
- No decision expected before September

Click on the following link for further information: [The future of The Priory](#)

**Police report:**

PC Phil Bradley gave a summary of crime statistics, picking out the figures for the Society area:

- Burglaries: Oct – none; Nov – 3; Dec – 1; Jan – none; Feb – 2; Mar – 5; Apr – 1
- Majority took place where houses not properly secured
- Police prepared to come and advise residents on security
- Do not leave tools in garden – people break into house using them
- Ward panel meets quarterly – priorities around fly tipping (particularly rural areas – Pratts Bottom and Chelsfield Village)
- Increasing youth engagement – going into all primary schools (year 3) and giving insight into police work – proving successful
- Windsor Drive speeding – traffic calming methods should slow traffic – if more people complain, the issue will be raised and speed monitoring will be done again

**Councillor Keith Onslow** gave an update on various issues he has been monitoring:

- Speed gun – police now trained – the range distance is (as an example) from Poppy café up to roundabout
- Speed enforcement is a police issue and has been very effective – councillors are invited to attend speed monitoring exercises
- Cleaning and other issues – best way is to put them on Fix My Street – Council uses it to get statistics
- Residents who do not have internet access can report problems to Road Contacts who will put them on Fix My Street
- Biggin Hill – 3 ward councillors opposed extension of hours – keeping a close eye on developments
- Village signs – surveys done – not practical to put on roundabout. Revised 30mph signs with ‘Welcome to GSG Village’ (residents were hoping for a larger ‘Welcome to Green Street Green Village’ signs)
- Wall opposite Waitrose – Alan Garelick has seen the owner, is getting estimates and is going to liaise with insurance company
- R11 bus route – opposed by councillors – awaiting response
- Parking:
  - Ash Road to have signs about parking on the pavement (being allowed)
  - Traffic division have a backlog across the borough – Cllr Onslow sees them every 2 months
  - Recently – tree roads have had yellow lines put on corners; zebra crossing outside Greenwood Centre - dropped kerb now agreed; consultation about pay & display parking on Crescent – feedback quite favourable
  - Parking restrictions on estate by hospital
  - Parking restrictions in Windsor Drive – consultation some time ago resulted in current yellow lines. Number of alterations put in since then. Trying to get yellow lines round corner of Woodlands Road/Windsor Drive (RHS) extended to improve sight lines. (A resident expressed concern about children crossing over to the park between parked cars).
- Stapleton roundabout – still trying to resolve

Brenda Newman gave a brief history of **Stan Mortimer** who has died: Stan was a Committee Member for many years and designed the Village Sign which was erected in 2002, to replace the old one dating from 1952. He died at the beginning of May and his funeral will take place on Friday 27 May at 2:30pm in St Giles the Abbot, Farnborough.

The Chair asked attendees to stand for a minute's silence in respect.

**Summer Fair on the Green on 4 June:**

Volunteers were requested for help manning the Society stall between 11am and 4pm.

**Chelsfield Village:** William Sear is giving a talk on Chelsfield village on Wed 18 May – every month a different village in the area is covered at U3A (University of the Third Age) meetings. He is researching and trying to find out as much as possible and requested help from anyone.

The Meeting closed at 9:15pm, followed by refreshments.