

FLACKWELL HEATH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 30TH MARCH 2009 Held at The Royal British Legion.

PRESENT: Grant Foster (Chair – Standing Down); Carolyn Leonard (Secretary & Chair P&E Group elect) - Minutes; Maureen Shepherd (Treasurer); Craig Lewis (Membership Secretary – Standing Down); Pam Mannering (Chair Events Group & Assoc. Chair elect); Graham Carter (Chair P&E Group – Standing Down); David Onslow (Chair PAT Group); Ken Ross (Patron); Mike Overall (Chiltern Society); Bill Read (Bucks Foundation); Councillors – Mike Appleyard (BCC); Julia Langley (WDC), John Savage (WDC & CWPC); Sue Digby (CWPC); Jeff Herschel (CWPC); Dave Johncock (CWPC & member); Maurice Smith (CWPC); Mrs M Smith; Roger Berry (Wooburn Green Directory); Ruth Lisle (Girls' Brigade); Andy Walker (Scouts/Guides) and 47 members. There were also a number of non-members in attendance.

1. **INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES:**

Craig Lewis welcomed members, non-members and guests to the meeting. Apologies had been received from: John Johnson (Membership Secretary elect); Tim and Pat Kendell; Brian Moulson; John Sweetman and Sheila Walmsley. John Savage had indicated he would be arriving a little late as he had another meeting first.

2. **AGENDA:**

Craig Lewis checked that folk had sight of the agenda and time was given to peruse last year's minutes.

3. **MINUTES OF THE 4TH AGM:**

The minutes were accepted as a true record of this meeting, this was proposed by Dave Johncock and seconded by Ashley Hopkins.

4. **PRESENTATION:**

Bill Read from the Bucks Foundation presented the association with a cheque for £2500 towards the cost of running the Cherry Fayre. He explained the working of the Bucks Foundation and the procedures that had led to this award. He concluded by wishing the Association every success with the Cherry Fayre.

Grant Foster then presented cheques from the Association to the village uniformed groups. On behalf of the Scout and Guide groups, Andy Walker accepted £2000 to be spent on improvements to their headquarters and Ruth Lisle accepted £500 towards practical equipment on behalf of the Girls' Brigade.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT:**

Grant Foster began by thanking George O'Leary and The Royal British Legion for allowing us to hold the meeting this evening and everyone for attending the meeting. He then went on to say that he felt it was the right decision to stand down as Chairman after two years because he felt that the demands of a family, his business and other commitments meant he could not devote the time he would like to this role. He said he felt it had been a privilege to serve as Chairman and thanked all those on the committee for their help and support. He then went on to report that two other members of the committee, namely Chair of P&E and Membership Secretary were also stepping down but there were nominations for these positions and that subject to approval Pam Mannering had offered to take over the Association Chair, unless there were other nominations during the evening.

He then pointed out the Association belonged to the residents of the village and that we need their ideas as aspirations and introduced the suggestion sheets, asking folk to fill in ideas and charities to support next year.

He reported at this point in the year there is a slight decline in membership but it is hoped the new Membership Secretary will follow this up.

His report continued with a summary of various events over the year: The Cherry Fayre which was a marvellous event fostering a great community spirit; Race Night run for the first time; Quiz Night; Craft Fayre; Christmas Event and more recently The Wycombe Orpheus Choir event, held to raise money towards this year's Cherry Fayre.

He then expressed his pleasure with the hard work of the various groups in particular mentioning the great strides the PAT group has made with the Village Traffic Plan; the successful litter pick held by the P & E group, who have another one coming up in a few weeks time. He also thanked those who had kept the planter on the corner of Chapman Lane and Sedgmoor Road looking good.

He explained that not only has the Association been able to give funding to the uniformed groups in the village but has also been able to support the work of organisations sending parcels to the troops in Afghanistan.

He then publicly thanked the Group Chairs for their efforts, especially as all our members have worked on a voluntary basis and there is much work to be done in the organisation and execution of all our events.

In conclusion he felt the committee remains very positive for the coming year, whilst greatly looking forward to events coming later on, particularly the Cherry Fayre, which will have a medieval theme. He would also like to encourage members, if they felt they would like to contribute to the Association, by offering help at events, or maybe being involved with one of the committees, to please come and speak to him or one of the other Group Chairs after the meeting.

6. TREASURERS' REPORT:

Maureen Shepherd presented the Financial Statement for 2008. She acknowledged all the support we had received over the year and said she hoped that everyone had looked at the financial report and accounts; which had been given out. She explained that after consultation with members of the Executive Committee, the format had been changed to make the accounts easier to understand. She said she hoped folk would let her know whether this had been successful.

7. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Craig Lewis reported: Changes have now been made to the database so that folk living in the same house can receive renewals in one envelope, also so that individual roads can be printed off to make distribution easier. Renewals were issued earlier to tie in with the distribution of advertising for the Christmas event and choir concert.

To date 253 members are paid up for 2009 and it is hoped my successor will have the time to follow up those who have not yet renewed. He then went on to explain that his increasing family, business and Choir commitments have meant that he has not had the time to deal with the membership role as he would like.

He finished with; 'I wish my successor all the best and will be more than happy to assist with the transfer of the database, records etc'.

8. REPORTS FROM GROUP CHAIRS:

POLICE AND TRAFFIC GROUP:

David Onslow, Chair of the Police and Traffic Group introduced the report. The report commenced with Barbara Grierson (Secretary PAT Group) giving a short overview of the group's activities over the past year. She then introduced Vince Roberts and Dave Rollison to give more detailed reports on the group's work.

Vince Roberts began his report with the work the group had undertaken with NAG, a group formed of councillors of all levels and members of various community groups. Three main priorities had been chosen; speeding, anti-social behaviour and parking, all had been tackled with some degree of success. He then went on to report on the meetings held with PC Bob Page the local community policeman and the beat surgeries at Christ Church. Vince then highlighted action residents could take to mark property with a UVA pen or similar to make it easier to recover stolen property and asked for suspicious incidents to be reported to both the police and PAT Group. He then

observed that although we have seen some increase of PCSOs patrolling in the village they do not have the same authority as a police officer and Bob Page has very limited time to spend in Flackwell due to the huge area of the NAG.

Dave Rollison commenced his report saying the group has continued to press for action on the Village Traffic Plan despite a number of bureaucratic barriers. He explained we have obtained CWPC's support so hope this will progress the plan with BCC. He went on to say WDC has been written to regarding the proposed re-development of the Daws Hill airbase and development of the two Abbey Barn sites, expressing concerns about the impact on Flackwell Heath in terms of both traffic volumes and the increased strain upon infrastructure should these proposed developments take place. In the same letter concerns were also expressed regarding the lack of publicity in Flackwell Heath for the consultation meetings held last autumn and the fact that WDC seem to be considering these developments independently from any re-development of the Amersham & Wycombe College site. Dave then outlined the group's other activities such as working with the travel group at Juniper Hill School, passing on the results from the parking survey to WDC Parking Department, and their hope to support the Carrington Schools' Travel Plan.

At this point John Savage pointed out there would be another consultation meeting regarding the Daws Hill Lane developments on 13th July probably at the Amersham & Wycombe College. He had complained about the lack of communication with local groups and was told this would be improved. The venue would be confirmed later.

CHERRY FAYRE:

David Onslow, Chair of the Cherry Fayre Committee reported that the last 3 Cherry Fayres had been under the leadership of Mike Scullion who he wished to publicly thank for his unstinting effort. He then thanked all those who helped with the event and with fundraising events for the Fayre and went on to say how the event has grown over the years in both size and popularity from both the public and businesses. He then went on to say that costs of putting on the event have grown to about £11000 so the Association does need to run as many stalls as is practical. Thanks were then expressed to the committee: Ashley Hopkins, Alan Davies, Terry Darby, Graham Parsons, Elaine Parsons, Carolyn Leonard and Pam Mannering who had given so much time to ensure success of the event.

He introduced Terry Darby who reported on the 2008 Fayre saying we had some 70 pitches on site together with a craft fayre section organised by Jeanette Howse of 30 stalls. A full programme of arena events took place and there was a family funfair and various food vendors to look after our needs, the whole afternoon starting with the Grand Parade at noon through the village. He went on to say we had been lucky to engage the services of Terry Smart (Smart's Circus) who had provided some of the attractions and would also be involved in the next Cherry Fayre. Terry then explained the origins of the original Cherry Fayres when the village was full of cherry orchards which had sadly diminished by the late 60s when the fayres ceased. There had been some previous attempts to revive the idea of a Cherry Fayre but it was not until the Resident's Association took on the idea in 2005 that we have the event we now have in the village.

Terry introduced Ashley Hopkins who spoke on this year's fayre. He outlined all the attractions that would be taking part in the event and the various competitions that would be held. He also made the point that it is hoped that more folk will get in the mood and dress up in the medieval theme and that Giggles were offering a discount on the hire of suitable outfits. He then indicated that all the stalls had been let and that the Association would be running a number of stalls. Advertising was also doing well despite the economic climate and extra pages had been added to the programme to accommodate this. He then pointed out that we are reliant on the weather and that although we have been fortunate over the years it is important we cover costs before the event just in case. He pointed out we still need helpers for setting up, clearing up and running stalls and

asked for folk to come forward and leave their contact details. He concluded by thanking David Onslow for chairing the committee this year.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT: Graham Carter, Chair of the Planning and Environment Group reported firstly on planning where he said the group try to offer constructive criticism of development within the village to endeavour to maintain development in keeping with existing properties. The group were pleased to see development controlled opposite Churchill Close and the Entrance to Juniper Hill School. He explained we continue to monitor proposals for the Amersham & Wycombe College and Daws Hill/Abbey Barn sites that undoubtedly will have a significant impact on Flackwell Heath and had attended the first public meeting regarding the Daws Hill developments. He went on to say we hope to focus on individual elements of the Village Design Statement. Regarding environment issues Graham reported we had held another successful litter pick and yet another would be held shortly on 16th May from 9.30am to noon. He expressed the group's pleasure in seeing the progress regarding the paths and clearing around the village, in particular the new footpath down Sheepridge Lane and the clearing at the top of Juniper Lane. He acknowledged the excellent work of our local councillors in this respect.

Graham then thanked Councillor Mike Appleyard for the donation of his ward budget to help beautify the village and the volunteers who attend the planter at the corner of Chapman Lane and Sedgmoor Road.

He concluded with he was pleased to announce a potential new chair of the P&E Group and that all the current members of the group would be continuing. He thanked all group members for the past year and said with a new Chair he hoped we could continue to improve existing links with local bodies and make a real difference to planning and environment in Flackwell.

EVENTS GROUP: Pam Mannering, Chair of the Events Group, reported:

We have had several events to raise money to support the Christmas Tree Lighting Event, the Cherry Fayre and to give to village organisations.

The Quiz Night held in conjunction with the Community Association was its usual success; the funds raised being split 50-50.

The Craft Fayre started very successfully and then rain set in, (it was the same day as the cancelled firework display), so profits were lower than hoped for.

The Race Night was a really enjoyable evening and although tickets sold slowly at first we ended with a sell out.

The Choir Concert was even better than usual and again a sell out.

For the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony we supplied food, free of charge and although we asked for donations we ran at a loss. The Christmas tree supply, erection, dressing and removal costs about £950 from which we deducted 25% before VAT as compensation for the failure of the lights over 6 days. This delay was not due to lack of effort by the FHRA.

Pam concluded by saying she would be very grateful for any new fund raising ideas, or requests for repeat events and that we hope to work more closely with the Community Association to spread events over the year. She also thanked Chris Bull for the various ways he and Christ Church have helped FHRA over the past year.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Craig Lewis commented that the following were willing to stand for re-election. Nominations were requested from the floor but none were received. Therefore the following officers continue:

Treasurer: Maureen Shepherd

Secretary: Carolyn Leonard

Events Group Chairman: Pam Mannering

Police and Traffic Group Chairman: David Onslow

This was proposed by: Elaine Parsons and seconded by Terry Darby.

Craig told members that Pam Mannering was prepared to take over the Chair in the interim unless there were nominations for Chair forthcoming from the floor. In the absence of any nomination Graham Parsons proposed Pam Mannering as Chair and Barbara Grierson seconded the proposal.

It was then proposed that John Johnson take over as Membership Secretary. This was proposed by Pam Mannering and seconded by Maureen Shepherd.

Craig explained that Graham Carter had wished to stand down as Chair of P&E for the past couple of years but remain as a member of the group and that Carolyn Leonard would be willing to take this on if there were no other nominations. In the absence of further nominations this was proposed by Graham Carter and seconded by Grant Foster.

10. ELECTION OF MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIVE:

No other nominations were forthcoming therefore the re-election of Tim Kendell was proposed by Ashley Hopkins and seconded by Mike Scullion.

11. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

So that any general questions were separate from those posed by Mike Overall's talk we would conclude tonight's business with these. Folk were thanked for coming tonight and it was commented on that different parts of the village were well represented.

Questions:

Q: John Johnson, not a member of the Association said he felt that residents were not being made sufficiently aware of:

Motor Cycling Track; Problems if the third runway comes into being; Golden Gateway; Daws Hill/Abbey Barn developments and would like to see a section of 'The Grapevine' for such items.

A: It was explained that it is The Community Association, which runs 'The Grapevine' not FHRA.

12. MIKE OVERALL:

Mike Overall from the Chiltern Society was introduced to the meeting. Mike commenced by saying he had been asked to talk on three topics:

Overview of the Chiltern Society
Aviation issues having a local impact
Potential developments at Daws Hill and Abbey Barn Lane

He addressed each of these items in turn outlining the issues for Flackwell Heath in terms of:

Traffic
Closing the gap between Flackwell Heath and High Wycombe
Damage to the countryside
Impact on community services
The need for the improvement of public transport
He finished by offering to take questions from the floor.

Q: Councillor Julia Langley pointed out there are a number of areas of the river Wye needing care, however The Chiltern Society are only working with folk in some areas.

A: The Chiltern Society would like to work in partnership with all areas of the Wye and if there are any particular areas of concern to bring them to their notice.

Q: If such developments go ahead would the County Council support the village in extra services etc?

A: Do not know whether they would but there are issues such as traffic, which will need addressing.

Mike Appleyard (BCC) was asked to comment. He said that he had not been able to

convince Highways to be enthusiastic about the Village Traffic Plan but the county council priority was the volume of traffic at school times. He said new developments would generate increased traffic and this would need to be pursued with the County council.

Q: It was commented that aircraft coming out of Booker do not appear to be causing a problem however helicopters were.

A: Most helicopters are not associated with Booker and are mostly coming out of London avoiding the London Air Traffic Zone so could not say what the answer is here.

Q: It was pointed out we lose services and not enough folk get up and complain. For instance an enormous amount of money goes to Thames Valley Police yet we get little policing. We need to complain more.

A: The issue has been brought up over the past three years however much of the money is going into technology and not policing on the ground.

Comment from the floor: We want the police house to be occupied by a local policeman and perhaps we should withhold some of our council tax.

13. CLOSE:

Mike Overall was thanked for speaking on behalf of the Chiltern Society and the meeting was closed.