



**MINUTES OF THE 83rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
HELD AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL  
WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL 2015**

**Liz Keable, in the Chair**, opened the meeting with a short period of silence in memory of Doreen Hollingham who had died of cancer in the previous January.

The Chairman then welcomed Cllr John Hills and Cllr Charles Rideout to the meeting and introduced Cllr David Cartwright who unfortunately could not attend, paying tribute to the support and assistance they provide to the community throughout the year. It was noted that due to the forthcoming election none of the Councillors would be making a presentation to the meeting this year but were available for private consultation during the break. She also welcomed Mr B Hawes, the MRA's auditor, Mr Ted Rowlands chair of the Porcupine Development Committee (PDC) and Carole Thomas, Chair of the Friends of the Tarn our speaker for the evening.

**APOLOGIES** Laurie Bell, Cdr Geoffrey Bond, Cllr Mandy Brinkhurst, Cllr David Cartwright, Cllr Matt Hartley, Jim Heath, Brenda Mainwaring-Burton, Krishna Patel, Prof Mayur Patel and representatives from both Bromley and Greenwich Police.

**MINUTES OF THE AGM ON 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014**

**Proposed by Astrid Chklar, seconded by Richard Mainwaring-Burton and, subject to one minor correction, it was resolved unanimously:**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 be and are hereby approved as a true record.**

**CHAIRMAN'S/MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORTS**

**THE CHAIR'S REPORT** was presented by Liz Keable.

The year had been dominated by two issues; Lidl's planning application for the Porcupine Pub site and Bromley's plans regarding the Library service.

Bromley's proposal to annex the Mottingham Library together with 5 other small libraries and offer them to voluntary bodies to be run on a voluntary basis was not well received by residents and the MRA had fought hard to try to retain the library as part of the mainstream service. Mottingham has a disproportionate number of needy residents and an increasing number of children who rely on the library service and a fully costed alternative proposal for savings was put forward to the committee considering Bromley's proposal which voted to continue researching the subject. The next meeting of that committee is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Since Lidl's Appeal over the Porcupine was lost, the site has remained boarded and an eyesore. However, in Lidl's favour, each time we have reported fly posting, it has been removed the very next day. Whenever there have been workmen on site, they have been challenged and told us what they were doing; mostly ensuring security. There has been a rumour circulating that Lidl were planning a neighbourhood store on the site. This arose on the last day of the Appeal hearing. Lidl produced a plan and threatened to implement it, however, Bromley's Planning Officer told them that the alterations would still need Planning Permission. Copies of the proposal were available on the table at the back should attendees wish to view them. In addition, secondary legislation had been passed in March, making it illegal to change the use of, or demolish, a pub with ACV status unless full planning permission has been granted. Mottingham with the support of councillors, Bromley Officers and Bob Neill MP, ploughed a furrow for the rest of the country.

The Chair gave thanks to both Bromley and Greenwich Police who, due to shift patterns were unable to attend this evening. They do provide considerable support during the year and it is notable that Mottingham has one of the lowest crime rates in London.

The Chair reported on the Bromley team's success in dealing combatting Anti-Social-Behaviour and noted that Burglary and violent crimes continue to fall.

Ross Howie then reported for the Greenwich team passing on their advice to ensure back doors and windows were kept fastened to deter burglars, not to leave valuables and particularly Sat Navs in view in vehicles and to be wary of various scams going the rounds. It was noted that Greenwich Police would be holding a street briefing in Broadlawn at 11-11.30 on Thursday 30 April and Bromley would be holding a similar event in Mottingham Library on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May between 11 and 12 am.

**THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT** was presented by Richard Mainwaring-Burton who paid a personal tribute to Doreen Hollighum who had been a Road Steward and Section Leader for a number of years. He also extended thanks to Prof. Mayur Patel and the Chairman for such a smooth handover of the Membership Secretary's duties. There are calculated to be 2028 total residences in the MRA catchment area where we now have 994 member households. However there are still 244 residences not covered by Road Stewards the bulk of which are in the 'Everest Court' type properties where we have difficulty gaining entry. Attempts to streamline the delivery, recruitment and collection processes will continue and we continue to collect email addresses to facilitate electronic communications. Unfortunately progress in this area has been slow and only 200 email addresses have been provided so far.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

In the absence of the Treasurer this report was given by Robert Blanks.

He advised the meeting that the Treasurer, Krishna Patel, was unable to attend this evening having only recently come out of hospital. He has also decided that due to ill health he is no longer able to continue in office and Mr Blanks extended his formal appreciation to Mr Patel for his services to the Association over recent years.

Copies of the audited accounts to 31st March 2015 were circulated and Mr Blanks commented on the consistent performance in the finances over recent years drawing attention to the one significant difference being the donation to the PDC which required seed funding to get itself going. He also noted that the increase in spending on printing and stationery resulted from the increased number of flyers and such like relating to the Porcupine and Library issues. There being no comments on the accounts it was:

**Proposed by Tom Biro, seconded by Ted Rowlands that the audited accounts for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 be and are hereby received and adopted; Duly carried.**

Mr Blanks then drew attention to copies of the Financial Policy and Guidelines which had recently been debated and updated by the Executive Committee. Following this review and noting the amount that had been expended fighting Lidl's plans for the Porcupine the Executive Committee had concluded that an increase in membership fees was called for.

**Ross Howie Proposed, Seconded by Rebecca Young that:  
The Membership fees be increased from £2.00 to £2.50 per annum.**

On a call for comments Tom Biro noted that the fees had not been increased for some time and asked whether this would be sufficient or whether we would have to come back for a further increase next year. Mr Blanks advised that it was always a balancing act as some people sometimes claimed that even £2.00 was too high although it was often better to implement regular small increases in line with inflation rather than have to make larger increases less frequently.

There being no further comment the resolution was put to the meeting and passed Nem Con.

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE ASSOCIATION'S RULES AND STANDING ORDERS**

The Secretary noted that, at last year's meeting it had been proposed that the quorum requirements for Executive Committee meetings be reduced to 50% of the membership with a minimum of 2 as there had been difficulty reaching the previous minimum of 7 with a relatively small committee. The meeting agreed to the change subject to the minimum being 5 (instead of 2) as an interim measure referring the matter to this year's meeting for further discussion.

Mr Blanks then noted that, as we had managed to increase the membership of the Executive Committee this new minimum of 5 had not caused a problem thus the Executive were happy to continue with that arrangement for the foreseeable future. Should a problem occur in the future the executive will return to the subject at a future AGM.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

Liz Keable drew attention to the comment in the notice that she was unable to continue as Chairman of the MRA due to other personal commitments. To simplify the running of the meeting she would, unless there were any objections continue in office until the close of the meeting when she would stand down. There being no objections she offered to discuss the role with any prospective candidates during the break and also sought nominations for any of the other Officer roles.

There being no other nominations the following officers were re-elected unopposed at the meeting

<b>DEPUTY CHAIR</b>	Mr L Bell Proposed Richard Mainwaring – Burton, Seconded by Sheila Blanks
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Mr R Blanks Proposed Astrid Chklar                      Seconded Sally Bettesworth
<b>TREASURER</b>	Mr L Bell Proposed Robert Blanks                      Seconded Ross Howie
<b>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</b>	Mr Richard Mainwaring - Burton Proposed Astrid Chklar                      Seconded Ted Rowlands
<b>AUDITOR</b>	Mr B Hawes Proposed Lorna Ould Seconded Margaret Batley

AS regards the role of chairman Ms Eileen Glover suggested that she might be willing to take on the role and agreed to discuss the position with Liz Keable and attend the next Executive Committee meeting to see what was involved.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Liz Keable noted that Lynn Seymour and Margaret Batley had stood down during the year due to pressure of other commitments and thanked them both for their help and support. All the current members of the Executive Committee had agreed to stand for re-election and there being no objection they were re-elected taken as one Resolution.

Proposed by Margaret Batley, seconded by Sheila Blanks and it was resolved that the following persons be and are hereby re-elected to the Executive Committee:

Laurie Bell  
Edmund Cavendish  
Margaret Henderson  
Richard Mainwaring-Burton  
Margaret Southam

Sally Bettesworth,  
Astrid Chklar  
Ross Howie  
Krisha Patel  
Rebecca Young

Robert Blanks  
Jane Cornish  
Liz Keable  
Prof. Mayur Patel

Carried Nem Con

A request was made for anyone interested in joining the Committee to contact the Chair after the meeting. Anyone interested would be welcome to attend the next meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May to see how it worked. Specific skills required were website operation as the MRA's website needed bringing up to date and continued maintenance and Publishing skill to assist with updating and revitalising the newsletter.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Tom Biro drew attention to the poor lighting at the top of West Park and the alleyway leading to Mottingham Station. John Hills undertook to take this up with the relevant people in Greenwich.

Ross Howie advised that he had witnessed the recent demolition of a tree in Beaconsfield Road and had noted the details of the van that caused the damage. Cllr Rideout agreed to take the details after the meeting.

Rebecca Young noted the apparent removal of a number of litter bins from lampposts throughout the Bromley side of the Village. Cllr Rideout advised that this was a deliberate action as these often caused more trouble than they were worth and advised that alternative larger free standing bins would be strategically placed to replace them.

Concern was also expressed that gutters were not swept frequently enough. Liz Keable drew attention to the Fix My Street website which she used constantly to report problems noting that they were frequently dealt with within 24-48 hours. Cllr Hills noted that two metal bins on the Greenwich side had recently been stolen presumably for their scrap value.

It was also noted that Bromley were proposing to reduce the collection of waste paper from weekly to fortnightly to try to save money.

Richard Mainwaring-Burton then asked the meeting to express their gratitude and record a vote of thanks to Liz Keable for her unstinting efforts and support as Chairman over the recent years. Without her efforts the MRA would not have achieved anywhere near the success it has.

### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Following short break for refreshments the Chairman then introduced Ms Carole Thomas. Chair of the Friends of the Tarn who gave a presentation supported by a number of slides on the history of and the recent efforts to improve the Tarn. She closed with an invitation to all to attend the Open Day at the Tarn on Bank Holiday Monday.

The Chair thanked her for a very interesting talk and wished her and her colleagues every success in their efforts.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.