

	<b>WOODCOTE (EPSOM) RESIDENTS' SOCIETY</b> <b>MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2024</b> <b>AT THE HAYWAIN, DORKING ROAD, EPSOM.</b>	
AGENDA NUMBER	<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	ACTION
1.	<p><b>PRESENT:</b></p> <p><b>Committee Members</b> – John Mumford (JM) Chair) Jane Clarke (JC) Kristine Damberg (KD), Fred Mowbray (FM) Bob Tranter (BT) and Bernard Woolfe (BM)</p> <p><b>Councillors</b> - Bernice Froud (BF) Liz Frost (LF) and Steven McCormick (SM)</p> <p>and 35 Woodcote &amp; Langley Vale Ward Residents in person</p> <p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> – Cherrill Auton (CA) and John Steward (JS)</p>	
2.	<p><b>PRESENTATION</b></p> <p>The Chair introduced our speaker Alex Coley who is standing as an independent in the May election for Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner and handed over to him to talk to the meeting on the approach he would take to the role if he is successful in being elected.</p> <p>Alex Coley introduced himself. He was born and raised in Surrey and has been a local RA councillor since 2018. He has a strong interest in policing and in particular community policing. He is someone who believes in visible on the ground policing. In the past he has worked in policing in the Metropolitan Police. Currently he is a member of the Police and Crime Panel and the Epsom &amp; Ewell Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p>He does not believe things are working well at the moment in Surrey and that in his view it is the result of a political choice to build up reserves rather than a lack of resourcing. He also highlighted that Surrey Police was alone in being majority funded by council tax rather than government funding which was moving towards an American model of policing which would lead to a lack of consistency across England and was not an approach he wanted to see continuing to be rolled-out. The 2023-2025 Inspection by the Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire &amp; Rescue Services had found there were not enough police on the ground and its response to the public was therefore inadequate; data recording was inadequate; and improvements were required to the way the force looked after its workforce. Alex emphasised that his priority if elected would be to put the reserves to work to address those three areas.</p> <p>Residents expressed concerns about the safety of women and girls in the borough not being given the attention it needed; the street lighting policy; drug use; anti-social behaviour and the importance of restoring activities for young people in the borough.</p>	

3.	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2023 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH, ASHLEY ROAD, EPSOM</b></p> <p>The minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting were approved as a correct record.</p>	
4.	<p><b>2023 ANNUAL REVIEW</b></p> <p>The Chair took the meeting through the review. He congratulated our three excellent ward Councillors on their re-election and welcomed the three new Committee members who joined us in year and had broadened the experience of the Committee. He also ran through the key planning decisions taken over the past year and the influence the Society had on the outcome of each in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The Guild Living site and multi-storey car park at Epsom Hospital which were both now under review</li> <li>-stopping the Telecoms mast in Langley Vale</li> <li>-the refusal of a residential re-development between Whitehorse Drive and Bucknills Close;</li> <li>-the proposed housing scheme to replace Ashtead Park Nursery in the neighbouring borough of Mole Valley which has been refused</li> <li>-the refusal of the application to develop Green Gables for student accommodation;</li> <li>-the un-necessary felling of an old established Yew Tree in the Chalk Lane Conservation Area was prevented</li> <li>-the rejection of a proposed downgrading of the housing development at Langley Bottom Farm; and</li> <li>-representations about construction problems and planning enforcement issues relating to the Woodcote Grove residential development.</li> </ul> <p>The chair also highlighted the problems for residents caused by the long running ‘temporary’ closure of the Castle Road footbridge over the railway.</p> <p>In closing the Chair reported that James Blythe, the Managing Director of the Epsom &amp; St Helier University Hospital NHS Trust had agreed to speak at our next Residents meeting which will take place at the Epsom Sports Club at 7.30 pm on Thursday 17 October 2024.</p>	
5.	<p><b>APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2023</b></p> <p>In presenting the audited accounts for 2023 the Chair explained that the Society had had a very difficult year financially because of the low numbers of subscriptions collected following the pandemic and having at the same time to meet the costs associated with the 2023 Borough Council elections and the higher cost of printing our hard copy newsletters.</p> <p>The Chair went on to encourage members to pay their subscription if they have not already done so and emphasised the importance of signing up to</p>	

	<p>the Society's electronic newsletter so it can keep in regular touch with them between newsletters.</p> <p>The accounts were approved as a true and fair statement.</p>	
6.	<p><b>APPOINTMENT OF THE HONORARY AUDITOR FOR 2024</b></p> <p>The meeting approved the re-appointment of Bevis and Co as the Honorary Treasurer for 2024 and thanked him for continuing to audit the accounts for the Society on a voluntary basis.</p>	
7.	<p><b>MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS</b></p> <p>The meeting approved the increased membership subscription fee to £5 per household and agreed to withdraw Life Membership going forward.</p> <p>It was noted that residents who already had Life Membership would not be impacted by the change.</p>	
8.	<p><b>UPDATES TO THE SOCIETY RULES</b></p> <p>Minor changes to update the Society Rules to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-reflect the change in the name of the Ward to add Langley Vale</li> <li>-enable businesses in the Ward to become members</li> <li>-reflect the agreed changes to the subscriptions</li> <li>-update the methods of payment of subscriptions</li> <li>-include references to electronic communications and on-line attendance and voting at meetings</li> <li>-change references to the "Chairman" to "Chair"</li> <li>-changes the quorum and numbers of Committee meetings held each year.</li> </ul> <p>were agreed by the meeting.</p>	
9.	<p><b>ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WOODCOTE(EPSOM) RESIDENTS' SOCIETY FOR 2023</b></p> <p>Cherrill Auton (CA) Jane Clarke (JC), Kristine Damberg (KD) Fred Mowbray (FM), John Mumford (JM) John Steward (JS) Bob Tranter (BT) and Bernard Woolfe (BW) were re-elected as Committee Members for 2024.</p> <p>Any residents interested in joining the Committee or supporting the work of the Society by becoming a road representative were encouraged to speak to Chair at the end of the meeting about what was involved.</p> <p>A point about improving the diversity of the Committee was noted and the Committee confirmed that it would be continuing to try to broaden its composition so that it represented the make-up of the ward but that it was a very difficult thing to achieve.</p>	

<p>10.</p>	<p><b>REPORTS FROM YOUR RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION BOROUGH COUNCILLORS</b></p> <p>Bernice Froud tabled her report to the meeting. She focussed on her role as Vice Chair to the Community &amp; Wellbeing Committee and its work to ensure it continues to meet the needs of residents in the borough including the most vulnerable; to address homelessness and temporary accommodation and implement a suicide prevention strategy.</p> <p>There were a number of questions on the level of suicide in the Borough and the reasons for this and the need for more council housing. Bernice gave an update on work to reduce the number of empty properties and agreed to follow up specific points made about empty residential properties and offices. She also confirmed that the Council was looking at Compulsory Purchase.</p> <p>Liz Frost talked in particular about her role as the Chair of the Standards &amp; Constitution Committee and the Constitution working group and as Vice Chair of the Environment Committee, its work on the Climate Action Plan; the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (a link to this will be added on to the Society website); Trees on Borough land; the management of Ash Die-back and the tree planting strategy; and the management of allotments.</p> <p>Liz also highlighted Covid Memorial day at the beginning of March and the Ward's two Memorial benches.</p> <p>In connection with the works on the Castle Road footbridge Liz confirmed that she had been in touch with the relevant Officer about the state of the Common and they would be following this up. Steven McCormick also updated that the works by Network Rail to the footbridge were currently on hold until the beginning of the new financial year when additional funding would become available.</p> <p>There was also a question from a resident about the costs of legal advice associated with a change to how delegated decisions are made. It was agreed this as this was a Borough Council issue and not a question for this meeting and that further discussion should be taken outside the meeting.</p> <p>Steven McCormick spoke about his many roles in the Borough and the Committees he was serving on at County level. He also took a number of questions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-the local plan, how the Borough had to start building houses again and that this would require a complete change in approach; and</li> <li>-on the state of roads/the impact on the health and wellbeing of residents of pot holes across the borough and how this work is funded.</li> <li>-congestion on the A24 at the junction with Woodcote Green Road and a suggestion that a yellow no entry box would help resolve the issue</li> <li>-car parking at Woodcote Grove and that he was continuing to seek a solution.</li> <li>-the accuracy of the percentage changes set out in the Council Tax Demand Notice</li> </ul>
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11.	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>  No other business was raised.	
12.	<b>The meeting closed at 21.40</b>	