

# Minutes

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

LALEHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

HELD AT THE PAVILION, THE BROADWAY, LALEHAM ON 17 May 2017 7.30 PM

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### **Present:**

Richard Walsh, Councillor, SCC

Maureen Attewell, Councillor, SBC

Mary Madams, Local Councillor, SBC

Kwasi Kwarteng, MP

### **Committee Members:**

David Furst, Chair

Martin Jones, Treasurer

Debbie Parkes, Secretary

Donnica Coleman, Membership Secretary

Gerry Morris, Committee member

Dominic O'Malley, Committee member

Deborah Sackett, Committee member

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Eric Sloan.

### **2. Chairman's welcome and Introduction**

The Chair thanked members for attending the AGM and welcomed the Councillors to the meeting. He advised that a number of LRA members, who would have liked to be present, had sent their apologies. The Chair introduced Committee members.

### **3. Annual Review**

### **3.1 Logo**

Attention was drawn to the new LRA Logo, which was met with approval by members.

### **3.2 Hanging Baskets**

The Chair advised that in view of their poor quality the LRA had received a full refund for last year's hanging baskets, therefore members had not been asked to contribute to hanging baskets this year

### **3.3 Benches**

Eric Sloan had conducted a number of walks around the village and had concluded that a 'tidying up' operation was required, in particular with relation to the benches. Spelthorne Borough Council has given organisations the opportunity to apply for a 'windfall grant' and the LRA is hopeful that its bid to replace five benches in the centre of the village will be successful. There was a further possibility that the Council may contribute to the refurbishment of a number of other benches in need of repair.

### **3.4 Litter Pick**

The Membership Secretary thanked volunteer LRA members who had taken part in two village litter picks.

### **3.5 Area around the Heritage Centre**

The Membership Secretary thanked the volunteers who had cleared away undergrowth around the Heritage Centre. This work had included clearance of the drainage ditch by the school crossing and the Committee requested Richard Walsh to organise regular clearance of this drain by a sucker truck. This was agreed. **AGREED**

### **3.6 War Memorial**

Jean Woods has been looking after the War Memorial for a number of years and has won first and third prizes for best kept memorial. Members thanked her for her work and asked anyone who can help with additional watering to contact the committee.

### **3.7 Gardens Open Day**

The Membership Secretary advised that fourteen gardens had been open last year; other attractions had included the Laleham pond (opened by Spelthorne Civic Pride), the Church Flower Festival and the Heritage Centre . Viv and Carol Austen had hosted the after party and a profit of £560 had been achieved.

Gardens Open Day this year would be on Saturday 17 June 2017 and Notcutts had kindly agreed to sponsor the event. Unfortunately, a low number of gardens had been offered and, if new entrants were not forthcoming, the Garden Open Day event may have to be held every other year.

### **3.8 Quiz Night**

The ever popular LRA Quiz had made a profit of c£400. This year the Quiz was set for an earlier date – Saturday 23 September.

### **3.9 Village Fair**

Deborah Sackett reported on the arrangements for this year's village fair. A number of contributors had returned following good feedback from last year and attractions included: annual dog show; kids zone; dance displays; vintage cars; tug-of-war; excellent raffle prize and 32 stalls to date. Anyone who would like to book a stall was invited to contact.

[Lalehamfair2017@gmail.com](mailto:Lalehamfair2017@gmail.com)

### **3.10 Pantomime**

Members were reminded to contact the Membership Secretary for tickets to this year's pantomime when they go on sale towards the end of September as tickets usually sell quickly.

## **4. Report from the Curator of the Heritage Centre**

Dominic O'Malley advised that, for a number of years, the Parish CC has had insufficient space in the Heritage Centre. It has therefore been agreed that the areas currently occupied by the PCC and the LRA will be exchanged. Work begins on 18 May and should be completed by July, when the Heritage Centre will be re-opened.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Martin Jones circulated the Income and Expenditure Accounts – Year to 31 March 2017. The Treasurer noted that the LRA's objectives were not to make a profit, but as stated in its Constitution.

Attention was drawn to the areas of Income and Expenditure, and the Treasurer noted that a) 2017 fair monies received in advance had not been counted in last year's accounts and b) last year's hanging baskets monies had been carried forward to 2017.

Members noted that Mavis Duncan had allowed the LRA to build a large cupboard dedicated to storage in the village hall.

## **6. Membership and Communications**

The LRA currently has 160 subscribed members with a dedicated website and Facebook Group. It is also featured in Shepperton Matters (thanks were expressed to the Editor, Monica Chard), which is delivered by committee members to 500 houses in the village.

In response to a member's question, the Treasurer said that he would see whether it was possible to set up a standing order for membership payment. **ACTION MJ**

## **7. Revised Constitution**

The LRA Constitution had been revised last year and approved at the LRA AGM on 3 June 2016. On submission of the new constitution to the Charity Commission, the association had been asked to expand its objectives to state how it plans to achieve them. The committee noted that:

- a) a communication had been sent to members, advising them that the updated copy of the constitution had been posted on the LRA's website, and;
- b) the revised constitution was posted on the noticeboard at the meeting.

The revised constitution was adopted (unanimously) by the members at the meeting.

## **8. Election of Committee Members and Officers**

The following LRA Committee members were nominated, seconded and elected to serve for the Year:

Gerry Morris

Eric Sloan

Dominic O'Malley

Deborah Sackett

The following LRA Officers were nominated, seconded and elected to serve for the year:

Chair: David Furst

Treasurer: Martin Jones

Membership Secretary: Donnica Colman

Secretary: Debbie Parkes

## 9. Laleham Traffic Report

The Surrey County Council Highways Team had carried out a traffic survey over the last year and the link to this survey had been emailed to members. The survey had been carried out at the request of the LRA and was a prerequisite to actions that might be taken, with regard, for example, to speed limits or traffic calming measures.

The Chair introduced Richard Walsh, who presented the report. He advised that seventeen people had been injured in road accidents covered by the report since 2013, citing the following reasons: failure of people to look properly, excess speed/impairment by alcohol/mobile phone use/tailgating and weather conditions.

The recommendations proposed by Richard Walsh for consideration by members were Options 2,5 and 8 in the Feasibility Report:

- A reduction of the speed limit in the 50mph section of the Shepperton Road to 40mph
- Village Gateways, yellow backed speed limit terminal signs, slow markings, red light friction surfacing and vehicle activated signs on Shepperton road to make motorists aware they are entering the village
- An anti-skid strip of high friction surfacing at the junction of Abbey Drive and Shepperton Road

Specifically, Mr Walsh was asking for majority agreement on the 50mph to 40mph recommendation.

Questions were invited from the floor. The following issues were amongst those raised during lengthy discussion.

Members felt strongly that the priority with regard to traffic proposals should be in relation to the speed at which Heavy Goods Vehicles travel through the village; there was agreement that this should be reduced to 20 mph. Mr Walsh advised that a 20mph speed limit through the village would not be enforced by the Police.

The Chair noted that over 21,000 vehicles had travelled through the village in July at the time of the survey and that this statistic included one HGV every two minutes.

Members questioned the effect that fumes from Heavy Goods Vehicles were having on residents and noted that the church required building structure repair as a result of traffic levels.

Members were advised that the closure of the recycling plant and the planned closure of the Industrial Site at Littleton Lane would reduce the volume of HGV traffic through the village. Richard Walsh advised that Surrey County Council does not own the Industrial Site and was working to ensure that the gravel company moves out of the site by 2020. He

noted that it would be extremely difficult to find alternative routes for Heavy Goods Vehicles.

Members felt that the inclusion of rush hour traffic had probably had an impact on the overall speed statistics and the Committee asked that further work is done to ensure an accurate average speed check.

A discussion took place about possible traffic calming measures, with attention drawn to the location of the primary school in the centre of the village and the lack of crossings for pedestrians. Members felt that it was only a matter of time before a serious accident took place.

Members requested that the 30mph speed limit sign approaching Laleham from Shepperton Road commences approximately 150 yards further back.

Mr Walsh advised that there was a lengthy process for highway changes and that any changes to the report's recommendations would need to be implemented over a number of years due to financial constraints.

Kwasi Kwarteng commended Mr Walsh and Mr Furst for working together on the proposals. He asked members for their vote on the recommended options.

The Laleham Residents Association welcomed the proposals made by the Traffic Survey report but felt that they did not go nearly far enough in addressing the issue of traffic, particularly Heavy Goods Vehicles, through the village. Notwithstanding this view, members agreed that the following options should be pursued immediately:

- A reduction of the speed limit in the 50mph section of the Shepperton Road to 40mph
- A repositioning of the 30mph sign approaching Laleham from Shepperton Road to commence 150 yards further back.

Members agreed that the additional, non contradictory, options should be pursued as soon as funds allow:

- Village Gateways, yellow backed speed limit terminal signs, slow markings, red light friction surfacing and vehicle activated signs on Shepperton road to make motorists aware they are entering the village
- An anti-skid strip of high friction surfacing at the junction of Abbey Drive and Shepperton Road

**ACTION: the Chair to communicate the views of the Laleham Residents Association on the Traffic Survey options to Surrey County Council.**

**10. Any Other Business** There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm