

THE BOOKHAMS RESIDENTS ' ASSOCIATION

Company Limited by Guarantee – Number 10053863

Minutes of the 96th Annual General Meeting Held on Wednesday 9th August 2023

Present:

Directors: Peter Seaward (Chair), Simon Edge (Vice Chair), Carolyn Elson, Neil McDowall, Les Huett (Secretary) Cllr Roger Adams.

District Councillors: Cllr Monica Weller, Cllr Andrew Matthews, Cllr Paul Kennedy.

Members and Committee Members of the Association.

1. Chairman's Welcome

Peter Seaward welcomed everybody on this his last AGM as Chairman.

2. Apologies for absence:

Apologies had been received from Simon Baxter, Geoff Tranter, C Cllr Clare Curran, Cllr Christine Miller, Cllr Elizabeth Daly.

3. Minutes of the 95th Annual General Meeting:

3.1 Accuracy. The Minutes were ACCEPTED as a true record of the meeting.

3.2 Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report:

A full copy of the Chairmans Report is attached as Attachment 1

Simon Edge replied giving his fulsome praise for the sterling and inspiring work carried out by Peter over the last 20 years as Chairman.

A full copy of Simon Edge's reply is attached as Attachment 2.

5. Financial Report for 2022:

Neil McDowall stated that he had taken over as Treasurer from Chris Pullan. On behalf of the Board he would like to thank Chris very much for all his hard work over the last 15 years.

Income & Expenditure Account:

5.1 Income:

Subscriptions were £10.1k (2021 £10.9k) a 7% decrease. However the subscriptions for the year to date 2023 are ahead of the 2022 figure, which is encouraging, and has been driven by a communications exercise with all the residents earlier in the year. In addition to subscription income – we received grants from MVDC for specific purposes – together with donations from Bookham Traders totalling £13.9k (2021 £10.4k)

The Income and Expenditure Account showed a deficit for the year of £7.2k (2021 surplus £5.5k)

5.2 Expenditure:

The principal reasons for the movement, year on year, were payments of -£4.6k for the power supply to St Nicolas lychgate, £3.7k on the Vehicle Activated speed signs, £3k for the Local Plan.

Funds were also spent, as in prior years, on provision and maintenance of the village benches, trees and shrubs, hanging baskets, Christmas Lights, litter picking, the newsletter and the website.

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5.3 Balance Sheet:

The Balance Sheet remains strong and at £19.2k, is at a similar level to the years prior to 2021.

At the year end, as well as the General Fund £7.5k, we have specific funds for Bookham Heritage, Trees and shrubs, Christmas Lights, Benches and Hanging Baskets totaling £11.8k

6. Election of Directors:

6.1. The meeting noted that Alan Freeman and Peter Seaward had resigned from the Board of Directors.

6.2 The meeting was asked to ratify the appointment of Neil McDowall to the Board of Directors.

On being put to the vote, this was AGREED

6.3 There were no nominations received for any other appointments to the Board.

7. Election of Officers to the Company:

7.1 Election of Chairman:

Simon Edge was nominated as Chairman. On being put to the vote this was AGREED.

7.2 Election of Vice Chairman:

No nominations have been received.

7.3 Election of Treasurer:

Neil McDowall was nominated as Treasurer. On being put to the vote this was AGREED.

7.4 Election of Honorary President:

Peter Seaward was nominated as Honorary President. On being put to the vote this was AGREED.

7.5 Election of Honorary Vice President:

Michelle Smith has confirmed that she is willing to continue as Honorary Vice President.

8. Determination of Membership Subscription for 2024:

It was AGREED that the membership subscription for the year 2024 remain at £5 per household.

9. Any Other Business:

There were no other items.

10. **Guest Speaker:**

Inspector James Green, the Area Police Commander, gave a talk on the organization of the Police in Surrey and the main problems that they currently faced.

The main areas of concern, particularly affecting Bookham, were anti social behavior, domestic abuse and rural crime. Burglaries were fortunately not that common in Bookham, although of the total last year of 132, 34 were of out buildings. However, anti social behavior was Bookham's main concern and the Police had marked specific areas where problems had been reported.

In questions from the floor, the difficulty in contacting the Police in reporting incidents was causing concern, especially the use of 101. Inspector Green suggested that messages could be speeded up by using the Surrey Police Website.

However, the problem had to be faced that although an extra 179 new police had been recruited, the number leaving was still high and the total of 1800 Officers in Surrey was not enough to provide the level of Policing they would need to give a truly satisfactory service.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Green for his interesting account of Surrey Police.