



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
15 OCTOBER 2021
GREENWOOD CENTRE at 7:30 pm
MINUTES

Attendees:

Trustees: Bob Trott (Chair), Margot Rohan (Secretary), Joseph Garber (Treasurer)

Associate Members: Cllr Mike Botting, Mr & Mrs Ken Bullen, Richard Dunstan, Elizabeth Downie, Jennie Engbarth, Alan Garelick, Richard Gibbons, Kathy & Keith Hamilton, Brenda & Barrie Newman, Ted Watson

The Chairman, Bob Trott, welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Councillor Mike Botting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Angela Page and Kim Botting, Phillip & Susan Davy, Jean Garelick, Patricia Hurry, Linda Laurence-Tozer, Margaret Lawrence, William Sear and Colin Wright.

2. **MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 10 MAY 2019**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 10 May 2019 had been posted on the website and copies were available at the meeting. Agreement of the minutes as a true record was proposed by Brenda Newman and seconded by Ted Watson and the meeting **AGREED** them unanimously.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

- Barry Newman had asked about exterior painting. The Chair advised that the trustees had agreed dove grey rather than white.
- For the broken wall opposite Waitrose, one of the local businesses, Ecotec, repaired it and paid for the materials free of charge.

AOB was taken first so that Councillor Mike Botting to attend another meeting.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW TRUSTEES**

The Chair introduced Joseph Garber who had also taken on the role of treasurer. The Chair explained that another new trustee, Sean Bridge, has recently become a father and, with his full time job, was finding trustee responsibilities more than he had expected.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts for both 2019-20 and 2020-21 had been finalised, independently examined and posted on the Charity Commission website, as required.

Joseph Garber shared his background. He has been a resident in Orpington for seven years but worked abroad, returning home permanently in 2019. He wanted to get more involved in community matters. His initiation into the GSGA has been an interesting few months getting the refurbishment done.

He gave a summary of the accounts for both years. The difference between the two years has been stark with the impact of Covid. There was a significant reduction in income for 2020-21 - £16,000 compared with £25,000 the previous year. It has been encouraging to see the increase in donations. There is a need to leverage a lot more revenue streams and get more engagement with the community.

For expenditure, there was a reduction £22,000 2019-20 to £19,000 2020-21 but there was still a deficit due to the cost of maintaining the hall. Going forward the cost of maintenance should reduce as maintenance is now up to date. A resident asked about whether insurance against lost of income was possible but companies now make it very expensive.

Cash balances are in a good state. With pre-school and hiring increasing again, we hope not to have to draw done further reserves.

For the last six months, April-October, there is a deficit as we are still funding expenditure from reserves. The new pre-school was allowed to defer rent whilst it got up and running. Income was mainly from the previous pre-school (CSAT) – approximately £3,000.

Lilly Brook (pre-school) has approached Waitrose for funding and GSGA will also put in another request for the green tokens scheme. The pre-school is also applying for a £2,000 grant on behalf of the GSGA.

The Accounts were **APPROVED** – proposed by Alan Garelick, seconded by Ted Watson.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report is on the website. The Chair had already covered all the issues under AOB.

The report was **ACCEPTED** – proposed by Ken Bullen, seconded Alan Garelick.

7. VILLAGE SOCIETY COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

William Sear was unwell and unable to attend. The Chair read out William Sear's report. A copy is on the website. Due to continuing ill health, William Sear has resigned from the Committee.

The report was **ACCEPTED** – proposed by Barrie Newman and seconded by Ted Watson.

8. **ELECTION OF VILLAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS**

The following Committee members agreed to stand for re-election:

- Elizabeth Downie
- Tamara Galloway

The following Committee member was also elected by self-nomination at the meeting:

- Richard Gibbons.

Proposed en bloc by Brenda Newman and seconded by Jennie Engbarth. All three appointments were agreed unanimously by the attendees.

Richard Gibbons is particularly interested in road safety along the High Street and environmental issues, such as cleaning up the Green. He and his wife, Alison, regularly do litter picking there. There is no Friends Group for GSG Common and he hopes to set one up. There is an active group in Warren Road.

Honorary Auditor: Stephen Gates will need to confirm that he is agreeable to being re-elected. *(Post meeting note: Stephen Gates agreed to continue.)*

9. **ELECTION OF VILLAGE SOCIETY COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

As there were not enough Committee members elected, the officers will be appointed at the next viable Committee meeting.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

This was taken at the beginning of the meeting as Councillor Mike Botting needed to leave for another meeting.

The Chair announced the membership subscription was being considered for increasing to £5 p.a. for each household from April 2022. Alan Garelick queried the increase. He feared it would lead to losing more members. He suggested reducing the number of newsletters to two again. Margot Rohan and Joseph Garber explained the need to demonstrate the value of being a member. Now there were four newsletters per year and the £2 subscription did not even cover the cost of its production. The subs have remained at £2pa for at least sixteen years. Ken Bullen supported having four newsletters and felt they were informative, better quality and members appreciated being kept up to date.

Cllr Mike Botting mentioned speeding from The Crescent and more accidents at the mini roundabout and along the High Street. The company which originally quoted for the village sign coming from The Crescent does not do signs any more, so a new company had to be found and the signs will now be of a new material, durable and will not rust. However, there are problems with TfL regarding the sign on the A21 roundabout, as originally LBB applied for a metal sign but now a new application will have to be made as it is a different material.

In Lynne Close, heavy vehicles have worn away the corner and LBB are discussing repairs. Round the back of the close, a fence has been down for years but Bromley never took over the repair from OUDC. Cllr Botting is following up.

WEL double yellow lines – there have been no complaints about parking for over a year so Cllr Botting is not pursuing this now.

Ex-Public Conveniences bollards – Cllr Botting announced that Malekos Estates Commercial had been given until 29 October to replace the concrete bollards and remove their collapsible ones. If this is not done, the Council will take action. The Chair also mentioned the erection of a fence which prevents the GSGA from maintaining the side wall of the hall.

In November 2020, Margot Rohan put in an application to make The Greenwood Centre an Asset of Community Value. Cllr Botting had investigated and the Council department responsible admitted they had forgotten about it – they get so few!

Cllr Botting reminded residents about the Walnuts planning application. There was to be an open day on 2 November 4-7pm for residents groups. The 26 storey tower, which had caused much consternation, has been lowered. More concessions will probably be needed before the Planning Department are prepared to approve it.

Our ward will be Chelsfield Ward from 2022, with two councillors. The roads behind The Crescent and Pratts Bottom have moved to other wards. Bromley councillors have reduced from 60 to 58 councillors.

Wheatsheaf Hill, Halstead remains a problem, with the landowner wanting to develop green belt. An injunction has been issued. Council officers have gone there to investigate and had an aggressive reception.

Broke Hill (Sevenoaks) – there will be a public enquiry on 2 November. Bromley is objecting. The plans include a primary school but no secondary, no hospital – there is a lack of services for the proposed 800 homes.

Flightpath Watch is continuing to agitate to the Council regarding Biggin Hill flights.

The Mayor of London is planning on charging £3.50 to enter London Boroughs. Bromley is fighting it. It would be a problem with those travelling from Sevenoaks to work in our Borough.

The Chair advised that there is a long term plan to redo the hall and other floors, matching the new floors in the lobby, kitchen and lavatories.

Emergency exit from the rear of the hall – the Trustees have finally signed the Land Transfer Deed but the fully signed final copy is still awaited.

Barrie Newman commented that GSG residents were appreciative of the work of the Committee and improvements to the Greenwood Centre.

The Chair explained about the opening of the new LillyBrook Greenwood Pre-School, replacing CSAT which suddenly announced closure in June. They have made good contact with Vine Road Primary and we hope to revive more community events and performances. The Chair promoted the Christmas Concert to be performed by The Grove Singers of London on Sunday 5 December at 3pm. All profits will go to the GSGA. Tickets will be £10 including refreshments. Volunteers will be needed to serve the drinks and mince pies in the interval.

The VS Committee needs to be revived but needs more members. It may be difficult to organise a raffle again this year without more volunteers. The Trustees are looking at various ways to raise funds.

Poppies for lamp posts – volunteers are needed. PLEASE CONTACT Margot Rohan: GSGAssn@gmail.com or 07710 356 964 or leave a message on 01689 600985.

The Meeting closed at 8:41pm, followed by refreshments.