



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
16 SEPTEMBER 2022
GREENWOOD CENTRE at 7:30 pm
MINUTES

Attendees:

Trustees: Margot Rohan (Secretary), Alan Garelick (Treasurer), Uma Datta, Molly Simpson

Associate Members and visitors: Cllr Mike Botting, Peter and Greta Davies, Elizabeth Downie, Richard and Anne Dunstan, Jennie Engbarth, Jackie Fawcitt, Chris Fleming, Jean Garelick, Stephen and Josephine Gates, Richard Gibbons, Patrice Grace, Keith and Kathy Hamilton, Mat Islamov, Linda Laurence-Tozer, Brenda Newman, Carmela Nola, Jackie Sadler and Ted Watson

The Secretary, Margot Rohan, welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Councillors Mike Botting and Angela Page.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Sharon Baldwin, Kim Botting, Malcolm & Joan Hurry, Caroline Jessup, Bob Mills and Barrie Newman

2. **MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2021**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 15 October 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 Chris Fleming and seconded by Brenda Newman and the meeting **AGREED** them unanimously.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The accounts for 2021-22 had been finalised, independently examined and posted on the Charity Commission website, as required.

Alan Garelick, Treasurer, gave a brief summary of the accounts. He explained that the income of £76,000 was a grant from City Bridge Trust to put in the disabled toilet and upgrade the facilities. Depreciation on the new assets was therefore a large amount.

The Accounts were **APPROVED** – proposed by Chris Fleming, seconded by Jennie Engbarth

5. REPORT FROM THE TRUSTEES

In the absence of a Chair, Margot Rohan, Secretary, gave a summary of the charity's performance over the last year:

- Membership is over 400, with some outstanding subscription renewals
- At least a quarter of members are now paying online or by cheque
- The up-to-date toilet facilities have been much admired
- Good news – Chuckletots Pre-School is launching in January and hopes to expand to a full nursery 8am-6pm with holiday clubs in the future
- Further grants are being sought for:
 - hall flooring to match the new lobby flooring
 - re-rendering the front wall
 - refurbishing the roof
- To make a positive contribution to the environmental footprint, an Eco audit (report on the website in the members' area) has been carried out by CBT and two of the recommendations are:
 - To increase the roof insulation to current standards
 - To get a quote for solar panels
- The current roof insulation includes polystyrene which is highly flammable and has no fire retardant element so it will have to be removed
- The guttering at the righthand side (from the front) is now in place flowing into the gully at the front, with permission from next door
- The installation of next door's fire exit onto the GSGA pathway is awaited, so quid pro quo GSGA will gain access via the door to maintain the side of the hall and also to dig a gully from the boundary to next door's drain.
- As reported in the newsletters, two new trustees have joined the Board, one with fundraising and events expertise who joined in August and has great plans for the future of the GSGA to make the community more aware and more engaged with activities.

Uma Datta and Molly Simpson were then introduced.

Uma joined in December and lives in St Mary Cray. She explained that she is looking into grants and also the expansion of activities for which the hall can be used.

Molly introduced herself. She has been working in charities for seven years in fundraising, in addition to personal fundraising projects in which she has been involved. She stressed that the GSGA is a charity and needs donations. There are great Christmas plans, including selling Christmas cards. She is excited to bring something new to the charity.

6. VILLAGE SOCIETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Alan Garelick, Chair of the Village Society Committee explained how the Committee has been restarted, with their first meeting on 13 July. The main objective is to revitalise Green Street Green High Street. Richard Gibbons wrote an article in the latest newsletter, including a project to start a gardening group.

First event on 24 September – Quiz – there were a few tables left.

Christmas party 10 December 2:30pm.

Annual raffle – the profit will be used to help people with special needs in the area.

7. ELECTION OF VILLAGE SOCIETY COMMITTEE

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

- Jackie Fawcitt
- Tamara Galloway
- Alan Garelick
- Jean Garelick
- Richard Gibbons
- Mat Islamov
- Caroline Jessup
- Ted Watson

Proposed en bloc by Peter Davies and seconded by Elizabeth Downie. All eight appointments were agreed unanimously by the attendees.

Honorary Auditor: Stephen Gates confirmed that he is agreeable to being re-elected.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Richard Gibbons was invited to speak. He is particularly interested in environmental issues. He has lived in Green Street Green since 1978. He has also been Co-Chair of the Friends of Priory Gardens for a number of years. He was also involved with the campaign to stop the Council selling The Priory some years ago. Ironically, The Priory has a number of royal connections – the Spencer family owned it at one time. The Priory is currently managed by a company offering artists' studio space. It was to be open 17-18 September.

During the pandemic, iDverde asked Richard to take an interest in the Green. They inspected it together and cleared all the rubbish. Every week he has been out litter picking around the Green and on Sevenoaks and Warren Roads. Since the local elections 2,500 cans and bottles and over 40 sacks of rubbish have been picked up. A recent phenomenon is nitrous oxide gas canisters which youngsters use for legal highs. Fastgas large canisters each hold the equivalent of 80 of the small canisters. 50 of those have been picked up.

He attended the Council's Health & Wellbeing meeting in June and was shocked to see a presentation on drug misuse. It is particularly worrying that the 11-15 year age group has a high use of nitrous oxide which is the second most used drug. Hospitalisation in Bromley Borough is higher than most other London Boroughs. The canisters and associated paraphernalia are also harmful to wildlife and are not recyclable.

He also reported that the local SNT uncovered a cannabis farm in WEL. However, when SNT members are not around sometimes they do not get to hear about local incidents. He felt there was a need for more information sharing.

He also mentioned:

- Fly tipping – Veolia clear it away but a Keep Britain Tidy report was published and there is little evidence of its recommendations being implemented.
- The Green – a new bench installed in 2020 – graffiti and damaged.
- All bus shelters vandalised.
- Speeding on Sevenoaks Road is a perennial problem and there have been several car crashes in the last year in and around the area.

The Gardening group project is aimed to make the village more attractive.

- Quick win – shrubbery around the coal post opposite Waitrose us looking very untidy.
- Want to improve the welcome to visitors.
- Intend to do it on semi-regular basis but the Council will require a formal proposal, working in co-operation with new Friends group for the Green, so the group will be covered by the Council.

Richard requested volunteers for litter picking on Saturday 1 October – also to look at green spaces about the village with a view to maybe putting in more planters.

Councillor Mike Botting responded to Richard's concerns. Bad behaviour should be pointed out. If people are worried about confronting people, let the police know.

- Fly tipping is atrocious but not as bad as it was a year ago.
- He walked around the Green with Richard and there are things that can be done relatively easily.
- He suggested alternating on litter picking bi-monthly with Windsor Drive.
- Other issues of concern are parking, dog poo, the alleyway up the side of Waitrose (signs were put in but it has not stopped the rubbish etc).

A resident suggested putting cameras up but this cannot be done due to difficulties with legislation.

Parking – if residents' parking is implemented, it would have to be across a wide area and residents would have to pay and maybe still not be able to park outside their own house. Buses parking outside the bus garage at night is still a problem.

Residents raised the issue about not being able to be able to park between certain hours outside their own homes. Cllr Botting explained that residents were against parking restrictions in the past. Residential roads in this area were not built for cars.

Chris Fleming mentioned pavement parking. Cllr Botting stressed that people should phone the Council to report it.

Speeding along the High Street – if restrictions are put in, they need to be enforced. Someone suggested speed bumps. Cllr Botting countered that speed bumps are not popular with the emergency services as vital time is lost in getting to incidents.

Brenda Newman mentioned that years ago there was a request to put in traffic lights where the mini-roundabout is at the end of Glentrammon Road but it was deemed too expensive. Cllr Botting was not aware of this but advised that the mini-roundabout was being considered due to the number of accidents there recently.

Condition of Roads - Richard Gibbons mentioned that the Council is responsible for 85% of the roads in the borough and the state of surfaces is appalling and some junctions are dangerous. Cllr Botting stated that there are more roads in Bromley than any other London Borough. Speed reduction solutions have been tried and often have to be taken out due to residents complaining.

Police are continually being removed from local areas to go to events and incidents in London, so there are fewer police officers on the beat locally.

Residents complained about the reduction in police stations. Orpington closed and officers were relocated to Bromley. Cllr Botting explained that currently we have a police team covering Sutton, Croydon and Bromley with one Superintendent. Police no longer know the people in their areas as they are walking around their own areas less and working in other areas.

Bollards outside the ex-public conveniences (now an office) – Cllr Botting confirmed that, if they are not replaced, the council will put them back and charge the owner.

Planning – Bombay Restaurant extension application – Cllr Botting had two contacts. GSGA has submitted an objection online. He commented that, although Chelsfield is one of the largest wards, the applications are rarely controversial.

Cllr Page gave an update on the Fish and Chip shop application (replacing the greengrocer). There is an issue about the flue and environmental concerns. Richard Gibbons expressed concerns about the likely increase in litter.

Flowerbed outside Waitrose – the trees have grown and roots are causing damage but ownership of the land is in question.

Fix My Street is the best way to report a problem online. If issues are not resolved, let the councillors know.

Aerial masts – The Council is not responsible for utility companies. A couple of aerials have been refused. They are allowed to place them on public land but residents complain when they are too near to residential housing.

Buses - TfL have cut back the R7 route – it now only goes up to the Bo Beep.

Trees – extra trees are to be planted in World's End Lane, on a small piece of green land. Residents can suggest particular types of trees. A resident raised an issue of a tree where the roots have spread and taken up the pavement. It keeps happening.

Poppies for lamp posts – volunteers will be needed at the end of October, to put them up. PLEASE CONTACT Alan Garelick.
alan.garelick@outlook.com or 07856 717 234.

The meeting closed at 21:20.