



The Minutes of the AGM held on Friday July 23rd 2010

Present Roger Brown (Chair), Caroline Knight (Sec) Marilyn Rossell (Treasurer), Mike Radcliffe, Pete Thomas and 33 residents

Guests Councillor Vincenzo Capozzoli, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Adrian Vinson and Jerry Gillen (HRA)

Apologies: There were 11 apologies

Minutes of AGM Friday October 30th 2009 agreed. There were no matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

Chair's Report

Roger reported that the OTRA Committee had met 5 times since the last AGM. The main topics of discussion had been planning, conservation, parking and crime. There has been no change in committee members since the AGM. He thanked Caroline and Marilyn and the rest of his fellow Committee members for their support and hard work during the year. Roger also thanked those who had organised fund raising social events during the year: Colin Bagust and Caroline Silk (the Quiz), Nicky Bradshaw and Pam Paull (Plant Sale). Not only did these events raise much needed resources for OTRA, they were also valuable in helping the community to keep together. Finally, Roger thanked the local PCSOs, the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Michael Radcliffe and the Highfield Residents' Association for their help and support.

Thanks were also extended to the street reps and Roger said that he was pleased that we had so many new residents and that perhaps some might be persuaded to join the committee.

Roger reported that communication with the City council had continued to improve in recent times although it would still be good to have a formal response to our Conservation Monitoring Report.

Roger also reported that Ray Paull had been unwell recently and conveyed the good wishes of the meeting to both Ray and Pam.

Treasurer's Report

As circulated.

The accounts which were circulated prior to the meeting were up to March 2010. We have £3800 in the bank. Marilyn also thanked the fund raisers and those members

who had supported the events. Andrew Jackman was thanked for examining the accounts.

Conservation

In the absence of John and Graham Roger delivered the report. He said that for the Conservation Status to remain live and useful, a yearly update to our CAMP is prepared. Each year any developments affecting the Triangle are reported.

The report is sent to the City Council and approved by them and once that has happened the report should form an addendum to the Management Plan.

Cllr Dean said that the local authority was grateful for all the hard work done by Roger, John, Graham and the rest of the Conservation Group. The Council had not always been seen as supportive or proactive but was now putting a small team together to help set up other conservation areas in the city. OTRA's work has already been used as a template to inform conservation areas in Shirley and Woolston.

Cllr Dean also thanked OTRA for pointing out the shoddy street repairs in our area. He also thanked Roger for his hard work, courtesy and patience in his dealings with the Council during his term as Chair of OTRA.

Adrian Vinson asked about the reference in the report of inappropriately applied pebbledash. This will be pursued.

The Conservation Report, and all its recommendations, was approved.

Roger also asked the meeting if there was any interest in obtaining professional advice with regard to planting schemes for front gardens. It might also be possible to obtain discount for bulk orders.

Question- could this not form part of the CAMP?

Answer-It could be but the idea was to offer advice on suitable planting and not to be prescriptive.

Cllr Dean offered the services of the City council's Ecologist to speak to us about this matter. This suggestion was gratefully received.

Pete Thomas suggested that the website could provide a forum for the sharing of gardening tips.

Also it might be useful to offer advice on form filling for applications for major works as several people have experienced difficulty with this.

OTRA continues to monitor parking in and around the area.

Website

Pete explained that he sees the website as having 3 main functions:

1 - to allow a flow of information from OTRA to residents

2 - to be interactive and dynamic allowing exchanges of information between residents such as buying and selling, swapping, recycling and general discussion. As a forum for exchange of local knowledge re trades people for example and also for announcing services.

3- to serve as a window to the outside world. House- buyers can see what sort of community this is. This has already happened with people emailing via the website.

Pete asked that if anyone had any suggestions, could they get in touch with him

It was suggested that it might be useful to include the website details on house selling particulars.

Pete will check if there are links to the OTRA website from outside sites such as Hantslink.

Election of Officers

The existing committee members have agreed to stand again.

Roger confirmed that he is standing down as Chair after 7 years in office. He expressed his gratitude for having the opportunity to play a part in maintaining and improving our area. He paid thanks to all who have served on the committee and in particular to Pam Paull and Caroline Knight who have both been Secretary and to Marilyn Rossell who is Treasurer. He also thanked the wider group, including the street reps, fund raisers and also HRA and Jerry in particular for the hard work, commitment and friendship that he has shown to Roger.

Roger leaves OTRA in stronger position in respect of conservation, parking and a sense of community.

There have been some failures and we cannot take what we have for granted.

The Committee's unanimous recommendation was that Roger should be succeeded by Professor John Marshall who will take over in the autumn.

John Marshall

John said that Roger stepping down is a moment that we have been dreading but he will be leaving us with stable structures, policies and funds. John thanked Roger for all his hard work and confirmed that there will be a formal farewell at a social function to be arranged in the autumn.

Any Other Business

- 1 A member asked about the proposed amendments to the plans for nos 1-3 Blenheim Ave.

Roger responded that these will be discussed at the Conservation Group Meeting.

- 2 Members voiced concern about the state of the footpaths and urged the Council to do something about them.

Cllr. Dean responded that he has a plan that he will share in due course.

- 3 The state of Brookvale Rd was raised.

Cllr Dean said that he will look into this but there is no money at present.

- 4 Michael Radcliffe asked that if people change their email addresses or obtain one could they please let him know so that he can update his records.

The meeting closed and was followed by an American supper.