

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EATON VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT EATON GOLF CLUB, ON 16th OCTOBER 2014

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including MP Simon Wright, City Councillor Caroline Ackroyd and PCSO Julie Sayer.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from City Councillors Judith Lubbock and James Wright, County Councillor Brian Watkins, Sharon Atkinson, Chris and Helen Preston, Jane Miller and Don and Jean Ray.

2 MINUTES

Minutes of the 2013 AGM were circulated and Gwen Frazer proposed, seconded by Liz Pierce, that these should be accepted as correct.

3 MATTERS ARISING

None.

4 THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This was circulated and topics dealt with included:

- The rise in income from subscriptions over the last few years
- The completion of Wentworth Gardens and opening of the Play Area
- The Scarecrow Festival
- The War Memorial bench
- The continued maintenance of Marston Marshes
- The Anglia in Bloom Competition
- The installation of a defibrillator at Waitrose
- The improvement of children's play areas in Eaton

As this was Gerald Cooke's last AGM after 11 years of being Chairman of EVRA, he thanked committee members, both past and present, for their support.

5 THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of the accounts were circulated which showed net assets of £2,279.38 for the year to 31st March 2014. The accounts were scrutinised by Ken Land. Thelma Cooke proposed, seconded by Margaret Bamford that these should be signed as correct.

6 MARSTON MARSHES MAINTENANCE GROUP REPORT

Chris Stebbing outlined the continuing work on the marshes and said that this had been another successful year

- There were three sessions in February, April and July when a broken bench was replaced on Marston Lane, two footbridges and fences were repaired and paths were cleared
- More maintenance days are envisaged but pressure on funding is high
- There are usually about 12 volunteers helping on these days, the next session is planned for November and further information will be put on the website when details have been agreed

7 REPORTS FROM LOCAL COUNCILLORS

City Councillor Caroline Ackroyd thanked the committee for the work done in the year. She also thanked the residents for their contribution to the Defibrillator Fund and went on to report that:

- The defibrillator had been installed outside Waitrose in the previous week. The money collected by EVRA is still in the fund and this will be kept for contingency purposes. Mrs Pointer had also made a generous contribution. A ceremony to acknowledge the placement of the defibrillator will take place on Friday 24th October at 2.30pm
- The barriers on the footpaths have now been adjusted which means easier access for mobility scooter users and mums with buggies
- The proposed seat to be placed opposite Waitrose is still being promised but as yet no date has been agreed
- Two new bus stops are planned for Church Lane but the discussions are ongoing
- Eaton Green has been tidied up and is looking much better. One resident pointed out that he understood the grass had been kept deliberately long to deter people from playing football
- The Bartram's site is included in plans to develop the Yare Valley for housing. The plans still have to be agreed by the Council

8 REPORTS FROM THE POLICE

PCSO Julie Sayer reported that:

- There have been some changes in local policing as some people are moving on. Inspector Matt Howes is taking over
- There were some break-ins over last Christmas but entry was always through unlocked doors
- There is still some speeding on Greenways but when the Police have investigated it has often been found to be local people
- Help has been given to the golf club over road parking issues

Julie wished Gerald well on his retirement as Chairman of EVRA and thanked him for all his support over the years

9 ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Gerald thanked all committee members past and present for all their support over the years.

Chairman	Rosemary Benton, proposed by Barbara Heighes and seconded by Rosalie Fasler
Vice-Chairman	Chris Stebbing, proposed by Sarah Cross and seconded by Rosemary Benton
Secretary	Patricia Seadon, proposed by Keith Cross and seconded by Kath Westwell
Treasurer	Sarah Cross, proposed by Gerald Cooke and seconded by Patricia Seadon
Committee	Sharon Atkinson, Chris Preston, Jane Miller proposed by Thelma Cooke and seconded by Sarah Cross

Naomi Godding also expressed an interest in joining the Committee. She was proposed by Caroline Ackroyd and seconded by Sarah Cross and was duly elected.

10 APPOINTMENT OF THE SCRUTINEER FOR THE ACCOUNTS

Ken Land, who has audited the accounts for many years, has offered to continue as scrutineer.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a discussion about particular problems, some on-going, in the Eaton area:

- The problem of speeding on Sunningdale, particularly near Wentworth Green, was discussed. PCSO Sayer assured residents that the police continued to check speeding
- It was noted that there had been an escalation in pavement parking, sometimes by residents, sometimes by visitors
- Donkey Lane is often messy and slippery underfoot although the situation has improved with the barriers being replaced. It was suggested that residents should ring the Council to complain in the first instance
- Overhanging hedges were a hazard, blocking paths and restricting visibility. Councillor Ackroyd suggested that sending photographs of these hedges to the Council does sometimes have a beneficial effect
- Chris Stebbing thanked all the newsletter distributors for their work during the year

GERALD COOKE'S RETIREMENT

Chris Stebbing took the opportunity to thank Gerald for all the work he had done for EVRA over the past eleven years. His drive and enthusiasm had made a great difference to the village.

- Marston Marshes – he helped to secure the Lottery grant for funding to improve the marshes and now they are used and enjoyed by a large number of people
- Persimmon Homes - he was actively involved in all the discussions and attended Residents' Evenings, continuing to liaise throughout
- Scarecrow Competition – this has become a key event each year
- War Memorial Bench – he was very much involved in discussions with the Trustees and Planners
- Anglian buses – he had regular discussions
- Newsletter – he has always been involved with the information gathering, editorial work and printing
- Website and Facebook Page – he has been involved with this as it has developed
- Just Eaton and Cringleford Magazine – the article on Gerald and the work of EVRA highlighted Gerald's wide-ranging interests

Chris presented Gerald with gifts to commemorate his work over the years. Councillor Ackroyd also thanked Gerald for all he had done and presented him with a gift from the councillors. Gerald thanked everyone for their gifts and said he had enjoyed his time as Chairman.

SHORT BREAK.

The meeting continued with a slide show presentation, led by Chris Stebbing, about the work and achievements of EVRA over the last 18 months:

- The Eaton sign was repainted
- Eaton received Level 4 in the Anglia in Bloom awards
- EVRA paid for the seat at the war memorial
- Involvement in the Vicarage Garden Party
- On – going work at Marston Marshes
- Work at Eaton Common and Danby Wood

- Nomination for Norwich Eco awards and 'Highly Commended' certificate
- Dyke dipping sessions
- Involvement in finding ways of improving the playgrounds in the village
- Improvement of the barriers on footpaths
- Picnic celebrating the marshes being open for 3 years
- The purchase of the defibrillator
- The introduction of Facebook

The presentation was followed by a presentation and discussion about the progress of the children's play areas.

Playground Project

At the 2013 AGM, it was agreed to look at the play facilities around the village to see what improvements could be made. It was decided to focus on the Eaton Green play area since it is underused but has the potential to be an attractive venue for families of mixed ages.

- There are no funds available but the Council are supportive and would advise on suitable equipment and would take on the maintenance
- A survey has been sent out with the Autumn newsletter to gauge opinion on the project and there has been positive feedback with questionnaires still being returned
- The team running the project will meet in the near future to discuss the survey findings and assess what sort of equipment might be required and explore possible avenues of funding
- Chris invited people with expertise or skills in this area to volunteer to help

Comments Following the Presentation

- Parking could become a problem if the area became popular
- It will be necessary to get the right balance of equipment to make the project successful in the long term
- It would be useful to have a map of the existing play areas displayed at somewhere central like Waitrose.

Chris said he would put a copy of the map he has already produced on the website showing the position of the play areas

- Publicity for the project is key and this will lead to feedback
- The Streetlife website might be useful in this instance

Signed

Date