

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EATON VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT EATON GOLF CLUB, ON 15th OCTOBER 2015**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including City Councillors Judith Lubbock and James Wright.

## **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from City Councillor Caroline Ackroyd, County Councillor Brian Watkins, Jane Miller, and Thelma and Gerald Cooke

## **2 MINUTES OF THE EVRA AGM 2014**

Minutes of the 2014 AGM were circulated and Sarah Cross proposed, seconded by Keith Cross, that these should be accepted as correct. Approved.

## **3 MATTERS ARISING**

None.

## **4 THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This was circulated and topics dealt with included:

- The Spring and Summer garden competitions
- The Donkey Lane project
- The proposed closure of Eaton post office
- The new UEA student residences
- The plans for the McCarthy and Stone development on the Bartram Mowers site
- The Eaton and Cringleford New Transport project
- Reductions in PCSO staffing

## **5 THE VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This was circulated and topics dealt with included:

- The Scarecrow Festival and Competition
- Marston Marshes Volunteer Group
- Dyke Dipping
- The EVRA website and Facebook
- Newsletters
- Eaton Green Playground Project

Since last year's AGM, progress has been made on the playground project: children from the primary school prepared designs for their ideal playground and these were compiled into a wish list. Playground equipment providers have visited the site and have sent in a range of quotations. Depending on the type of equipment purchased, the cost will be at least £20,000 but not everything has to be bought at once. The next stage is to search out possible sources of funding, and a sub-committee has been set up by EVRA for this purpose. Fund raising has already begun within the community but EVRA would welcome support from residents wishing to play an active role in this venture.

## **6 THE TREASURER'S REPORT**

Before discussing the accounts the Treasurer commented that EVRA was very grateful for the annual subscriptions to which 60% of households contributed. Copies of the accounts were circulated, showing net assets of £2,689.07 for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. The accounts were scrutinised by Ken Land. There was a query from the floor concerning an unrepresented cheque of £133 and, after the ensuing brief discussion, the accounts were left unsigned.

## **7 REPORTS FROM LOCAL COUNCILLORS**

- City Councillor James Wright reported that details of a twelve week consultation on how the Government will fund local councils is on the Council's website and he emphasised that it was important that residents become informed and get involved
- There are concerns about the proposed entrance to the McCarthy and Stone development especially at times of high traffic flow
- City Councillor Judith Lubbock praised EVRA's positive approach to getting things done in the local community and noted that this will become even more important in the future

## **8 ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE**

<b>Chairman</b>	Rosemary Benton, proposed by Gwen Frazer and seconded by Margaret Bamford
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Chris Stebbing, proposed by Mrs Armstrong and seconded by Ros Denchfield
<b>Secretary</b>	Patricia Seadon, proposed by Keith Cross and seconded by Liz Pierce
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sarah Cross, proposed by Fay Gammer and seconded by Mike Forrest
<b>Committee</b>	Sharon Atkinson, Chris Preston, Jane Miller and Naomi Godding: proposed by Liz Pierce and seconded by Fay Gammer

Kath Westwell and Carol Sharkey also expressed an interest in joining the Committee. They were proposed by Keith Cross and seconded by John Brister and were duly elected.

## **9 APPOINTMENT OF THE SCRUTINEER FOR THE ACCOUNTS**

Ken Land, who has audited the accounts for many years, has offered to continue as scrutineer. He was proposed by Sarah Cross and seconded by Patricia Seadon

## **10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- A car parked at the end of Church Lane seems to have become a permanent fixture and often other cars were parked there as well. Chris Stebbing noted that this car had been parked in other areas in the village and that the parking restrictions imposed by Waitrose appear to have had an impact. Councillor James Wright commented that if the car was taxed and insured and there were no yellow lines, parking is allowed
- There was a feeling that the level of noise from the CNS end of lessons hooter was intrusive. A resident had already complained but the noise is still loud. PCSO Julie Sayer would mention the problem to staff when she visited the school in the very near future
- There was a query about the intruding vegetation on Howarth Way as it is still not clear who is responsible for maintenance in this area. In July Councillor Caroline Ackroyd had asked for clarification and was told that the pathway is not council owned and is not an adopted highway and is the sole responsibility of the landowner. However, Persimmon Homes do not accept responsibility. Councillor Judith Lubbock suggested that the Council and EVRA should investigate further. Similarly there needs to be clarification of who is responsible for cutting hedges in Donkey Lane and Howarth Way

## **SHORT INTERVAL**

The meeting continued with a question and answer session where residents could discuss local issues with three panel members. These were: Victoria MacDonald who runs The Cellar House pub and is soon to take over the running of the post office, City Councillor Judith Lubbock and Chris Stebbing, Vice Chair of EVRA. The session centred on three main topic areas, namely Eaton Village Post Office, Parking and Traffic around the Village, and The Local Environment. Residents voiced their opinions and concerns and the panel members offered their insight and expertise.

### **The Post Office**

- The proposed date for the opening in the Cellar House is the end of January 2016
- Opening times will be from 10am to 8pm Monday to Friday, from 10am to 5pm on Saturdays and from 10am to 12pm on Sundays with no lunchtime closures
- Collection times will remain the same
- Cake and coffee will be on offer
- There will be a Councillors' Surgery on the first Saturday of the month between 10am and 11am
- A great deal of work has gone into the process and very rigorous procedures have been gone through
- The pub staff will run the post office and are receiving appropriate training
- Security is paramount and arrangements have to suit the Post Office's strict rules and guidelines
- There is more than enough space in the Cellar House to cater for customers' needs and their various business requirements
- There will be access at the front and back, with wheelchair access and parking
- The services provided will be as before, apart from passport checks and travel insurance
- It is hoped to make the opening day special and plans are already being made
- Victoria MacDonald thanked the residents for their support and interest in the project
- Judith Lubbock praised Victoria's very positive attitude and this, coupled with the ease of access and car parking facilities, will help the venture be a success

### **Parking and Traffic around the Village**

- There was general concern about parking and traffic in the area. Consultation on the Eaton and Cringleford New Transport Project is due to start in October 2015. Residents were urged to look at details on the council website and read EVRA's concerns on its website
- It was suggested that EVRA and Cringleford Parish Council liaise over shared concerns. Chris Stebbing agreed that once the consultation process begins, there will be an opportunity to contact Cringleford Parish Council to see if there are common ideas
- Judith Lubbock commented that it is very difficult to make changes with small amounts of money
- The traffic on the Newmarket Road seems to have increased at all times of the day. Judith Lubbock said that when Wentworth Gardens was built, a traffic survey carried out then deemed traffic was not heavy enough to warrant traffic lights at the Sunningdale junction
- A Car Club has started, based in Waldeck Road; it is hoped that more will follow
- Parking on Greenways near the Eaton Primary School is still a problem and may continue to get worse as more houses are built in the Eaton and Cringleford area
- Messages have been put in the EVRA newsletter to remind residents about parking considerately
- The school sends out periodic reminders to parents
- Judith Lubbock suggested that the school could ban parking on the roads leading up to the school. This could perhaps be suggested at a forthcoming meeting with representatives from EVRA at the school

**The Local Environment**

- Overgrown hedges were still a concern in some areas. James Wright recommended that these residents should be reported and, if no tidying was done, the Council would cut the offending vegetation and send the resident the bill
- EVRA has promised to try to tidy up Donkey Lane but it is a large task and more support from residents would be welcome
- The concerns over Howarth Way were repeated

At the end of the discussion, the Chairman thanked the three panellists for taking part. She also thanked the residents for their interest in the community and hoped more people might feel encouraged to become involved with the work of EVRA within the village.

Signed .....

Date .....