

# **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EATON VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT EATON GOLF CLUB, ON 20th OCTOBER 2016**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including City Councillors Judith Lubbock and Caroline Ackroyd, County Councillor Brian Watkins, Bruce Bently and Andrew Wadsworth from the Highways Project Team

## **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from City Councillor James Wright, Sharon Atkinson and Vali Rao

## **2 MINUTES OF THE EVRA AGM HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015**

Minutes of the 2015 AGM were circulated and Vic Flute proposed, seconded by Gwen Frazer, that these should be accepted as correct.

## **3 MATTERS ARISING**

- During the 2015 AGM there had been a query about the accounts. The matter was resolved and the Minutes were signed at the next Committee meeting

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

Chairman Rosemary Benton began by stating that she wished to stand down, but if re-elected would be quite willing to stay on the Committee. Her report was circulated and topics dealt with included:

- The Spring and Summer garden competitions
- The Donkey Lane project – more help needed on Weeding Wednesdays
- The Fun Day
- EVRA's thanks to sponsors who have helped during the year
- The opening of the post office in the Cellar House
- The McCarthy and Stone development on Bluebell Road
- The proposed alterations to Stephanie's on Eaton Street
- The Transport project for Eaton and Cringleford

## **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
- Traffic and parking around Eaton Primary School
- Eaton Green Playground Project

Since last year's AGM, progress had continued on the playground project: Jewsons had kindly donated two picnic benches, the project had received a financial grant and this, coupled with money already raised, would help to improve current fencing and buy the first piece of play equipment.

## **6 THE TREASURER'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2016**

The Treasurer thanked residents for their subscriptions and their continued generous support for the play area with contributions so far reaching £2,468. Copies of the accounts which had been scrutinised by Ken Land were circulated. Vic Flute proposed that the accounts should be signed as correct and this was seconded by John Brister.

## **7 REPORT ON THE WORK BY OUR COUNCILLORS IN THE VILLAGE**

- City Councillor Caroline Ackroyd gave an account of the work being done to prepare Norwich for becoming a dementia friendly and inclusive city in January 2017 and similarly Eaton being recognised as a dementia friendly community. A steering committee had been formed to drive this initiative forward. Local businesses, churches and other local groups were represented with the aim of raising awareness of dementia in our community and supporting people with dementia and their carers. Much good work was already being done, and there were many more areas for action in the future.
- County Councillor Brian Watkins paid tribute to EVRA for the work being done in the community. He reported that all the councillors were involved in many issues in the area and in particular they had campaigned hard to bring about the pedestrian crossing on Newmarket Road which would improve the safety of both pedestrians and cyclists. The Post Office campaign had been a success and he thanked the residents, EVRA and other parties who had helped to drive forward this and other initiatives. He noted that 119 units were planned for the Bartram Mowers site and, although people remain concerned about the density of the development, everyone involved had worked hard to protect the area.
- City Councillor Judith Lubbock noted that her fellow councillors had already covered the main issues. She was very grateful for the work done by EVRA and Eaton Rise Residents' Association which helped the work of the councillors to be more effective.

## **8 ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Chairman</b>      | Chris Stebbing, proposed by Hilary Gidson and seconded by Fay Gammer  |
| <b>Vice-Chairman</b> | Vic Flute, proposed by Rosemary Benton and seconded by Kath Westwell  |
| <b>Secretary</b>     | Patricia Seadon, proposed by Chris Stebbing and seconded by Sarah Cross   |
| <b>Treasurer</b>     | Sarah Cross, proposed by Patricia Seadon and seconded by Margaret Bamford   |
| <b>Committee</b>     | Sharon Atkinson, Rosemary Benton, Helen Flute, Naomi Godding, Jane Miller and Kath Westwell, proposed by Gwen Frazer and seconded by Liz Pierce |

Two committee members, Chris Preston and Carole Sharkey, wished to resign from the committee. Rosemary Benton thanked them for the work they had done.

Two residents, Vali Rao and Carole Williams, had expressed an interest in joining the committee. They were proposed by Chris Stebbing and seconded by Caroline Ackroyd.

Before moving on, Chris Stebbing thanked Rosemary Benton for all the work she had undertaken in many areas as Chairman and presented her with a gift of a plant.

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

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

## **10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Chris Stebbing reported that Eaton's PCSO had been replaced, but Norfolk Constabulary still wanted to engage with local communities. P.C. Adam Binns, based at Bethel Street, would be in contact with EVRA by email. In the first instance, he would like EVRA to highlight the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

- The problem of speeding on Greenways was raised and whether speed humps would help. Judith Lubbock commented that the answer would be to have a blanket speed limit of 20mph which would encourage more people to walk and cycle if they felt safer. There was no money available to construct speed humps which would eventually need replacing. Caroline Ackroyd advised that the police would respond to a complaint about speeding if they were given the number of the offending vehicle.
- There was a great deal of concern about Norwich Rugby Club's proposal to build on UEA's playing fields. This was perceived as a grave threat to the green corridor which would have far reaching implications in the area. A member of the Yare Valley Society urged people to voice their opinions to the Council before a decision was made. Chris Stebbing pointed out that there was a link on the EVRA website to the Yare Valley Society.

## **(SHORT INTERVAL)**

The meeting continued with an open discussion about the proposed changes to the area as set out in the Transport Project for Eaton and Cringleford. This session was chaired by Chris Stebbing who introduced Bruce Bently and Andrew Wadsworth from the Highway Projects team. Chris Stebbing explained that the consultation was still ongoing and he urged residents to make their views known if they had any concerns before the closing date on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Many people at the meeting said they had not been sent details about the changes.

## **THE MAIN POINTS ARISING FROM THE DISCUSSION**

### **Parking bays near the old Post Office**

Owners of 11 businesses had met to discuss this and Victoria Macdonald and Adrian Rowe voiced their concerns. Would businesses suffer if the spaces were moved? Where else would people park? Older and disabled shoppers/clients would be particularly inconvenienced. Adrian Rowe and several other residents complained that they had heard nothing of previous meetings and had received no details through the post. Bruce Bently was definite that everyone had been circulated. Andrew Wadsworth explained that a meeting would take place on 24<sup>th</sup> November and questions could be put forward in advance. Brian Watkins maintained that other options must be looked at.

### **Turning Left into Church Lane**

Residents felt that the road was too narrow. Bruce B said the aim was to make it easier for cyclists. One resident felt it was a case of spending money to spoil the status quo. Bruce B responded that it was spending money to slow traffic down.

### **Changes to the slip road past the Cellar House**

Residents felt that this was a danger area for cyclists and shared usage on this and other roads was worrying. There were also many large delivery lorries in the area for Waitrose and the pubs.

### **Eaton Street and Cringleford Bridge**

There was great concern about the danger to pedestrians and cyclists in this area, if proposals like dual use past the estate agents and the Red Lion came to fruition. One resident complained about the proposed crossing near his house which would mean ongoing noise, bright lights and general disruption. There was divided opinion about the planned lights at Cringleford Bridge ranging from no problem at all to a very difficult problem and it was not clear if there was a solution. There were also concerns that the path over the bridge was too dark. Bruce B/Andrew W outlined the plans for lights at the bridge: 1 priority in the morning rush hour, 2 priority in the evening rush hour and 3 on demand for the rest of the day. There was disagreement over whether the changes would work – would cyclists ignore the red lights and how could this be stopped? Some residents felt that there were not enough cyclists using the road to be of

significance. Bruce B reported that at the time of the survey 111 cyclists were counted between Eaton Street and Colney Lane. There appeared to be disbelief from some people at this high number. Many residents were positive about the introduction of a 20mph speed limit as it would be safer for everyone. Andrew W pointed out that you could not have a 20mph zone without traffic calming measures but the idea of traffic calming measures was not generally welcomed. Bruce B/Andrew W pointed out that, despite the cycle paths, some cyclists still used the roads because they felt the paths were too dangerous. Cycle paths were meant for children and less confident cyclists. Andrew W said that statistics showed that more people were cycling in the City because it was becoming safer.

**Eaton Crossroads**

Many residents felt this was a problem area because of traffic numbers and some were sceptical about the proposed changes. Bruce B/Andrew W stated that there would be a dedicated right turn and the phasing would be changed. Buses had difficulty turning left into Bluebell Road so changes were needed.

**General Comments**

What was driving this project?

Andrew W – resulting from the initial consultation, there were 350 replies stating problems.

Bruce B – much public money was being put into the project but not everything could be done at once.

During the planned changes there would be enormous disruption. What assurance was there that it would be a success particularly after other problems in other areas of Norwich?

Bruce B – every scheme was subject to a traffic programme. Everything had to be considered. The safety of the people of Eaton was of paramount importance.

There was a worry that the new initiatives could make things worse with lots of traffic and exits and entrances to be considered. There were also the proposed changes on Bluebell Road with the new development on the Bartram Mowers site.

Several times during the discussion Bruce B and Andrew W reminded those present that this was a consultation and residents were encouraged to send in their views before the deadline.

At the end of the evening, Chris Stebbing thanked everyone for attending the AGM and contributing to the debate. He also urged people to send in their views before the deadline. He thanked Bruce Bently and Andrew Wadsworth for explaining and discussing the planned changes in the Eaton area.

Signed .....

Date .....