

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EATON VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT EATON GOLF CLUB, ON 16th OCTOBER 2019

The Chairman Chris Stebbing welcomed everyone to the meeting, including City Councillors Caroline Ackroyd and James Wright and Steve Nunn from Community Action Norfolk.

1. APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Gerald and Thelma Cooke, Simon and Liz Bibby, Rosalind Wright, Wendy and Roger Glenwright, Maurice Gaston, Elizabeth Armstrong, Vic and Helen Flute, Sharon Atkinson, Gareth Phillips, Teresa Mosely, County Councillor Brian Watkins and City Councillor Judith Lubbock.

2. MINUTES OF THE EVRA AGM HELD ON 17th OCTOBER 2018 Minutes of the 2018 AGM were circulated and Sarah Cross proposed, seconded by Naomi Godding, that these were an accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- There were none.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Chris Stebbing

Chairman Chris Stebbing's report was circulated, and dealt with the following issues:

Local Issues

- **Eaton 20mph Zone** This experimental scheme began in June 2019 and many drivers are complying with the 20mph limit but many are not doing so and Chris has had complaints about drivers ignoring the limits. The consultation ends on 24th November and Chris urged residents to contact TfN if they have any issues concerning these measures. In the meantime EVRA will keep a watching brief and keep talking to our local councillors.
- It remains an aim to set up a Speed Watch team but more volunteers are needed.
- The City Council report that a zebra crossing on Church Lane is outside the scope of the 20mph implementation but EVRA has discussed how this might be taken forward with our local councillors.
- **Konnect 5B Bus Service** is now a half-hourly service, however there are questions about its reliability but Konnect point out that problems should be sorted out by December. EVRA will monitor the issue.
- **Barclays Bank** closed in Eaton in November and this has inconvenienced residents.
- **Trading Standards Scams** are now reported regularly on the EVRA website. Chris emphasised the need to be aware.

Projects

- **Eaton Green Playground** is still an on-going project and £7,000 has now been raised to purchase an integrated roundabout (with space for a wheelchair) but with installation costs the sum is now nearer £8,500. EVRA does have funds to supplement the amount already raised but the City Council has been approached for help and other funding sources are being explored.
- **Donkey Lane** has been much improved by Rosemary and her team of volunteers who meet most Wednesdays but more help is always welcome especially as several trees will soon need to be dug up and replanted.

Events

- **The Pumpkin Trail** is very popular with families and all participants receive a prize. In 2018 £85 was raised after expenses.
- **The Spring and Summer Garden Competitions** take place quite close together so EVRA will look at whether it would be easier to run a single competition in future alternating between a Spring and Summer event each year.
- **The Scarecrow Festival and Competition** continued for its tenth year with 23 entries. There were also 14 garage sales which raised £85 for the Playground Fund and cake sales and other events contributed a further £160.

- **The Family Fun Day** was held at the Cellar House on the Sunday of the Scarecrow Weekend and was a busy and enjoyable event with lots of stalls and activities. In all the weekend's activities raised over £500.

Other Matters

- **CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other)** is continuing to flourish with 38 people registered and a regular attendance of 24. It is aimed at those who are experiencing memory problems and at lonely folk in our community and offers various activities which are dementia friendly. CAMEO meets every 4th Wednesday of the month in St Andrew's Church Hall 2.30 to 4pm. It was given a publicity boost by being included in Eaton's Summer Programme this year.
- **Newsletters and the Website** continue to keep residents well informed about EVRA's activities throughout the year. The newsletters are delivered twice a year to all households and a Summer Events Programme is also issued.

Chris thanked the Committee for their support, in particular the Vice-Chair Vic Flute. Carol Plunkett was thanked for her work in the role of Treasurer over the past year; she is stepping down but will continue on the Committee. Chris also thanked residents who had helped and supported EVRA during the year and also our City Councillors Caroline, Judith and James and County Councillor Brian for their strong support. Chris emphasised that EVRA's aim continued to be to build an even stronger community spirit in Eaton.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT - Carol Plunkett

- Copies of the Treasurer's report were circulated and Carol began by saying how much she had enjoyed her role over the year and thanked Chris for all his enthusiasm and hard work for EVRA.
- Subscriptions had risen year on year and the average donation per household was £2.68.
- There was a query from the floor about the rise in cost of the Newsletters and Chris explained that two pages were produced instead of one for the Spring 2018 Newsletter to include GDPR matters which doubled the cost. Timing of Newsletters meant that three of these were paid for in the 2018/19 Financial year instead of two plus a Summer Events Programme. We also paid for two years' supply of printed subscription envelopes, which saved money.
- A question was asked regarding the possibility of EVRA having charity status. It was explained that the Committee had already discussed this and had decided that it would not work to the association's benefit: this opinion was echoed by a resident who had personal experience of these matters.
- A resident commented that it was noticeable that many younger people were absent from the meeting and as the new playground would be beneficial to them in particular it seemed that they were not giving their support. Carol explained that there were many other pressures on young families, especially in the evening, but they attended many of the fundraising activities so supported very well in other ways.
- Sarah Cross proposed that the accounts should be signed as correct and this was seconded by Gwen Frazer.

6. REPORT ON THE WORK OF OUR COUNCILLORS IN THE VILLAGE

- **City Councillor Caroline Ackroyd** offered apologies on behalf of City Councillor Brian Watkins.
- Councillor Watkins has a small budget of £6,000 to spend on items related to highways and he has offered to contribute to a zebra crossing in the village, (see Local Issues, 20mph Zone in the Chairman's report). The Council has indicated the crossing would cost £30,000.
- The Council did not want flashing indicator lights in the 20mph zone, preferring to see how the new arrangements went.
- Caroline is trying to arrange a meeting with the Primary School to discuss ways of encouraging parents to avoid parking in the area.
- The Waitrose store is the only one in the country with 3 hours' parking. They are also hoping to revamp the store and Caroline has asked if they will consider putting hoists in the disabled toilets.
- Caroline thanked CAMEO for the work being done and mentioned a 'Singing for All' group which has started on Eaton Rise.

- Caroline thanked Chris and the Committee for the work being done.
- **City Councillor James Wright** reported that the closure of Barclays Bank had affected many in the community as cash withdrawals could not be made from the Post Office. Many people prefer to have personal service and support, not a machine. There is a petition to try to reverse this decision.
- From next May the Polling Station for people living in the Sunningdale and Greenways areas will be at the Church of the Latterday Saints which is well situated with better parking facilities.
- A resident pointed out that painting 20mph signs on the road is much cheaper than flashing signs. James said that the Council do not want to do this at present and have implemented the scheme, with no physical traffic calming measures, as requested by the Eaton Village community.
- A resident reported that the white lines had been removed from the beginning of Elveden Close and this made conditions very hazardous for cyclists. James will request that the lines be redone. Another resident pointed out that where white lines are painted, the rules are not always observed.
- It was generally agreed that it can be difficult for pedestrians on the shared cycle paths particularly along Newmarket Road and cyclists should be required to have a bell and this should be publicised. Dogs on extended leads were another hazard. Caroline noted that Focus and the EVRA website could mention this.
- Parking on pavements was becoming more common and this made travel difficult for pedestrians, people on mobility scooters and bus drivers.

7. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE 2019-2020

Chairman	Chris Stebbing, proposed by Carol Plunkett seconded by Rosemary Benton
Vice-Chairman	Vic Flute, proposed by Kath Westwell, seconded by Joy Davidson
Secretary	Patricia Seadon, proposed by Betty Gaston, seconded by Margaret Bamford
Treasurer	Naomi Godding, proposed by Caroline Ackroyd, seconded by Sarah Cross
Committee	Sharon Atkinson, Rosemary Benton, Bernard Godding, Carol Plunkett and Kath Westwell, proposed by Gwen Frazer, seconded by Margaret Bamford.

Chris pointed out that extra people could be co-opted onto the Committee to assist with specific activities if required.

8. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEER FOR THE ACCOUNTS

Ken Land our previous scrutineer retired after auditing the 2018 accounts and Aana Hanif very kindly took over for 2019. Sarah Cross, a previous Treasurer for EVRA offered to become auditor. She was proposed by Tina Fielden and seconded by Kath Westwell.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Rosemary Benton reminded the meeting that help was needed to dig up and replant about 15 trees on Donkey Lane. Volunteers meet every Wednesday afternoon at 1.30pm. It was suggested that Eaton Vale Activity Centre had plenty of strong young men and may be worth approaching.

Chris closed the first part of the meeting and there was a short break for refreshments and a raffle, the proceeds of which would go towards the Playground Fund.

(Short Interval)

COMMUNITY ACTION NORFOLK – Steve Nunn

- Steve gave a very informative talk on the work of Community Action Norfolk, which is the leading organisation for engagement with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) in Norfolk. The work done by VCSE is wide-ranging, and community groups with little or no experience of how to begin a project can be supported by people with expertise in a wide range of fields.
- The organisation works with over 500 community groups in Norfolk, funding and planning projects. There is a strong local focus where groups are encouraged to work collaboratively and networking amongst groups is very effective.
- The vast majority of groups are small, operate locally and want money. Older people are the largest beneficiary group.
- The biggest issues are: Funding, Communication and Volunteers. Social isolation is a very big issue in Norfolk where over 50% live in rural communities and it is estimated that there are over 45,000 people in the county who are socially isolated. Good Neighbour Schemes have volunteers who support people who are socially isolated.
- The contact details for advice is: 01362 698216,
office@communityactionnorfolk.org.uk
www.communityactionnorfolk.org.uk
- Caroline Ackroyd asked about getting advice on purchasing the Barclays Bank building for the community. Steve explained that VCSE could help directly or find a third party to help. Caroline will follow this up.

Chris thanked Steve for his input and thanked everyone at the meeting for their support. The meeting then closed.

Signed Chair Date