

# **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EATON VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT EATON GOLF CLUB, ON 19th OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30pm**

The Vice – Chairman, Vic Flute, welcomed everyone to the meeting, including City Councillors Caroline Ackroyd and Judith Lubbock and the local Beat Officer PC Andy Toes.

**1. APOLOGIES** Apologies were received from Chris and Jane Stebbing, Sharon Ackroyd, Fiona Bradshaw, Helen Flute, Carol Plunkett, Margaret Bamford, Kristina Garner, Jenny and Richard Holcombe, Robin Thomas, County Councillor Brian Watkins and City Councillor James Wright.

**2. MINUTES OF THE EVRA AGM HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2019** Minutes of the 2019 AGM were agreed as correct. There had been no AGMs in 2020 and 2021.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- Eaton 20mph Zone experimental scheme began in June 2019 and is now here to stay.
- Barclays Bank in the village has now been demolished.
- The roundabout, with a space for a wheelchair, is now in place on the play area and is being enjoyed by many children.
- The numbers of people attending CAMEO gradually decreased and later meetings were severely affected by Covid. It was reluctantly agreed to wind up the group.
- The Konnect bus now runs hourly.
- There is still a need for a zebra crossing between the Church Hall and the bus stop. This is the worst part of Church Lane for speeding, so a speed table at least is needed but no progress has been made.
- A resident complained about the long wait for pedestrians at the traffic lights on Newmarket Road near Sunningdale.
- Another resident complained about the waiting time at the village crossroads lights.

## **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Chris Stebbing**

Chairman Chris Stebbing was absent from the meeting as he was still suffering from Covid. His full report was made available and in his introduction he underlined the continuing need to keep safe and healthy. He reminded residents that, during Lockdown, the Committee had continued to meet bi-monthly via Zoom organising events and dealing with local issues.

## **EVRA Events**

- The Pumpkin Trail took place in October followed by the Easter/Spring Trail in April.
- A local resident, Phil Atkinson, led a Dawn Chorus Walk starting at 6.30am on 7<sup>th</sup> May as part of EVRA's environment day. It was attended by around 20 residents.
- Later, on May 7<sup>th</sup> a Swap Shop was held at the Church Hall – this was a new venture where residents could donate clothes, books and toys in return for vouchers they could exchange for items donated by others. This and the previous event were in support of the Eaton Parish Eco Day.
- The Big Jubilee Picnic took place in June. Due to very unsettled weather the venue changed to the 34<sup>th</sup> Norwich Scout Hut.
- The annual Scarecrow Festival ran for a week in July. There were 22 entries with the theme 'Highlights of the Queen's Reign'. The Family Fun Day was held on the first weekend of the Festival and over the second weekend there were several Garage Sales around the village and also Cake and Plant Sales. Proceeds from all these events went to EVRA funds.
- Residents were given a number of sunflower seeds to plant in the Spring and a competition was held to find the tallest plant later in the summer. The winner and runners up will receive prizes sponsored by EVRA.

## Local Issues

- **Speeding around Eaton Village:** EVRA manages a Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM) on behalf of the community and monitors speeds around Eaton Village. The monitor is moved every month and a summary of the data is published on the EVRA website. The data is also shared with our local Councillors, County Hall and the police.
- **Eaton Village Sign Refurbishment:** EVRA has raised £2,900 during the past year for the refurbishment of the sign which is currently at a specialist workshop. It was due back in October, but the workshop owner is recovering from an accident that will delay completion of the work.
- **Barclays Bank Site:** Work seems to be progressing well and potential problems with road closures and delays have not materialised.
- **McCarthy and Stone on Bluebell Road:** Phase two of construction is under way with phase three in the planning stage. Eventually some 300 properties will be on the site.
- **EVRA Finances:** Income from subscriptions has been steadily increasing, with further donations received in addition to the requested £1. The bank balance is healthy, which enables the Committee to think about projects that will benefit the community. The EVRA bank account also holds money for the Eaton Defibrillator managed by Caroline Ackroyd, and the CAMEO drop-in sessions.
- **EVRA Website and Facebook pages:** Information is posted online between issues of the newsletters. This includes posts on EVRA and other local events, with regular updates. Some local walks have been added to the website and there is a growing collection of photos and information about Old Eaton.

Chris thanked the Committee for continuing in post throughout the past year. He also thanked the residents for their continued support through challenging times.

## **5. TREASURER'S REPORT and presentation of accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022 – Naomi Godding**

- Naomi supplied a detailed print out for the accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- Residents had been asked to pay directly into the bank this year and many had done this; payment could also be made by cheque, cash or standing order.
- Subscriptions were up this year and EVRA was very appreciative of the extra donations. There had been a very good response for the village sign and the defibrillator. EVRA holds the overall account but within this are separate ringfenced accounts for the playground, the defibrillator, the village sign, CAMEO and the marshes.
- The balances at 31<sup>st</sup> March stood at £8,360.88 for 2021/22 and £4,508.26 for 2020/21

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

### **City Councillor Caroline Ackroyd**

- Councillor Ackroyd offered apologies on behalf of City Councillor James Wright. She thanked EVRA for the work it does in the community and particularly thanked Bernard Godding who is stepping down from the Committee, for all his commitment and hard work over several years.
- Caroline explained that she is invited to attend committee meetings where she reports on relevant issues from the county and city councils.
- One of Caroline's roles is to make sure the defibrillator is maintained but she feels it is essential for the money to be held in an independent account. Caroline thanked Naomi for her work as Treasurer and for looking after the defibrillator funds. She reported that a resident from Bluebell Road had given her a cheque for £2,000 specifically for the defibrillator at Waitrose.
- For the last two years she has worked closely with PC Andy Toes (Eaton's beat manager) whose knowledge and understanding of the area is making a huge difference to the work of the councillors.
- Caroline stressed that the association with EVRA is in no way political but is about working together to continue to make Eaton a good and safe place for residents.

### **County Councillor Brian Watkins - report circulated**

- **SAM Sign:** Councillor Watkins funded the SAM sign for Eaton village from his local member's allowance. Since it was first installed, there has been a discernible improvement in vehicle speeds although a small minority choose to disregard the 20mph limit. He thanked Chris Stebbing and his team of volunteers for moving the sign each month but emphasised that more volunteers would be appreciated.
- **Speed reducing measures for Church Lane:** The need for a safe pedestrian crossing point near the Church Hall has become ever more important. Such measures would be very costly – in the region of £30,000. However, the Transport for Norwich manager has recognised local feeling on this matter and is looking at how to access further funding. Brian is awaiting his detailed response.
- **Mobile Library Service:** This service visits Waitrose car park each month. It is a valuable service for residents, bringing books to young families and helping to combat isolation for the elderly. The Eaton Councillors have responded to a consultation paper about proposed cuts.

### **City Councillor Judith Lubbock**

- Councillor Lubbock thanked the Committee for what they do and emphasised that they worked together but it was not in any way political. She also thanked PC Andy Toes for his contribution to safety in the village.
- Judith reported that callers often complain about not being able to get through to City Hall and hear a 'busy' message because there are not enough operators to cope. People are being trained but there is a backlog of various issues to cope with.
- There have been difficulties with the bus services and a shortage of drivers. The Council has spent many millions to do alterations but there is no evidence yet that this is making any difference. The Councillors would like the bus companies accountable if they do not deliver the service.

## **7. REPORT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING – PC Andy Toes**

- PC Andy Toes has been a Beat Officer in the area for two years and is aware of the issues such as speeding. He is often out in a marked car with a speed gun. He cannot enforce the 20mph limit but offers advice.
- He holds regular surgeries for residents with the Councillors and the details are publicised on the EVRA website.
- He works with the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Church Lane and is now looking for a co-ordinator in the main village.
- There was a question from the floor about enforcing the speed limit: if a car is travelling at under 35mph, he can speak to drivers and try to educate them. He noted that if he has spoken to offenders he does not tend to see the same people again.
- His biggest concern is complacency within the village which on the surface appears reasonably crime free and this is what attracts criminals. He urged residents to keep their doors locked at all times, as there have been walk-in burglaries in daylight. He encouraged residents to get in touch with him if they have any problems relating to criminal activities.
- A resident spoke of problems with vehicles blocking paths and making it especially difficult for people with wheelchairs and prams. Although he has complained to City Hall he has got nowhere. PC Toes explained that parking issues have been taken away from constabularies years ago, and he advised residents to contact him so he could get in touch with offenders.
- He spends much time outside Eaton CNS and Eaton Primary School at dropping off and pick up time where cars obstruct roads and pavements. He tries to educate drivers and he can enforce obstruction of highways. However, he must balance the needs of residents and parents.
- Andy said his job is community management and he will try to deal with problems and pass them on to Councillors. Vic advised residents to photograph incidents where possible and pass on the details to Andy.
- People were concerned about the dangers of walking along the cycle paths on Newmarket Road as it is difficult to know when a cyclist is coming – many have no bell and others are wearing ear pods which makes them impervious to any noise. A resident asked whether the paths could be divided to cater for both

pedestrians and cyclists. Caroline Ackroyd commented that she had asked highways about this possibility but has made no progress.

Vic thanked Andy for his input to the evening.

## **8. ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE 2022-2023**

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|----------------------|--|
| <b>Chairman</b>      | Chris Stebbing, proposed by Bernard Godding, seconded by Rosemary Benton   |
| <b>Vice-Chairman</b> | Vic Flute, proposed by Sarah Cross, seconded by Joy Davidson   |
| <b>Secretary</b>     | Patricia Seadon, proposed by Sarah Cross, seconded by Naomi Godding  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>     | Naomi Godding, proposed by Sarah Cross, seconded by Kath Westwell  |
| <b>Committee</b>     | Sharon Atkinson, Carol Plunkett, Kath Westwell, Fiona Bradshaw, Kristina Garner, Adam Everett, proposed by Caroline Ackroyd, seconded by Rosemary Benton; Natasha Simpkin was co-opted from the floor. |

## **9. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEER OF ACCOUNTS**

Sarah Cross, proposed by Naomi Godding, and seconded by Kath Westwell, was reappointed.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Donkey Lane**

- Rosemary Benton has been working for over ten years in Donkey Lane where she and a small band of helpers have cleared vegetation, planted trees and plants and have generally made the lane a pleasant place to pass through.
- She is now finding it difficult to do manual work and would appreciate the help of more volunteers to continue the work on Donkey Lane. Jobs include gardening, sweeping the lane, clearing and tending the trees and plants. Soon, work will need to be done on the trees growing there as they will soon need trimming back.
- The work is done every other week, but it does not have to be at a regular time and Rosemary has equipment for helpers to use.
- If you are able to give time to this very worthwhile project, please get in touch with Rosemary.

Vic informed the meeting that EVRA had joined the Norfolk Green Care Network which has 128 members; EVRA can get help and advice for Eaton residents and also put residents in contact with them.

### **One Million Trees for Norfolk**

- This project is an ambitious initiative to work in partnership with communities, other agencies and individuals across the county to plant one million trees and hedges over five years. By increasing tree cover in Norfolk, more carbon will be captured which will in turn help nature recover. People who have planted trees within the last two years, should contact the organisers to have their trees included.
- The trees are being supplied at half-price but they are supplied in bundles of ten. EVRA has an agreement with the organisers that EVRA can buy the bundles of ten and sell individual plants to Eaton residents. For the price of £1.25, purchasers will receive a 40cm to 60cm tree, a cane and a protector. The tree will be either a rowan or a crab apple or plants for a guelder rose hedge.
- Residents who are interested in this project should contact VIC at EVRA – details will be put on the website.

**Short Interval** – during this time there was a raffle which made £75. It was decided to donate this to the four scouts who helped to paint the bench by the Church Hall. They are raising money to go to the Scout World Jamboree next year where they will be representing Eaton, Norfolk and the UK and part of their fee will help scouts from disadvantaged countries to also attend.

## A DISCUSSION ON TOPICS OF INTEREST TO EATON RESIDENTS

Vic Flute (Vice- chair) led the second part of the evening with a discussion about the work of EVRA in the village. He outlined projects already completed and encouraged residents to suggest ways in which EVRA could move forward. What other projects should the Committee consider?

### Events already organised by EVRA

- The Scarecrow Competition, now called The Scarecrow Festival
- Spring and Summer Garden Competitions – now dropped
- Family Fun Day
- Easter Egg Trail
- Spring Easter Trail
- Hallowe'en Trail
- Junior Fun Run - now dropped
- Children's Day on the marshes

It was agreed at the meeting that the Children's Day on the marshes should be repeated as it had been so successful. Natasha Simpkin, Angela and Kerry Williams and Adam Everett offered to help.

Vic also thanked Smith and Pinching who are always very supportive of EVRA's events.

Eaton Vale scouts have been involved with the Fun Day and have brought their climbing wall which was very popular. They have offered their building for free which includes use of the dining room, another room for groups and a full commercial kitchen. Vic hoped people would come up with ideas for ways of using this generous offer.

### Suggestions for Future Events

- **A defibrillator training session.**
- **Arminghall Henge** – Robert Farman has participated in an excavation there and suggested that inviting someone involved with the dig to give a talk would be of interest to residents, possibly children. It would be of particular interest because it is thought that Eaton Heath was one of the earliest settlements in Norfolk in prehistoric times and it is possible to imagine these early people travelling to Arminghall.
- Vic suggested a **social evening** although it was pointed out that the target age group would have to be decided, perhaps families, in order for it to be a success.
- Would a **Beetle Drive or a Bingo Evening** be popular?
- **How should the Coronation be commemorated in the village?** Perhaps something in the afternoon? Combine with the church and the PTA? A social event in the parish rooms? Vic asked those present to give the matter some thought and send suggestions to EVRA.
- The church are planning an **Eco Event** and, if invited, EVRA will join this.
- A Committee member has suggested that EVRA might have a **Table Sale** in the parish rooms run on similar lines to a garage sale. This idea appeared to be popular.

Vic explained that EVRA still has money in the accounts. In the past EVRA has bought, for example, new playground equipment. What would residents like to see the money spent on? Residents were encouraged to enlist the help of friends and neighbours to think of other good causes that could benefit from extra funding and send their idea to EVRA. Several ideas were put forward which the Committee could discuss:

- More seats around the village
- Donations to a Food Bank
- Somewhere for young people to meet, but this would need people to run it and an appropriate venue. It was suggested that young people should be approached to give their views on this and that a questionnaire should be put in the next newsletter to gather views from residents.
- Helping to fund the establishment of a repair shop rather like the one started in Mile Cross: small articles and equipment that needed mending could be brought there and mended at little or no cost.

Finally, Neil Rout, organiser of the Summer programme, apologised for not running it this year but it is hoped that it can be resurrected at some point in the future. Neil is involved with a project at the moment where all the information on all the graves at the Burial Ground is being recorded and, once completed, this information will be available on site to help all visitors who may need help with locating graves. If anyone is able to help the team with this work, he would be very grateful.

Vic thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed ..... Chair      Date .....