

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EATON VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT EATON GOLF CLUB, ON 18th OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30pm

The Chairman, Chris Stebbing, welcomed everyone to the meeting, including City Councillors Caroline Ackroyd and Judith Lubbock and County Councillor Brian Watkins.

1. APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Rosemary Benton, Sharon Atkinson, Naomi Godding, Margaret Bamford, Kristina Garner, Adam Everett, Gwen Fraser and City Councillor James Wright.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF EVRA AGM HELD ON 19th OCTOBER 2022 Minutes of the 2022 AGM were agreed as correct.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES There were none.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Chris Stebbing

The Chairman's report was circulated with all the other AGM documents and the main points are listed below.

Eaton Village Sign:

- The refurbishment was completed in March and the sign reinstalled in April. The cost of £2,862 was paid for by EVRA events and donations from the community. Chris thanked everyone for their support.

Vehicle Speed Monitoring around Eaton Village:

- The Speed Awareness Monitor continues to be managed by EVRA. Reports are shared with our local Councillors, the Highways Team at County Hall and our Neighbourhood Policing Team. Chris thanked the volunteers who helped move the sign each month.
- The data shows that 60% of vehicles are regularly exceeding the 20mph limit particularly on Church Lane and Greenways. Some 5,000 vehicles per day use the section of Church Lane between Greenways and Eaton Street with Eaton Primary School traffic accounting for around 800 vehicle movements during term time.

Raised Speed Table on Church Lane:

- A funding package has been agreed for a raised speed table to be installed before the end of March. The exact location is to be confirmed.

Future Projects:

- Funds are in a healthy state and the Committee has already discussed how these could be used to support the community. One area which has been explored is how to support those members of the community in their early to mid teens who are not really catered for. However, no decision has been reached and this area could be looked at again by the new Committee.

Construction Work and Disruption:

- There have been several projects over the year which caused varying degrees of disruption, in particular work on the Barclays Bank site and gas main replacement by Cadent, all involving temporary traffic lights and delays.

Friends of Donkey Lane:

- A new group has been formed to help manage this area with a view to maintaining a natural environment and keeping it tidy. Chris thanked the volunteers who have already come forward.

EVRA Events:

The Events Planning Team have organised several events this year, many of them new.

- Pumpkin Trail
- A talk on Arminghall Henge
- Spring/Easter Trail
- Defibrillator Training Session
- Quiz Night
- Table Top Sale
- Scarecrow Festival
- Family Fun Day
- Garage Sales and Cake Sales

EVRA Finances:

- Income from subscriptions has fallen by £500 but receipts from events has more than compensated for this.
- The cost of printing Newsletters has increased but another supplier has been found to keep costs low.
- A big expense has been the cost of printing subscription envelopes; this will be reviewed for 2024.
- The EVRA bank account also holds money for the Eaton Defibrillator and for the CAMEO drop-in sessions.

EVRA Website and Facebook pages:

- These pages are used to provide information to residents between the usual newsletters and they have been well received.
- The website continues to evolve and information such as photographs and information about Old Eaton is sent in by residents.

In conclusion Chris thanked long-standing members of the Committee who were not seeking re-election this year: Kath Westwell and Naomi Godding. Thanks also went to Helen Flute and her team of helpers who sort and deliver newsletters. Finally, he thanked Eaton residents and businesses who have continued to support the Association throughout the year.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT and presentation of accounts for year ending 31st March 2023

The accounts can be seen online and were distributed at the meeting.

- The accounts are healthy. For the year ending 31st March 2023, total assets stood at £9,604.90.
- The accounts reflect the work done by EVRA over the year: the refurbishment of the village sign, money-raising events, looking after the defibrillator fund and maintenance work on Marston Marshes.
- Until recently, EVRA looked after the funds for CAMEO (a group for bringing together people with dementia and their carers) but this has now closed and the money has gone to the Community Café held at St. Andrew's Hall.

- The Committee are discussing ideas for using the money, and residents were encouraged to offer their suggestions too.
- The accounts were again audited by Sarah Cross. Vic Flute proposed and Helen Flute seconded that they should be adopted.

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

County Councillor Brian Watkins

- Brian thanked Chris and the EVRA Committee for looking after the community so well. He commented on the range of events over the year and thanked those involved for all their hard work.
- A funding package has been put together for a speed table in Church Lane. A survey is being done to mark out where the utilities are. This will be followed by a design for the table and this should be in place by the end of March 2024.
- There is the possibility that there will be more work on Eaton Street. The Council sees a need for further safety measures on the street on the slip road to the lights : moving the 20mph sign further up towards the A11 carriageway, the possibility of putting down two speed tables and also removing two parking spaces near Winkworth to make it easier to turn into The Cellar House. There will be a consultation at some point.
- The on-going improvements on Newmarket Road are on track so the work should be finished by November 17th. The crossing on Newmarket Road will be widened, there will be a push button control at the bottom of Eaton Road and there will be a Beryl bike facility near the bus stop.
- The parking and congestion problems encountered over time at Eaton Primary School are not easy to solve but the Council's road safety team will be working with the school to try to offer a solution.
- Norfolk has been awarded £50 million to improve its bus services in Norwich and across the county.
- Under the proposed Devolution Deal for Norfolk, there is the possibility that Norfolk could get £600 million for new projects spread over 30 years but the proviso is that Norfolk would have to accept an elected mayor. The County Council has to make a final decision in December.

City Councillor Judith Lubbock

- Judith's report continued on the theme of highways and traffic, and she invited residents to share their observations.
- Judith thanked Chris and his team for their work with the SAM sign which involves regularly moving and lifting the very heavy sign.
- It was sad to hear that many drivers still do not heed the 20mph limit, but she realises that it is a difficult message to get across.
- There was also a need to reduce carbon emissions although a resident disputed the figures.
- Residents also complained that even the 30mph limit on Newmarket Road was often ignored and buses and taxis are often seen speeding in the bus lane.
- It was emphasised that the 20mph limit was a legal requirement and that there is a huge difference between suffering an impact at 20mph and one of 30mph.
- There is a SAM sign on the Newmarket Road, but no one is sure where the data goes – this is something Judith will follow up.

- A resident commented on what appears to be an extra long delay for pedestrians waiting to cross at the traffic lights near Sunningdale which often results in people trying to cross between moving vehicles. Judith and Brian will get this checked.
- Judith noted that it is hoped that the 50mph limit and 30mph limit signs on the Newmarket Road will be moved back to help vehicles exiting the slip road from Bluebell Road.
- First buses are going to get 70 new electric buses in the next year.
- The 5b bus service has had problems and the timetable has been changed: to make it more sustainable it picks up children from Hethersett Academy three afternoons a week in term time so it can be offputting to potential travellers. The drivers also have trouble trying to navigate around parked cars in Lindford Drive and Abinger Way.
- A resident commented that the last bus time has now changed and is too late (it used to get into Norwich by 7.15pm, now it is 7.30pm). Judith will pursue this with Konnect buses. There is also confusion about bus times in Castle Meadow and St Stephen's.
- Brian Watkins commented that the Council is talking of introducing more evening and Sunday services.
- A resident highlighted the problem for bus drivers when turning at the Church Lane traffic lights. It was suggested that the hatched area needs to be moved so that the stop line on leaving Church Lane would be roughly next to the optician's. It was also suggested that a cycle box would be necessary. This layout would give more room for the buses. Brian will follow this up.
- Caroline still feels that a right turn filter is needed at the traffic lights when approaching from Cringleford bridge as it is very difficult to turn right, even though there is a slight pause before the lights change. Brian will speak to the head of transport about this.

City Councillor Caroline Ackroyd

- Caroline commented that Eaton is a relatively crime-free area and that residents are very lucky to have the support of Andy Toes, the beat manager. However, residents still need to be vigilant at all times.

7. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE 2023-2024

No nominations for Committee posts had been received before the AGM.

Chairman	Chris Stebbing, proposed by Vic Flute, seconded by Fiona Bradshaw
Vice-Chairman	Vic Flute, proposed by Fiona Bradshaw, seconded by Natasha Simpkin
Secretary	Patricia Seadon, proposed by Chris Stebbing, seconded by Vic Flute
Treasurer	There were no nominations.
Committee	Sharon Atkinson, Fiona Bradshaw, Kristina Garner, Adam Everett, Natasha Simpkin were proposed as a group by Caroline Ackroyd and seconded by Helen Flute

THE WORK OF THE EVENTS PLANNING TEAM

- Several events take place throughout the year and these are planned and organised by Vic and his team (see Chairman's Report).
- Vic thanked Robert Farman in particular who had suggested and helped to present a talk on Arminghall Henge which was a very successful evening.
- Suggestions were welcomed for events during the coming year. Residents were also encouraged to join the team which is very fluid – meetings are online and it is not necessary to be involved with every activity. Helpers are always needed to set up before and after events, especially on Fun Day.

8. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEER OF ACCOUNTS

Sarah Cross who has audited the accounts for several years has agreed to continue. Chris proposed that Sarah should carry on in the post and the meeting agreed.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- It was pointed out that part of Howarth Way near the bollards on the Sunningdale/Greenways road has become overgrown and nothing has been done about it. The understanding is that the road is owned by Persimmon but there was some confusion about the Council's involvement.
- A resident asked what alternatives there were, now that the Post Office had closed. Local businesses had been approached about this but none wished to take it on because it was not viable - in fact they would lose money.
- A resident raised the question of the felling and replanting of the trees along Howarth Way. Phases 1 and 2 have been completed but Phase 2 had been later than planned. Phase 3 is due in 2024 but he felt that if this went ahead as planned an age structure of 5 years between new plantings would be lost. It was agreed by a show of hands that EVRA would approach the Tree Officer at Norwich Council to request that the tree felling be delayed by 5 years.

INTERVAL FOR REFRESHMENTS

In the second part of the meeting Max and Timo gave an extremely interesting and well-illustrated talk about their trip to the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in August. Many Eaton residents had contributed to their fund.

Despite adverse weather conditions, they both felt that their experience had been very rewarding, and they had brought back many amazing memories of shared experiences and friendships from their time away. One abiding memory for both of them was the cleanliness everywhere in Seoul and the friendliness of all the people they met.

Chris thanked Max and Timo for their illuminating talk and the meeting closed at 21.30.

Signed Chair Date