DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EATON VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT EATON GOLF CLUB, ON 16th OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.30pm

The Chairman, Chris Stebbing, welcomed everyone to the meeting, including City Councillors Caroline Ackroyd and Judith Lubbock and members of Eaton Rise Residents' Association (ERRA).

1. APOLOGIES - Apologies were received from Jenny Holcombe, Sharon Atkinson, Naomi Godding, Martin and Jan Pooley, Gerald and Thelma Cooke, Ros Wright, City Councillor James Wright and County Councillor Brian Watkins.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF EVRA AGM HELD ON 18th OCTOBER 2023 - Minutes of the 2023 AGM were agreed as correct and signed by the Chair.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- The amount of time pedestrians had to wait at the crossing near Sunningdale has been reduced. After the last AGM, our councillors reported the delay, which has been reduced to only 30 seconds once the button has been pressed.
- Ther 30mph limit on Newmarket Road has been moved back to before the slip road, instead of at Poplar Avenue.
- The 5B bus service has been discontinued and now the 6B route runs from Eaton to Riverside.
- EVRA contacted the Tree Officer about amending the phasing of tree cutting near Wentworth Gardens; it was agreed that this would be appropriate, but nothing has been heard since.
- It was clarified that the proposed Raised Speed Table on Church Lane will be a Zebra Crossing.

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.

Vehicle speed monitoring around Eaton Village:

- EVRA is responsible for the speed monitor, which is moved monthly. Data is collected and reports are sent to Highways, Councillors and our local policing team and posted on the EVRA website.

Church Lane Zebra Crossing:

- 5,000 vehicles use this stretch of road daily. With Councillor Brian Watkins' help, Norfolk Highways have agreed to install a zebra crossing near to the church on Church Lane. This is EVRA's preferred solution.

Eaton Net Zero:

- EVRA and ERRA are working with the Norfolk Net Zero Project team to support people to increase energy efficiency, install renewable heat and power and move to lower carbon modes of transport.

Friends of Donkey Lane:

- Volunteers continue to work to maintain the banks along the lane, but more volunteers are always welcome.

Marston Lane Hedge Project:

- This is a new project to manage a section of the hedgerows along Marston Lane footpath from its junction with Lindford Drive and the golf course crossing.
- Volunteers should contact Keri Williams or Chris Stebbing.

EVRA Safeguarding and Data Privacy Policies:

- EVRA reviewed and updated its Safeguarding Policy this year and appointed a committee member as Safeguarding Officer.
- The Data Privacy Policy is also being updated.

New EVRA Notice Board at Eaton Green:

- A new notice board funded by EVRA has been installed at Eaton Green playground; it is located on a path linking the school to Lindford Drive and is used for EVRA notices and information.

Church Hall Refurbishment Steering Group:

- EVRA is part of this group which has identified the key requirements of a refurbished hall.
- An architect has been appointed by the Church to create the initial design brief.

EVRA Events:

The Planning Team is chaired by EVRA Vice-Chair Vic Flute, and they have organised a number of events during the year as listed below. Volunteers are always needed to help with events so please make contact with Fiona Bradshaw if you would like to help.

- October – a Pumpkin Trail
- March - a talk on the Roman town at Caistor St Edmund
- May – Church Eco Day
- July – a week-long Scarecrow Display with garage sales and two cake sales
- August – Marston Marsh Activity Day
- October – Eaton Arts and Crafts Exhibition
- November – Quiz Night

EVRA Finances:

- In March Tony Bunn offered to take on the role of Treasurer, he was co-opted onto the Committee and has managed the accounts ever since.

EVRA Website and Facebook pages:

- This is a good way of reaching out to Eaton residents, the content evolves as new activities and links are added.

Chris concluded by thanking the Committee for their support during the past year. The Secretary, Patricia Seadon, has decided not to seek re-election and Chris thanked her for her work over the years. He also thanked our City and County Councillors for their support throughout the year in keeping us informed. He thanked Helen Flute who organises the distribution of the Newsletters with her group of volunteers. Finally, he thanked Eaton Village residents and the local businesses who provide support.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT and presentation of accounts for year ending 31st March 2024:

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

Tony thanked the previous treasurer, Naomi Godding, for looking after the finances and then Chris for holding the fort in the interim.

- The Financial Year runs from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. In that period the surplus was over £850 and total assets were just under £10,500.
- Income fell from £5,700 in 2022/23 to just under £3,200 in 2023/24. These figures reflect very generous donations from residents for the defibrillator and the refurbishment of the village sign.
- Subscriptions for 2023/24 are slightly lower at £1,775 but were offset by income from a range of events during the year.
- Expenditure fell significantly from £4,500 to £2,300 reflecting the cost of refurbishing the village sign.
- The increase of £300 for the cost of the Newsletters reflected the cost of a print run of 2 years' supply of envelopes which the Committee have decided remains cost effective. Expenditure also covers donations made by EVRA and the cost of hiring the Church Hall for events.
- EVRA assets still include funds assigned to other projects.
- Given the healthy state of the funds, the Committee is looking at new projects to benefit the village.
- The accounts were audited by Sarah Cross. Gareth Phillips proposed, and Robert Farnon seconded, that they should be adopted.

A resident asked about CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other): this was a group run by volunteers from Eaton Village before COVID, principally to support people with dementia and their carers. Their funds were hosted by EVRA until it became clear after Lockdown that the group would not be able to continue, and the money was donated to the Community Café which still meets at the Church Hall.

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

County Councillor Brian Watkins - details from his report were supplied by City Councillors Caroline Ackroyd and Judith Lubbock

City Councillor Caroline Ackroyd

- Caroline thanked the Committee for the work they do over the year.
- Councillor Watkins recognises how long the Church Lane crossing project is taking and how frustrating this is, but he will continue to do his best to bring it to fruition. The crossing will have no lights as these are too expensive.
- A scheme has also been devised for some additional safety measures on Eaton Street which include moving the 20mph sign further up the hill to the main A11 carriageway, and installing speed cushions further down towards the traffic lights and removing the parking spaces on the western side which will help cyclists. Public consultation has taken place with no significant objections. It has the support of Norwich City Council and Norwich Police and it is hoped it will be in place within six months.

City Councillor Judith Lubbock

- The signs are in place for the 30mph speed limit coming into Norwich from the county on the A11, but there is still work to be done on re-marking the bus lane.
- Norfolk County Council's finances are in a perilous state with a budget deficit of £44 million in the next financial year, and £11million of savings still to be identified. In subsequent years there will be

similar pressures unless central government is prepared to significantly boost the money given to support statutory services.

- The Long Stratton bypass should be completed by the end of 2025.
- The dualling projects on the A47 between Burlingham and Blofield, and Easton to Tuddenham are under way.
- The major work planned for the Thickthorn roundabout has been shelved for the time being.
- There is still no news on the proposed Norwich Western Link.
- Planning application for a ten-bedroom house of multiple occupancy on Poplar Avenue has been rescinded.
- Judith sits on the Climate and Environment Emergency Pane (CEEP) and is very interested in the progress of the Net Zero communities.
- There have been no recent complaints about the bus service, so it is assumed it has improved although there are a few small issues still to sort out. Residents must use the service to ensure that it continues.
- Residents pointed out that the 9.30am start time for free journeys with a bus pass can disadvantage some people because of where they live and exactly when the bus arrives. Judith will speak to Steve Royal, Operations Manager at Konect buses.
- There was a comment about parking during the Christmas period opposite Ebbisham Drive next to the Church of the Latterday Saints. It was thought that the cars belonged to Waitrose staff who are asked to free up their car park at Christmas.
- The church does allow parking on its car park but it is very dark and not very welcoming in winter. It was agreed that this problem could be followed up by EVRA.
- Drivers parking on the pavements and verges was also discussed. Judith pointed out that if vehicles were obstructing the path, the police could attend. She suggested sending a photograph to illustrate the problem, but it is not easy to define an obstruction. It was agreed that EVRA would mention this matter in the next newsletter and Councillors would also follow it up.
  Chris thanked our councillors for their on-going support and the work they do in the community.

7. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE 2024-2025

Nominations for Chair and Treasurer and two Committee posts had been received before the AGM.

Chairman	Chris Stebbing, proposed by Fiona Bradshaw, seconded by Zoe Bunn
Vice-Chairman	Vic Flute, proposed by Chris Stebbing, seconded by Phil Atkinson
Secretary	There were no nominations so the post will be covered in the short term by Vic Flute
Treasurer	Tony Bunn, proposed by Zoe Bunn, seconded by Sue Johns
Committee	Sharon Atkinson, Fiona Bradshaw, Adam Everett, and Siv Sears were proposed as a group by Tony Bunn and seconded by Caroline Ackroyd.

The above Committee members were agreed and elected by the AGM.

Chris encouraged other people to become involved in any way; volunteers are important to the success of EVRA's work in the village.

8. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEER OF ACCOUNTS

Sarah Cross, who has audited the accounts for several years, has kindly agreed to continue. Chris proposed that Sarah should carry on in the post and she was duly appointed.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Two residents commented on various areas of the village that looked unkempt. Chris explained that these were the responsibility of the owners of the land but EVRA would follow this up.
- On behalf of his wife Helen, Vic thanked those residents who helped with newsletter distribution. Help is always needed on the Ebbisham Drive, Merrow Gardens and Chandlers Court round.
- Vic invited residents to become members of the events group.
- A resident mentioned intermittent flooding on Church Lane; many of the drains become blocked by leaves and, despite writing to the Council, he has had no reply. Chris agreed EVRA would work with the Councillors to see what could be done.

INTERVAL FOR REFRESHMENTS

The Norfolk Net Zero project

Chris welcomed Jonathan Ward, Norfolk Net Zero Project Manager; Emma Punchard, Hubbub Community Engagement support; Jemma Luck, Our Power Norfolk; Paul Donnachie ERRA and Eaton Energy Champion; and Keri Williams Eaton Village Resident.

Jonathan Ward spoke about the Norfolk Net Zero Project: Eaton is one of seven Norfolk communities selected to take part in the Norfolk Net Zero Project which has three main aims – getting more buildings to become more energy efficient, creating greater access to cleaner heat and power sources, and move to lower carbon forms of transport. Paul Donnachie has been appointed as Eaton Energy Champion for the Norfolk Net Zero Project and will be available to provide advice to residents on how to proceed and sources of information. The project is also keen to hear of barriers that might prevent residents and communities from implementing the changes to their homes.

Two Eaton residents, Paul Donnachie and Keri Williams spoke honestly about their own experiences of making their homes more energy efficient and what this involved. They are both happy to speak to interested groups and offer advice.

Chris thanked all the speakers for their contributions to the discussion. EVRA has set up a page about the Net Zero project on the website which includes links to further sources of information and support.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

Signed …… Chair Date ……..