

Wimbledon Park Residents' Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on 8th October, 2019 at 8 pm
in Wimbledon Park Hall, Arthur Road, SW19

Committee: Iain Simpson (Chair) Mamoona Jahangir
 Nigel Israel (Treasurer) Ingrid Dickenson
 Pamela Healy Peter West
 Paresh Modasia Spike Clarke
 Beate Eberhardt
Ex Officio: Cllr Janice Howard, Cllr Oonagh Moulton, Cllr Ed Gretton
In Attendance: Jill Farmer

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 23rd October, 2018

The Minutes were approved without comment.

The Chairman went through the Minutes, as there is no formal agenda.

- a) Registration of the Association as a charity was turning out to be too complicated. However, we are going to incorporate as a Company Limited by Guarantee.
- b) Boundary Commission: this is now settled and Wimbledon and Wimbledon Park will remain together.
- c) Concrete Batching Plant: their appeal was rejected. Special thanks are due to Peter West and Nicola Davenport who put a huge amount of work into producing the comprehensive submissions.
- d) 5G: there have been several articles in the newsletter detailing concerns about the health effects and security aspects. Asif Naqvi has written an article which is published on the association website. Asif noted that a public meeting he organised in June was very well attended by residents.
- e) Planning: Pam Healy reported on development.
 - i. Plough Lane/AFC development is going ahead for 2020 season with 600 flats.
 - ii. The Woodman – building of flats is going well. The 2018 planning application has been revised by the Council.
 - iii. Haslemere – work is progressing on the 200 houses/flats.
 - iv. 12A Ravensbury Road works are progressing; new footbridge linking Merton and Wandsworth is still awaiting approval by both Councils. Ed Gretton confirmed that they are talking to each other.
 - v. Wellington Industrial Estate – the first plan was rejected and also the last appeal. Goldcrest applied to extend the workshop as it is, and carry on using it as a workshop. There are concerns because of access through Wellington Road and Dawlish Avenue. The gates have now been left open. We are waiting to find out exactly what is happening because the gates should be locked.
 - vi. Mosque – the first application was turned down. They are reconsidering their application for alterations to the Mosque.
 - vii. Revelstoke Road – concern about a 17m. communications mast which has been erected recently. Original plan was for 11.8 to 13.4m. mast. Councillors are taking this up and have called in the enforcement team.

- viii. Sainsbury's zebra crossing on Durnsford Road: we have been lobbying the Council for a while. Pam and Ed met with the Council. They claimed it did not meet the criteria to install a crossing, and were concerned by the cost. The electricity supply has already been put in earlier in the year. Plan to put in buff coloured tarmac across the road plus triangle signs showing walkway.

In reply to a question regarding the bridge, Merton and Wandsworth Councils both have to agree on whether money will be available. If it is, the developer will put this in.

Iain expressed a big thank you to Pam from all residents.

3. **FOWP**

Nick Steiner gave an overview of activities:

- (a) Setting up a consultation to improve the Revelstoke entrance/car park. Plans will be discussed at a meeting in the Bowling Clubhouse during January 2020.
- (b) 2020 Masterplan and the golf course: Merton has put the plan on the back burner. There is a lot in the plan which is worthwhile and just needs Merton's support. FOWP, AELTC and the Wimbledon Club need a joined up approach.
- (c) Cost of repairing the water-play and playground area is £350k. Repairs to the pool will be £300k. Doug Napier is going to try and action this.
- (d) Toilets: idea to demolish very old facility and relocate to the Café. Looking into Lottery and Heritage funding.
- (e) A questioner was concerned about keeping a clear view of St. Mary's church from the park.
- (f) A questioner asked how the de-silting proposed in the Masterplan could be stopped, as it would result in shrinking Capability Brown's Heritage Lake. Chris Parsloe has been looking into the dam, flooding and de-silting for over a year. Merton Council has set aside £1.5 million for repairs, but if the water level was lowered this might be less. Dave Dawson is following up on this.
- (g) A questioner asked if there was provision to make an exit gate on Home Park Road. The provision for entrance and exit here will be part of the overall Plans submitted for discussion at the meeting proposed for January/February.

Iain thanked Nick for being very tenacious.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Ivan Scott, who keeps the books, reported in the absence of the Treasurer. He noted that reserves have fallen by over £1,000. Income from membership has also fallen; 571 (2013) to 247 (2019). We need a Membership Secretary.

Proposed by Ed Gretton, seconded by Paresh and those present approved the Report.

Iain thanked Ivan for his assiduous bookkeeping.

5. **Front Garden Competition**

Jill Farmer presented the results. Photographs of the winning gardens were available to view. The idea is to make front gardens attractive and improve the street scene, which has suffered through paving over and other factors. Twenty-two volunteer judges covered 32 streets. Three judges selected winners from the short-list. Jill thanked all who took part, and indicated that more help is always appreciated.

Highly commended gardens are St. Luke's Church and Bentley Close. There is no winner this year in the Environmental category. Last year's winner, Irene Keith, presented the awards.

Best Summer and John Uden Trophy Winner: Gianni and Jane Sestili, 97 Ashen Grove
Best All-Year: Diane Boiling, 4 Kenilworth
Best Container: Lukasz Stasiak and Panos Bardas, Flat 1, 61 Alverstone Avenue

Iain thanked Jill for organising what we continue to think is a very worthwhile project.

6. Election of Officers

Members standing again are: Iain Simpson (Chairman), Nigel Israel (Treasurer), Pamela Healy, Beate Eberhardt, Paresh Modasia, Spike Clarke, Peter West, Michael Tyler, Ingrid Dickenson, Mamoonah Jahangir. Iain thanked Cllrs. Janice Howard, Oonagh Moulton and Ed Gretton who are very pro-active in the Ward. Proposed: Jill Farmer. Seconded: Diane Boiling.

Iain reiterated that we are actively searching for a Membership Secretary, as Paresh noted we would welcome more members.

7. Any Other Business

(a) Iain commented on the 'vandalism' to the undergrowth beside the station platform, which has been razed to the ground by TfL contractors. It presents the possibility of instability on the banks. We need to protest and ask for compensation.

(b) Roger Matthews questioned the criteria for the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit, and was it going to be extended to all areas of the borough including Home Park Road. Oonagh replied that she has taken this up with Merton Council but ours is the last area; Home Park Road and Strathmore may be done by December.

(c) A questioner asked for an update on parking charges. Despite the objections by our Councillors, the charges were approved by Labour, and it is felt this is an attack on Wimbledon.

8. Stephen Hammond MP addressed the meeting.

Stephen thanked Iain for doing a great job.

The bin collection issue has died down. Contracts have proved problematic, and more money is going in for street cleaning which seems to be about every six weeks.

Crossrail 2: we are still awaiting the consultation. We should be looking at long-term costs and environmental issues including tunnelling. It seems less likely to happen. Government has not given it any more money.

Masterplan: the Council has approved plans; however, there needs to be consultations on the build height and mass, and what this might do to the centre of Wimbledon, to avoid Wimbledon becoming like Croydon. There is a need for growth but in a distinctive style.

Heathrow: there have been two consultations this year that were very well attended. Flight envelopes proposed for Wimbledon would, on certain days, see 47 more flights coming over. At the moment, 30% come over Wimbledon, and they are also coming in lower over Wimbledon Hill area. The extension of Heathrow and a 3rd runway is of concern for the environment and climate change, which has risen up the national thought process. He urged people to get involved.

He is very proud to be a Minister, as No. 2 in the Ministry of Health. Some achievements are ongoing.

Brexit: he voted 'Remain' but respected the 'Leave' result. He voted three times for a deal. No deal will have a bad economic affect in London and around the country. We should guarantee the rights of ourselves and other EU constituents. He thinks a deal is still possible despite today's rhetoric, and will do whatever in his power to ensure we leave in a responsible manner. There is a need for compromise, and a more civilised way of interaction, as the country is very divided

In reply to a question about the station lift, Councillors have worked very hard. Janice said they are having a team meeting outside the station with people involved.

Extinction Rebellion – at Heathrow - the biggest polluter is not aircraft but people going in and out of the airport, and who is going to pay for damage to the environment, and surface damage.

Asked if he will be the Conservative candidate, he said he is still a member of the Conservative Party. Asked if he would be given back the Whip, he replied that he would be happy to stand as the Conservative candidate at the next election but cannot give an answer. He expressed his pride at what he achieved when a Minister representing his constituents. It is a great honour and privilege serving as a Member of Parliament.

He was thanked for being instrumental in arranging a personal family problem.

Iain expressed thanks to Stephen.

Iain made a request for more newsletter deliverers.

Following the meeting, the Mayor, Cllr. Janice Howard, stayed on for a chat with those present. Her chosen charities are Macmillan, and Faith in Action, which provides meals and looks after people who badly need help.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm. and was followed by refreshments provided by Yasmin of Arthur's Café.