

# Chalfont Heights Roads Committee

## **Minutes of Meeting of the 58th Annual General Meeting**

**Held at the Parish Church Hall, Chalfont St Peter at 19.30 on**

**Friday 8th February, 2013**

### **Present:**

69 residents (representing 50 properties)

Members present: S Allright, P G Cassell, G Eykyn, J Garnham, N Marchant, J Pegler, K Krokosz, K Quilter, M Simmons, T Ansell

Member Apologies: R. Burge

Residents apologies: Paula Burge, Mike & Irene McKeeman, Doreen & Russell Woakes, Keith & Fiona Begley, Pamela Bryan, Vera Humphreys, Dorinda Lafone, Vera Crossley, Dr. and Mrs. D. Grieves, Barry & Dee Guy, Tricia McNair, Janet Cassell.

Guest speaker: Thames Valley Police's Chalfonts policing team: PCSO Roland Lobo  
Jon McGowan (Interim Secretary) in attendance

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### **58.1 Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM, including our guest speaker, and apologies were read out. Residents were asked to ensure that they signed the attendance list that was circulated during the meeting.

PCSO Roland Lobo made a brief and informative presentation to the residents, his talk was focused on the different types of burglary currently happening in South Bucks and some recommendations for crime prevention,

- Housebreaks: top of the list, Police trying to be visible on the streets, make sure that there is some light and noise from the house, especially evenings and nights.
- "Vamoos": this is a type of car theft, hi-spec Audis currently being targets.; Advice is park out of sight, use barriers and immobilisers where possible; tracker devices work well.
- Distraction Burglary, where resident is distracted at front door while thieves enter from side of back door, pose as window cleaners or utilities. Always ask for ID. If suspicious ask for head office number, close the door and call to check.
- Non-Dwelling: this is where sheds and garages or other out buildings are targeted, make sure to lock up well with bolts and locks or garage defender device. Also talked about Selecta DNA Gel which can be used to mark property which is logged on National Police database, very effective for recovery rates.
- Other more general thefts include motor vehicles, number plates (use anti-tamper screws on number plates).

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There is a link on the News section of the website to these products and South Bucks Council initiatives. Don't forget that 101 is the non-emergency number.

### **58.2 Minutes**

2.1 The minutes of the fifty-seventh Annual General Meeting, held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 were submitted for approval. While no proposals were made, it was agreed by all that the 2012 minutes would be carried.

### **58.3 Financial Report and Accounts – Keith Quilter (Treasurer)**

3.1 The Treasurer stated every property had paid their subscriptions, and that the entire accounts and all receipts, bills and invoices were available for viewing at the AGM, but not on an individual basis during the year.

Treasurer's report advised that the annual subscription should remain the same as last year, £160 p.a., for which a standing order would be preferable. Accountants Nunn & Hayward had audited and accepted CHRC accounts.

3.2 The meeting was invited to make comment regarding the Treasurer's report –Acceptance of the Financial Report and Accounts was proposed by John Williams, seconded by Robin Mellor.

3 questions from Mr. Roger Cairn, Lewis Lane, 1) why doubling of Secretarial and AGM costs; 2) why are CHRC not earning more interest on cash surplus; 3) why large increase in legal fees. KQ responded to Q.1 that the position of Secretary is the only paid position and that costs were now in line with current norms. In response to Q.2 KQ stated that the constraints of a business account and lack of any decent return deterred the Committee from tying up estate funds, for which access could be required at short notice, such as sewer collapse on Chiltern Hill.

In response to Q.3, SA explained that the committee had been asked to restore a lapsed covenant on a property on the estate, which may have had an adverse effect on the estate as a whole. The committee had decided that this was a very prudent use of funds in everyone's interest. Mr. Cairn accepted these explanations but recommended that notes be added to the accounts in future years, SA agreed that this was a sensible idea.

The meeting applauded a vote of thanks to Keith. The summary of the annual accounts were made available to residents at the meeting and these will be put up on the CHRC website in due course.

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## 58.4 Committee Reports

### **58.4.1 Communications – George Eykyn**

4.1.1 GE reported that 156 of the 195 houses on the Estate were now receiving email alerts, GE asked if residents know of any newcomers to Chalfont Heights that they alert them to the website, forum and email alerts, and put them in touch with him.

4.1.2 GE asked residents to register and participate on the Forum, there are 34 people registered. The forum is there for residents to share their views and opinions and to make recommendations about local services and trades.

It is not open to the public and certainly not there for the purposes of pure advertising; however, if you have a good experience using a tradesperson then please feel free to share this on the Forum. The forum is moderated and CHRC reserve the right to remove inappropriate material or comments at any time.

4.1.3 GE mentioned that BT had been in contact with CHRC to gain access to lay a cable through Upway and down Chiltern Hill into RWS. BT had not offered anything to the residents or Committee in lieu of any potential damage and interruption as a result of works, therefore access has been denied at this time.

4.1.4 SA thanked GE and the 11 road rep volunteers/members of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme around the Heights for their time and effort throughout the past year.

### **57.4.2 Development – Jonathan Pegler**

4.2.1 JP thanked Robin Mellor for the smooth handover and the archive of material. He also thanked Kris, Terry and Derek for their support and input throughout the year. JP wished Bob Burge well and sent thanks for all as Bob had been instrumental in the resolution of works and finalisation of negotiations with Veolia and Thames Water following the sewer collapse in 2012.

4.2.2 JP reminded residents that they are required to submit plans for developments to the Committee before plans are submitted to the Council, and that this often prevented problems with the council at a later stage.

4.2.3 JP announced that a new method of calculating the Development Fee was being adopted by the Committee and that this would be related to the area of the development rather than the cost. More will be circulated by email and through letter drops at a later date.

4.2.4 JP explained that major road works had been deferred from 2012 to 2013 and that this has resulted in the large reserves being held by CHRC. However, JP explained that there are works planned for 2013, and some major resurfacing on several of the estate roads in the coming years. A budget had been prepared and indicated that this will use up a large portion of

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the CHRC reserves and there will be need to be an increase to member subscriptions in 2014, details to be circulated prior to next year's AGM.

### 58.4.3 Roads – Mark Simmons

4.3.1 Mark thanked the volunteers for coming forward for snow clearing. If there is anyone else who would like to volunteer please contact us by email on [contact@chrc.org.uk](mailto:contact@chrc.org.uk).

4.3.2 The new gritter has been a big success and a resident from Lewis Lane commented on how quickly the roads had been cleared after the recent snowfalls. There is salt and grit in the bins and anybody who wants access please contact the Committee for the bin lock codes.

4.3.3 Bob and Mark have been around the Estate and taken photographic evidence of the state of the various roads, many of which will receive attention in 2013. Residents will be given ample notice of any works to be carried out on their part of the estate.

### 58.4.4 Trees, Islands, Verges & Gates - Jasper Garnham

4.4.1 JG commented on how the changeable weather in 2012 had brought about a lot of growth for the trees on the estate. The Committee have a programme of on-going maintenance for the trees on the estate.

4.4.2 In 2013 there will be a programme to plant new trees in the gaps where older trees have been removed. JG said that residents would be consulted on the types of trees being planted and that smaller trees would be better suited.

4.4.3 JG also asked residents where possible to try and maintain their verges and to try and repair any damaged by traffic going through the estate.

Q. Any news on any cases of Ash Die-back in the estate? JG replied that while we did have Ashes that there were known cases of Die-back at present.

## 58.5 Committee

5.1 The Chairman asked for the adoption of the Committee members' reports, proposed by Terry Ansell and seconded by Craig Alico.

5.2 Steve Allright announced that due to work commitments he was standing down as Chairman. SA announced that Bob Burge was resigning from the committee due ill health and proposed a vote of thanks and best wishes. SA also thanked Nick Marchant who is also resigning from Committee. SA announced that Jonathan Pegler had been elected by the Committee to hold the post of Chairman.

5.3 The current Chairman referred to the team of committed volunteers who are available for re-election for the year 2013-2014 as follows:

Jonathan Pegler	(chair)
Mark Simmons	(roads)
Paul Cassell	(vice chair)
George Eykyn	(comms)

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Jasper Garnham	(trees)
Keith Quilter	(finance)
Kris Krokosz	(development)

Committee Proposed by John Wood and seconded by Michael March, 19 Upway. Motion carried.

5.4 Position of Secretary is being filled on an interim basis by Jon McGowan, however, if anyone would like to take up this post, or knows of anyone else who might like to take the post, please contact the Committee. SA also invited any residents to apply to join the Committee.

### **58.6 Any other business**

6.1 Mr John Warder raised the point that there will be a new waste and recycling supplier Serco, who will be taking over the contract from Biffa in July 2013. There will be a series of consultations and information sessions on this and dates will be posted on the CHRC website.

6.2 Mr Bruce Allen made the point that Bucks County Council are planning to build a new incinerator close to Aylesbury and that this is part of the Bucks waste plan, which should see a reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill and possibly even a reduction in taxes! Bruce also alerted the residents of the absence of a full time warden on the Paccar scout camp. SA confirmed that the Committee had spoken to the camp manager and alerted the local Police.

6.3 SA alerted residents to the imminent closure by CDC of the entrance to the village between The Greyhound roundabout and the bottom of Marketplace. The council are planning to keep the road closed for up to 4 months. The issue is that traffic from the village will naturally divert back on Lower Road and potentially through Chiltern Hill and Upway to re-join with Joiners Lane.

Committee sought residents' permission to invest time and resources to ensure that the closure made the minimum impact on the estate in terms of traffic, disruption and wear. Three options were outlined and option 3 was adopted by a clear majority of those present (details available to residents upon request). Option 3 entailed spending an initial sum of approx £3.6k on security guards at Upway and Chiltern Hill, and depending on traffic volumes further amounts as necessary.

The Committee have also contacted local businesses and schools asking them to refrain for using the Estate as a short-cut while works were being carried out. Two residents from Sandy Rise voiced their concern over the volume of traffic coming through to access the Montessori school.

Mr Shawn McC stated that while his daughter had attended the School, only once had parents been requested not to park in Sandy Rise, he suggested that this needed to be done weekly. JP said that Committee would contact the school.

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6.3 Bruce Allen kindly agreed to contact CDC to see if the parking bays on Lower Road could be temporarily suspended during the planned works.

6.4 Jim Ballantyne thanked the Committee on behalf of the residents. A fellow resident also commented on the improvement in the quality of the minutes. The Chairman then closed the meeting.