

Chalfont Heights Roads Committee

Minutes of the Fifty fourth Annual General Meeting

Held at the Parish Church Hall, Chalfont St Peter
at 20.15 on
Wednesday 25th February 2009

Present:

Fifty residents (representing forty-one properties) were present including six members of the Committee as follows:

P G Cassell (Chairman), R J Burge, G Eykyn, J Garnham, K. Krokosz,
Mrs P E McNair.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Dr and Mrs Grieve, Alan and Vera Humphreys, Mrs Dorinda Lefone, Mrs Kendal, Mr and Mrs Ken Morrison and Sheila, Dawn Palmer, Keith Quilter (Treasurer), Carol Smith, Christodoulos Timotheou, Bob Warrington

Janice Buchanan (Secretary) in attendance

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM and apologies were read out. Residents were asked to ensure that they signed the attendance list which would be circulated during the meeting.

54.1 Minutes

1.1 The Minutes of the fifty-third Annual General Meeting, held on 29th February 2008 were submitted for approval. This was proposed by Barry Bradbrook, seconded by Michael March and the proposal was carried.

1.2 Matters arising

The Chairman indicated the only matter arising not covered in other sections of the report was the question of the Yellow Lines on Chiltern Bridge. Councillor John Warder who was present at the meeting advised that there had been some regrettable delay and that it might be another year before the lines appear.

54.2 Financial Report & Accounts – Keith Quilter (Treasurer)

2.1 The Chairman advised that additional copies of the accounts duly signed by the auditors were available if required. The meeting was invited to make comment regarding the Treasurer's Report – no questions arose. Acceptance of the Financial Report and Accounts was proposed by Barry Hulme, seconded by Mike McKeeman and the proposal carried.

2.2 The Treasurer's report advised that the annual subscription should remain the same as last year, £150 p.a. - proposed by Derek Bryan, seconded by Brenda Wickham and the proposal carried.

54.3 Honorary Auditors

- 3.1 The Chairman thanked the honorary auditors Mr Roy Solomon and Mr John Williams for auditing the Estate accounts and advised that they are prepared to carry on for another year. Proposed by Dennis Palmer, seconded by George Eykyn, carried unanimously.

54.4 Committee Report

54.4.1 Roads and Signs – Rob Burge & Kris Krokosz.

- 4.1.1 Rob Burge advised that traffic on the estate had not been as heavy as expected. Owing to the danger of not being able to see oncoming vehicles, the foliage at the Oak Tree Island had been cut back considerably to improve visibility.
- 4.1.2 Considerable discussion ensued regarding various verges around the estate. In particular Woodside Hill was mentioned where on both sides of the road the verges have been damaged. RB advised that these will be re-instated by the builder. RB advised residents that he would willingly consult with them regarding problems affecting their properties. Lorry damage is a particular problem on verges. Residents are responsible for the upkeep of the verge outside their property but are encouraged to contact the committee if they are experiencing particular problems with erosion or damage.
- 4.1.3 Several residents commented that the newly installed kerbstones in Lewis Lane were unattractive and suggestions for alternatives were made. Also a request for smaller stones was mooted. RB will investigate these issues but advised that kerbing was necessary in order to prevent vehicles churning up the verges persistently. There will be further consultation with residents. There are kerbs in 28 locations around the Heights which have been installed at various times. Some are related to erosion and others relate to problems with flooding. Other residents commented regarding the use of vertical posts.
- 4.1.4 There has been a problem with the gulleys in lower Woodside Hill. These have been problematical and are blocked or broken. RB will investigate and the problem will be addressed at the time of re-surfacing the road.
- 4.1.5 The question of numbering houses arose and residents expressed a number of views both for and against numbering. At present, Upway and Winkers Lane are the only roads on the estate which has numbers. It was suggested that House Names could still be used as well as a numbering system. Michael March and Barry Hulme both commented that we should consider the emergency services who often are unable to locate properties when a numbering system is not in place. There have previously been polls regarding house numbering and a show of hands resulted in 18 in favour and 10 against. Denis Palmer agreed to put wheels in motion through the District and Parish Councils. The decision for house numbering can only go ahead if there is a 60% majority in favour. Road representatives would be required to visit each house and collect a signed statement. The committee will discuss and ask for volunteers. Steve Manning agreed to do Lewis Lane. A form can be circulated next month with the Minutes of the AGM.
- 4.1.6 It was suggested that the committee should survey the road humps in use on the Moor Park Estate which have proved effective in lowering the speed of vehicles. RB reported that there are 35 road humps on the estate. Some are deemed to be too big but all fall within the DfT recommendations. This particular issue has been discussed by the committee *ad nauseam*. If traffic speed is kept at or below 15mph, the humps do not present a problem. There was a problem in Sandy Rise but this has now been rectified. The effectiveness of the hump is in the angle of entry – not its height. The finances do not stretch to altering all the humps on the estate but when resurfacing takes place, any causing problems will be rectified. Should an insurance claim arise, the driver would

have to prove which humps caused the damage which could be problematical. The estate would have to pay a £500 excess on any claim. The speed limit of 15mph should be clarified and the signs will be brought up to the very latest standards at each of the three entrances to the estate advising of this limit and of the presence of speed humps. These will comply with the requirements of our insurers. Brenda Wickham of Upway commented that as a pedestrian the very large humps in Upway presented a problem. PC summarised and advised that gradually all humps would be standardised but that it was necessary to operate within our financial reserves.

- 4.1.7 RB advised that during this last winter the gritting contractor had been called out once. He indicated that each such call out cost over £400. He also advised that the salt boxes will be filled. Jane Pegler commented that one of the boxes was full of cans which needed to be cleared.
- 4.1.8 Michael March expressed appreciation for the tarmac extension in Upway which had made a considerable difference to his property.
- 4.1.9 Pam Bryan commented regarding rubbish on the estate and encouraged all residents to be responsible in removing it.

54.4.2 Trees, islands and Estate entrances – Jasper Garnham

- 4.2.1 JG commented that John O'Neill had done a marvellous job over the last few years but has now had to resign and hand over to JG who agreed to answer any questions.
- 4.2.2 Martin Crossley of Lincoln Road queried policy on tree preservation on the estate referencing a nearby house where a Tree Preservation Order had been imposed on a tree affected by a planning application. Robin Mellor commented that we observe the rules and regulations and that trees are always considered when planning issues arise. There have only been occasional problems in this connection.

54.4.3 Development – Robin Mellor, Tricia McNair & Derek Bryan

- 4.3.1 RM advised that this has been a quiet year on the estate. Thanks were expressed to John Nesbitt, Architectural Consultant for his considerable assistance. RM also commented that Chiltern District Council have said that they don't want any more big houses.
- 4.3.2 Mrs Wickham inquired of policy regarding electric gates and was advised that timber gates are acceptable, but metal gates are not. RM advised Residents are very concerned about their security and although the committee can state its views, if planning permission is granted we have to accept that gates will be installed.
- 4.3.3 Simon Cowen, Chiltern Hill expressed concern regarding a nearby development which had surprised him and asked if residents could be advised if a large development is proposed in order that objections could be filed. RM advised that residents are asked to approach the committee in the first instance but this doesn't always happen and they approach the council first. Councillor John Warder advised of the weekly update on planning on the CDC website. Councillor Bruce Allan advised that if residents submitted their e-mail addresses, the information could be forwarded to those concerned. Everyone needs to be watchful. When the document regarding House Numbering is circulated residents could be asked for their e-mail addresses and telephone numbers. The committee is currently updating the address list.
- 4.3.4 PC advised that crime has increased on the estate – there have been five or six episodes in the last 12 months. E-mail contact could be a useful tool in this connection. Michael March advised that information is available regarding local crime from the Police.