

Green Street Green Village Society



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

17 MAY 2013

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE at 7.30 p.m.

The Chairman, Tony Bradley, welcomed many Village Society members and guests to the Meeting, including local ward Councillors, Cllr Russell Jackson and Julian Grainger, and Acting PS Lorna Andersen.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Samaris Huntington-Thresher, Tamara Galloway (late), Rachel Holmes, Sharon Luck, Ian Matheson, Marjorie Parker and Linda Sokoloff.

2. **MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 18 MAY 2012**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 18 May 2012 had been circulated. The Chairman moved that they be accepted and this was unanimously agreed. Proposed by Dot Ryder and seconded by Barrie Newman.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

None that are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. **TREASURERS' REPORTS**

Printed accounts were circulated. Copies are filed with the Master Minutes.

4.1. **GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Alan Garelick presented the report:

- Increase from last year on rents received – hall fully occupied
- Started paying for water this year
- Otherwise healthy accounts

The Accounts were agreed. Proposed by Joyce Lowes
Seconded by Elizabeth Downie

4.2. **GREEN STREET GREEN VILLAGE SOCIETY**

Colin Warner, presented the Report:

Income: Few more members than last year plus donation of £120.

Expenditure: Newsletter is biggest expense. Park bench appeared in last year's accounts – going into recreation ground in next few weeks.

Balance: £2969

Nett assets: £4350

The Accounts were agreed. Proposed by Ken Bullen
Seconded by Eddie Simms

The Chair explained that the donation from Marjorie Ford (royalties from her book 'The Story of Green Street Green') paid for the plaque celebrating 60 years of the society.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Tony Bradley gave a summary:

Centre:

- Centre continues to be well-used
- Website gives list of meetings in the community centre
- Friday afternoon only afternoon where no regular occurrence
- Refloored kitchen and entrance hall this year
- Kitchen refit – hoping to get more money from the lottery – autumn holiday
- Cleaner, Peter, been ill this week but should be back soon

Society:

- Bob & Meriel Mills doing a superb job keeping in contact with road contacts and managing membership
- Bob Mills is also chairman of the SNT ward Panel
- 3 things very proud of:
 - Zebra crossing by Waitrose
 - Brittenden Parade resurfacing, with wider footpath
 - Parking – high street pay and display seems to have cleared parking to allow shoppers to stop and go shopping
- Very pleased with council for helping to achieve these improvements
- Had words with betting shop manager – cigarette ends appearing on footpath again – they are getting a new cleaner
- Street Pin – Tim Buick's new digital pinboard project – Society has supported launch

6. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

The Chair announced that Jean Garelick has stood down from the committee, doing more work with charities. She was thanked for all her work for the Society. Barrie Newman has also stood down as Vice-Chair.

All other Committee members had agreed to serve again.

The Meeting agreed officers as follows:-

Honorary President:	Larry Lewis
Chairman:	Tony Bradley
Vice-Chair:	Bob Mills
Greenwood Centre Treasurer:	Alan Garelick
Village Society Treasurer:	Colin Warner
Secretary:	Margot Rohan
Membership Secretary:	Bob Mills
Lettings Manager:	Dot Ryder
Planning Secretary:	Tamara Galloway

Committee Members: Elizabeth Downie, Ian Matheson, Meriel Mills, Barrie Newman, Stan Mortimer and Gill Russell plus new members: Kim Botting, Margaret Lawrence and Eddie Sims.

The Chairman, Vice-Chair, Greenwood Centre Treasurer and Secretary are Trustees of the Greenwood Centre Charity – Bob Mills to replace Barrie Newman.

Honorary Auditor: Stephen Gates Agreed by the meeting.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND OPEN FORUM**

The Chair asked Acting PS Lorna Andersen to introduce herself.

Crime down by 7.6% across Bromley – better than 5.5% across London.

Crime statistics (see separate sheet).

Halfords do tamper-proof screws for wheels.

A member asked ‘what about dog thefts?’ A lot of rumours have been circulating but there have been no reported thefts of dogs locally. There have only been 2 dog thefts from homes.

APS Andersen will look at overall annual figures to compare year on year.

The Chair handed over to the councillors.

Cllr Julian Grainger:

- Confirmed that a notice went up that the council will be adopting Brittenden Parade.
- Parking – a bit of a ‘dog’s breakfast’ in terms of the implementation. It has taken longer than expected. Old Shire Lane is part of the scheme and has been marked out. Concrete bollards have been put up to prevent travellers from going down there. It is hoped the Metrobus and Waitrose workers will park in Shire Lane and alleviate parking in the high street.
- Public toilets - The council intends to offer them for sale – any time soon. First refusal will be made to local residents and businesses, in case they can be put to some local use.

Cllr Russell Jackson:

- Requested feedback regarding the new parking restrictions.
- The council is going through the process of renewing the Council Plan across the whole of Bromley. Nationally, there are a lot of changes being introduced regarding the green belt and extensions.
- The Council has expressed its concerns about safeguarding the Green Belt and gardens.
- Fly tipping and litter on A21 – noticeable increase in things dropped from cars. Trying to focus on it.

Comments from attendees about the oak tree which has been taken down:

- Lot of local feedback – trees are important.
- People have asked if it is going to be replaced.
- They would like to see something there.
- It looks very bare outside – maybe a small tree could be planted.
- Local people should have a say.
- Down past the bus garage, there are trees which are nice in blossom but, along the high street, it has lost the rural feel.
- Maybe a magnolia tree or similar type could be planted.
- Magnolia might not survive the traffic fumes. Could prefer to replace with another oak tree.
- Can a tree be replaced in the same place? It might be a problem because of roots etc.

Chair: The committee was concerned about a tree of that size being so close to the building and dropping a lot of leaves. We are also concerned about the chestnut tree – huge branch leaning over. A tree officer looked at the oak tree and came to the conclusion it needed to come down. They will take out the roots. The tree officer feels it is not necessary to replace the tree.

Cllr Julian Grainger: The council is supportive of tree planting. If the Society wishes to plant a tree somewhere in the village, the council would support it. The location outside the centre may not be an ideal site. Perhaps some shrubs around the village garden, by the roundabout or a tree at another site.

Cllr Russell Jackson is very supportive – ‘a travesty to lose a tree’.

Abigail Hussey proposed that the tree be replaced with a new one – magnolia or similar type – in the same place. This was seconded by Meriel Mills.

Vote: 34 in favour and 5 against.

Cllr Julian Grainger suggested a small working party be set up to look at the various options and work with the relevant council officers. Some options can then be published to see what feedback is generated.

A suggestion was made to have a questionnaire at the Village Fete on 8 June and collect local opinions.

Bob Mills raised the issue of a parking bay for the local SNT police car:

- Local police car has no dedicated bay
- If there is an urgent call, people want a quick response.
- At the meeting on 15 May, the panel SNT ward panel requested that a police bay be put in, preferably opposite the CCTV.

Cllr Julian Grainger: The council is already aware of the request. There is pressure on parking in Laxey Road and Lezayre Road, caused by Waitrose and Metrobus staff. As long as there is that pressure, taking a bay out will increase the problem for residents. The council wants to see how the new parking restrictions work out. There is also concern about the exit from the Queens Head – when a white van is parked near, visibility is very bad. If the police found that space acceptable, that would satisfy a number of objectives.

A resident suggested the garden behind the police shop might provide a little car park but APS Andersen explained that the yard is used to store police equipment.

Another resident commented that it is good that councillors are talking to police. As a resident, it is not acceptable if police have to go looking for their police car and are delayed getting to an incident.

A resident raised the issue of car parking in Worlds’ End Lane and the ‘tree’ roads (Ash, Elm, Oak, Beech and Holly):

- People parking in ‘tree’ roads, so residents cannot park.
- What about allowing 2 wheels on the footpath parking on one side?
- It is important to be consistent
- World’s End Lane – if wheels are on the footpath, a mobility scooter can not get past.

Cllr Julian Grainger: We are aware of concerns around there and minibus parking. Chelsfield station area is the next issue due to displacement from Knockholt station.

2 wheels on footpath – not allowed in Greater London except where roads are narrow and it has been regularised, with signage. Kingsley Road has had it for decades but it has never been regularised. The reason for banning it is for pedestrians to pass, partially sighted people and mothers with pushchairs and wheelchairs. Where roads are narrow and there is an issue of emergency vehicles being unable to pass, it can be investigated.

If there is no reason for a restriction, then we should try to allow 2-wheels on footpath parking quite widely in the narrow roads.

Cllr Pauline Tunnicliffe (Orpington ward) lives in Holly Road and found tickets because of having 2 wheels on the pavement. If cars are parked fully in the road, cars cannot get past. She mentioned that she had discovered that, if no ticket has been issued within the last year, then it is acceptable to park with 2 wheels on the footpath.

Cllr Russell Jackson advised people not to park with 2 wheels on footpath until this issue has been sorted out.

Other residents gave feedback about the new parking restrictions:

- Meters in the high street, so people are parking in Laxey Road and Lezayre Road.
- 20 minutes free parking would encourage more local shopping
- Half an hour free parking would encourage local shopping, so people can just 'pop in', whereas they would not if they have to pay.

Cllr Julian Grainger asked if residents realised that there is a minimum charge of 10p. The meter show 50p an hour but you can park for 12 minutes at 10p.

Cllr Russell Jackson explained that ward councillors are in favour of a short period of free parking and have raised it a number of times with the Cabinet member but his view is that he does not think it should be a policy which should be applied. People can email colin.smith@bromley.gov.uk to lobby him on this point.

The Meeting closed at 8.59pm, followed by refreshments.