



MERROW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the 48th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at St John's Centre, Merrow on MONDAY 26th March 2018

110 people attended the meeting.

1. The Chairman, Keith Meldrum, welcomed residents, Cllr Jenny Jordan, Cllr Phillip Brooker and two guests from Burpham, Jim Allen from the Burpham Neighbourhood Forum and Tony Teal Chairman of the Burpham Community Association.
2. Apologies for absence.- a number had been received including Henriette Whitehead and Andrew Strawson from the Executive Committee and Cllr Graham Ellwood who was dealing with a pressing family illness.
3. Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting held on 27th March 2017 were approved.
4. Matters arising - Any issues will be covered in the meeting.
5. Annual Report – Keith Meldrum reported as follows:-
Down Road School – Planning consent now given for conversion to residential housing.
Wellington Grove - ex-Redwood care home site. Construction has now commenced. Residential housing being built by Linden Homes.
Parking in Merrow Street – still an issue. This will hopefully be reviewed by GBC later this year.
Parking in Harewood Road – dangerous parking on this busy road. This has been discussed with our councillors. Hopefully will also be part of the Guildford parking review.
Some concern has been raised by Merrow residents regarding parking on grass verges on Epsom road and Trodds Lane. This obstructs the line of sight and damages the verges. MRA will also discuss this with our Councillors.
Whitehouse drive - also parking issues caused by parents dropping children at school.
BP Petrol station - 24hour alcohol licence application. BP already have 24hr sales licence. Application to vary to alcohol and hot food and drink after 11pm. The meeting was asked for their views by show of hands. The response was 50/50 split for and against for those who raised their hands. Most of those at the meeting were not aware of the application. All three ward Cllrs have objected. It is now going to sub-committee for decision. Apparently other 24hr licences exist in our area with apparently no problems encountered and no licences have been revoked. MRA will send an email to all members detailing how they can comment on the application.
The chairman thanked Clandon Garden Centre for planting up our planters again this spring, Hopefully members will thank them by utilising the garden centre.
6. Financial Report: Denise Hilton
MRA has a good level of funds, as last year. Expenditure remains stable. Small payments have been made which were related to the local plan. These were for documents and a contribution to Guildford Residents Association (GRA) funds for expert advice on the local plan.
The Voluntary Independent Examiner of the Association's accounts, Philip Ross, was appointed for 2018. Proposed by Douglas Sutton and seconded by Jean Robson. All were in favour .
7. Local Plan – Keith Meldrum
Local plan has gone forward for Examination in Public. The examiner, Mr Bore, is known to have increased housing need figures for other plans he has examined- most recently for Waverley. The housing need for Guildford is currently set at 654 new houses per year over next 20 years. The Plan Includes Gosden Hill Farm, Wisley Airfield, Blackwell Farm, Slyfield and Garlick's Arch developments and a new rail station in Merrow.

Mr Bore has made his first comments and queries on the plan. He feels the housing need figure should be raised, and is concerned about the level of affordable housing. Guildford may be forced to take some of the Woking unmet housing need. There is concern over the 5 year housing supply and infrastructure keeping up with development. He has asked GBC to explain their policy on the Green Belt and he mentions North Street, asking why it is not in the plan. He additionally has concerns about the A3, student housing and accuracy of student numbers quoted in the plan.

MRA has requested to speak at the public examination, which will take approximately 5 weeks, starting on 5th June. Someone from MRA/GRA will attend every day.

Gosden Hill farm – up to 2000 houses, primary and secondary school, retail space, local centre, 1000sq m of employment space, gypsy and traveler pitches. 2-way junction access southbound A3 only. MRA and Burpham Community Association believe it needs a 4-way junction so drivers can go northbound without going through Burpham. A possible connector road is being suggested, however, would not solve the road congestion problem unless there were a bridge over the A3. The MRA is worried that the necessary infrastructure will not be in place at the appropriate time.

Merrow Lane – Access Gates – John Dumbleton. There is Common land owned by GBC either side of Merrow Lane. New gates had been put in in 2014 by Network Rail to access the field for repairs to a transformer. This was an old, unused access and Network Rail enlarged the access point. Network Rail were supposed to reinstate this to its original planted state which has not yet occurred. Burpham Community Association and the Neighbourhood Forum, supported by MRA have been challenging the fact that this has not occurred. A barrister has advised that Martin Grant Homes now has right of access for farming purposes only. Evidence disclosure has been requested of GBC. A response is still awaited. It is suspected that the first phase of the Gosden Hill development will be built at this corner of the site. The road under the railway bridge might be diverted to improve access southbound.

8. Election of Officers:

The chairman advised the meeting that he would not be seeking re-election and that for the time being the post of chairman would be vacant. He explained that Andrew Strawson who was co-opted onto the Committee in 2017 and who was being brought forward as Vice Chairman had been unable to attend the AGM. He felt Andrew would bring to the Association both commitment and wise counsel.

The following officers were elected on a proposal from the chairman by acclamation:.

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| • Vice Chairman | Andrew Strawson |
| • Treasurer | Denise Hilton |
| • Environmental Officer | Kate Dumbleton |
| • Membership Secretary | Claire Rymell |
| • Secretary | Henriette Whitehead–van Prooije |
| • Publicity Officer | Sarah Smith |
| • Webmaster | Dave Smith |

9. Election of Ordinary Committee Members:

The following committee members were elected on a proposal from Douglas Sutton by acclamation: -

- Gordon Farquharson
- Lorna Seymour
- Keith Meldrum

Douglas Sutton is standing down from the Committee after many years of service. He often brought the voice of the younger community to the committee. He was thanked for his service over the years and presented with lifetime membership of MRA.

10. The chairman thanked the MRA Executive Committee, John Dumbleton, Philip Ross, Tony Hills, NJM Stationary and the MRA Membership for their support for the Association which was greatly appreciated.

11. AOB – Newlands Corner. Parking charges will commence in the summer at Newlands Corner and other local sites. Save Newlands Corner group still keep asking on what legal basis the charges are being introduced. SCC are now refusing to respond.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm .