



Minutes of the LEA PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on THURSDAY 25 MAY 2023 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** E Kidd (Chair),  
K Braisher (Media Secretary), S Braisher, J Chapman (Vice-Chair),  
D Currie (Treasurer), G Garretts, B Hack, L Harker, S Heap (Secretary),  
S Jenkins, A Kidd, J Ivory, C Lewis, K Lewis (Membership Secretary),  
J McLeod, H Watson, S Watson

**Apologies:** K Park, R Ridler and B Trueman

**Also Present:** P Williams (Thame Museum)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

1. **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 18 MAY 2022**

K Lewis moved that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 May 2022 be approved as a correct record, which was seconded by D Currie.

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 May 2022 be approved as a correct record.

2. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair outlined her belief that the Residents' Association had a key role on the Estate in helping to build a strong sense of community, bring residents together to work on projects that were beneficial to the Estate and oppose those, such as the current planning application for an aggregate and soil recycling facility on Moorend Lane, which were potentially detrimental for residents.

The Chair stressed the importance of residents providing feedback, concerns and suggestion to the Association's Committee so it could consider taking action on behalf of residents.

The Chair also stressed the need, if the Association was to continue and be successful, for volunteers to come forward to join the Committee and / or to lead on projects that were important for the Estate and for residents.

The Chair reported that during 2023 the Association had taken a stall at the Barley Hill School Fete, when volunteers had organised quizzes and games for families. The Association had also held a very successful quiz night and was intending to hold another on 13 October 2023 at the Barns Centre and was also intending to hold a Best Hanging Basket / Pot competition for residents, for which nominations were welcomed.

The Chair further outlined the projects the Association had been involved with over the year which included the Thame Town Council Waymarking Project which would see new signposts installed around the Estate.

Lastly the Chair referred to the Association's redesigned Newsletter, which had been well received, and the redesigned Website, which would feature in a presentation later in the meeting and would be launched shortly.

### 3. **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

The Treasurer reported that the balance on the Association's bank account, as of 31 March 2023, was £2,033.25, a reduction of £451.19 from the balance on 31 March 2022.

The Treasurer indicated that the balance on the account had remained at a similar level over the last three financial years.

The Treasurer drew attention to the Association's stall at the Barley Hill School Fete, which had broken even, the Quiz which had shown a profit of £160 and the Newsletter, particularly that the Autumn / Winter edition had incurred a cost of £250, but the Spring / Summer edition had broken even with advertising revenue meeting the cost of production.

RESOLVED –

That the Treasurer's report be received.

### 4. **REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

The Membership Secretary reported the Association currently had 253 member households.

The Membership Secretary drew attention to membership numbers since 2011, which had fluctuated, but had generally been around 250 for the last eight years, after a peak of 460 in 2013.

It was noted that there were 1,328 properties on the Estate.

The Membership Secretary also drew attention to the welcome leaflet, which had recently been refreshed, which was delivered to all new residents, unfortunately, only in the region of 8% of new resident households joined the Association. However, the Barley Hill School Fete had been good for recruiting members.

The Membership Secretary asked the meeting for suggestions as to how the Association could attract new member households.

In response to a question the Membership Secretary informed the meeting that the benefits of membership were that members could vote at the Annual General Meeting and would be consulted on any response by the Association to development plans affecting the Estate.

RESOLVED –

That the report of the Membership Secretary be received.

## 5. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to electing members of the Association to the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Media Secretary for 2023/24.

RESOLVED –

1. That the following officers, being nominated and seconded, be elected:  
Chair – Elaine Kidd (Interim for 2 months)  
Vice-Chair – Joe Chapman (Interim for 2 months)  
Treasurer – David Currie  
Secretary – Simon Heap (Interim for 2 months)  
Membership Secretary – Ken Lewis (Interim for 2 months)  
Media Secretary – Karl Braisher.
2. That an Extraordinary General Meeting be held within the next two months to consider the appointment of permanent members to take over from those officers elected on an interim basis.

## 6. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE**

In addition to the election of the Association's officers, consideration was given to electing other members of the Association as Resident Representatives on the Committee.

RESOLVED –

That, as there were no volunteers, the election of Resident Representatives be considered at the forthcoming Extraordinary General Meeting.

## 7. **REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Consideration was given to appointing volunteers to take on specific tasks / projects on behalf of the Association.

RESOLVED –

That the following appointments be made:

1. Karen Parks – Newsletter Editor;
2. Barry Hack – Spokesperson on Moorend Lane Planning Application; and
3. Alan Kidd – Newsletter / Publicity Material Graphic Designer.

8. **EXAMINER OF THE ASSOCIATION'S ACCOUNTS**

Consideration was given to appointing an Examiner for the Association's Accounts for 2023/24.

RESOLVED –

That Anne Green be appointed as the Examiner for the Association's Accounts for 223/24.

9. **REVIEW OF THE ASSOCIATION'S AIMS**

The Association's Aims were reviewed.

RESOLVED –

That the following aims for the Association, as previously adopted, be agreed:

- (a) Ensure that Lea Park remains a safe and pleasant place to live.
- (b) Identify problems which affect residents' quality of life.
- (c) Find solutions to problems that arise.
- (d) Represent residents' concerns to agencies that have authority over Lea Park.
- (e) Help residents get in touch with various public organisations which may assist in maintaining and repairing the shared areas of Lea Park.
- (f) Actively campaign for changes and improvements.
- (g) Enable residents to help and support one another in delivering a better environment.

10. **REVIEW OF THE ASSOCIATION'S CONSTITUTION**

Noting that the Association's Constitution had not been reviewed to any significant extent since the inception of the Association in 2011, consideration was given to a number of suggested changes to the Constitution to ensure that it was clear, fit for purpose and met current operational needs.

It was noted that the most significant suggested changes meant that if adopted, members of the Association would be given the opportunity to review the Association's Aims and the level of Membership Fee at future Annual General

It was reported that other changes related to:

- (a) allowing the Committee to submit representations on behalf of the Association with regard to future Development Plans when there was insufficient time before the deadline for submission of comments to consult the membership, subject to later ratification by the membership; and
- (b) clarifying the rules relating to the Association's meetings and how members of the Association could be co-opted to the Committee.

RESOLVED –

1. That, on being put to the vote, the revised Constitution be adopted.

2. That the agreed changes take effect from 1 June 2023.
12. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING VENUE 2024**  
Consideration was given to the venue for the Annual General Meeting 2024.  
RESOLVED –  
That, if available, the Annual General Meeting 2024 be held at Barley Hill School.
13. **REDESIGN OF THE ASSOCIATION'S WEBSITE**  
The Media Secretary gave a presentation on updates to the Association's Website, which would shortly be going live.  
The Media Secretary explained that the revised Website had a more modern look, was more interactive, easier to navigate and simpler to maintain.  
RESOLVED –  
That the membership be invited to comment on the revised Website once it was live.
14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS – PAYPAL**  
Consideration was given to the suggestion that the Association should set up a PayPal account to provide an easy way for members to pay their subscriptions.  
RESOLVED –  
That the Committee be invited to consider setting up a PayPal account for the Association.
15. **PRESENTATION BY THAME MUSEUM**  
Philip Williams of Thame Historical Society made a presentation on Thame's association with the English Civil War and the derivation of the street names on Lea Park.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10 PM