

Sopwell Residents' Association

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 17 May 2011
Marlborough Pavilion, Old Oak

Minutes

- 1. Welcome and introduction** The Chairperson, Sandy Norman welcomed everyone to the 8th SRA AGM. She apologised for the confusion about the wrong date of the meeting which was published in the newsletter. It meant that many newsletters went out with the wrong date and those that had not been distributed early having to be altered. She thanked the team of newsletter deliverers especially those who had to do the editing before delivering.
- 2. Apologies for absence** Chris Pudsey, David Poor
- 3. Minutes of last meeting on 8th June 2010 at the Marlborough Pavilion, Old Oak** were approved. There were no matters arising.
- 4. Annual Report of the Association** The Secretary, Peter Segers gave a presentation of the SRA's achievements and activities of the previous year. Some of the highlights were the Nunnery boardwalk and path, the Abbots Avenue improvements, and the erection of the noticeboards. A copy of the annual report has been uploaded onto the website. Peter was thanked for his well presented and comprehensive report. The report was proposed for approval by Len Lewsey and Christoph Lutz and adopted.
- 5. Statement of Accounts** The Treasurer, Mark James presented the accounts. A balance of £1291.85 was carried forward. This included unpaid grant money for the Nunnery boardwalk Project (£550) and some funding for the Sopwell Project (£500). Mark was thanked for his report. Thanks were also given to Dom Tang for agreeing to perform an independent examination of the accounts at very short notice. The accounts were proposed for approval by Ananda Armstrong-King and Frank Guest and adopted.
- 6. Re-election of the management committee** Jack Hill, Ananda Armstrong-King, Rick Taylor, Sandy Norman, Peter Segers, Mark James, Chris Pudsey, Rob Sharman and Adelle Stapleton were re-elected: proposed by Jennifer Taylor and seconded by Anne Wares. The Chair said that the committee were still six people short of what is allowed in the constitution. Sandy also said that although she was standing down as chair this year she would still be an active committee

member with the responsibility for the newsletter, the website and the Sopwell project and also our representative on the Sopwell Nunnery Friends Group. Some of these responsibilities she would like to shed if anyone was willing to take them on. The treasurer, Mark James was standing down from his role and also Peter Segers was resigning as Secretary.

- 7. Announcements** The Chair made a plea for more committee members in order to continue the work of the SRA as otherwise it would fold which would be a shame as in two years time we would have been in existence for ten years. Sandy Norman and Chris Pudsey have been on the committee in active roles since the birth of the SRA in 2003 and it was time that others took on some of their responsibilities. The meeting was reminded that over 150 attended the initial meeting and all were keen for the association to thrive. The chair, secretary and treasurer have all resigned this year so new blood was needed.

Christoph Lutz said that there would be a Larks in the Parks event this year taking place on 26th June in the Marlborough Pavilion open space. It was being organised by Mandeville school. He asked if people could come forward to help. A guided walk was planned for 17th September. More details would be put in the next newsletter, on the website and on the noticeboards. Peter Wares gave details of the Ramsbury Road Big Lunch and Open Gardens Day on 5th June.

- 8. Speakers** The Chair welcomed Amanda Godfrey, Head teacher at Mandeville School who gave a report on the state of play of their school extension which was due to be finished by the end of the school holidays. She praised the work of those who were helping to fund the shortfall in the costs as well as apologising for the mess made by the contractors in the streets nearby.

Sandy Norman then gave a presentation on the history of Sopwell and the Sopwell Project. It was a very interesting and entertaining taster of her forthcoming publication on the history of Sopwell. This engendered many questions and suggestions and many said that they looked forward to reading it when it is published.

- 9. Open forum and refreshments** The chair then opened the floor to questions and general discussion on any topic relating to Sopwell. The main topics of concern were parking on the grass verges and speeding in Cottonmill Lane. PCSO Chris Cosby joined in the discussion. Refreshments and a social discussion ended the meeting.