

**MINUTES OF SOPWELL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AGM
HELD AT ST JULIANS CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY 22 MAY
2019**

THOSE PRESENT: Andrew Johnstone, Peter Segers, Denise Jeram, Sandy Norman, Gail Jackson, Rick Taylor, Jennifer Taylor, Jean Smith, Jo Welch, Margaret Fensome, Steve Peters, Karen Lilly (Secretary), Willem Hofland, Chris Driver, Rita Floyd, Caroline Cowling, Cath Cladding, (Speaker), Lawrence Audley-Charles, Janet Audley-Charles, (Chairman), Matthew Bennett (PCSO), Mark James, Sandy Walkington (District Councillor), Jo Cooney (Treasurer)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Janet welcomed everyone to the 15th AGM.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Barry Bateman (Vice Chairman), Harry Kingsley, Anne Wares, Anatolie Jacobson, Emma Mantanle (District Councillor), Mandy McNeil (District Councillor), Janet Smith (District Councillor)

**3. MINUTES OF AGM HELD AT MANDEVILLE SCHOOL
ON 8 MAY 2018**

Due to there only being one copy of the minutes available, they could not be approved until everyone had seen them. Later on, in the meeting when everyone had seen them they were approved by Jennifer Taylor and seconded by Jo Cooney.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Janet presented an overview of the last year. This included the Big Lunch which was held in June 2018 at Berners Drive.

There were 50 people in attendance.

Litter Picks

Yellow lines

Newsletters

There would be an update on C.A.S.H. and the crossing later in the meeting.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

There was £2,534.17 in the account. We have received the £100 grant from the council. Income had also come the sale of Sandy's book. The accounts had been verified by Elaine Rainsford. Mark James proposed that the Accounts for 2018 be adopted and this was seconded by Elaine Rainsford.

7. COMMITTEE STEP DOWN

All the present Committee were staying on.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

No-one else came forward to be elected on to the committee. Any Sopwell resident is entitled to stand at the AGM. Please let us know if you are interested in joining the committee and/or standing for a role. Any extra help would be appreciated.

9. GUEST SPEAKER – CATH GLADDING – WATERCRESS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

Cath Gladding gave a very interesting talk on the Watercress Wildlife Association and the nature reserve. They have different working groups to help tidy up the reserve. There is a working group every Wednesday that do various tasks. Also, there is a monthly working group that get together on Sundays.

10. CROSSING UPDATE

Chantal gave an update on the crossing. The team have worked tirelessly to stop Network Rail closing the crossing. They have had media support from local radio stations. A lot of people attended the meeting with Network Rail. Things have gone quiet with Network Rail. Chantal said they are ready to go with various things if closure comes up again.

11. LEYLAND AVENUE

An attendee asked what was happening with the plans for Leyland Avenue and the Youth Club. At the moment there was nothing to report. The plans had been thrown out due to access problems. Reports of bricks being thrown at the roof and the fence had been knocked down. Janet had received a letter regarding the Youth Club being an Asset of Community Value. Sopwell Residents Association would get first refusal. A suggestion was made to have a word with Timothy Beecroft of the Verulam Residents Association to get some advice.

12.PSCO - UPDATE

PCSO Matt Bennett gave an update. He said the new PCSO for the Sopwell area was Nicole Levi. She was unable to attend the AGM.

Matt spoke about the various burglaries and theft in the area. Due to there being some incidents along the Alban Way two PCSOs were now doing a patrol along there between 8-11 each night.

Matt also said that they can visit pre-schools and nurseries to give out information.

On 13th August they are holding a summer school at Mandeville School for anyone who would like careers advice.

13. SANDY WALKINGTON

Sandy said he had to leave the meeting early owing to the European Elections the next day. But before he left he said he had secured some money to get some bus shelters in the area. He said please contact him to let him know where you would like a shelter.

14. C.A.S.H. UPDATE

Jo Cooney gave an update. The local and district council were fully on board. The idea was to have the main hall for 50 people. There would also be a smaller hall. Also, some office space and a kitchenette. Also a café. Another idea was to have craft and produce sales. Verulam cycling club were very interested. Jo also explained the 100 club.

Larks in the Parks was on Sunday 30th June between 12-5 at the Marlborough Pavilion. Janet said gazebos were needed. There would be various stalls. Volunteers were needed on the day to help out with various tasks.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

There was a discussion about the newsletter and the way forward. It was suggested publishing it earlier in the year to avoid any election problems and what we can publish in the newsletter. How do we communicate. There was 421 people on the Sopwell Residents Facebook page. Does everyone need a paper copy? Peter Wares proposed that we should retain a paper copy, and this was seconded by Mark James. A questionnaire was suggested to ask people by which means they would like to receive the newsletter. Everyone agreed that this was perhaps the way forward.

16. AOB

None

17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed.

The meeting was formally closed, and Janet said everyone was welcome to stay for refreshments and Jack's rock cakes.