

Banstead Village Residents' Association

Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 23rd May 2018

Held at Banstead Prep School, Sutton Lane, Banstead

Welcome by the Chairman:

Cliff Glanfield welcomed all members including Councillors Dr Lynne Hack, Ken Gulati and Sam Walsh to the 71st Annual General Meeting of the association and thanked the Headteacher and staff of Banstead Prep for allowing us the use of their hall and facilities.

Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting 2017:

These were presented in summary form, no objections were raised and their acceptance was proposed by Ted Palmer, seconded by Graeme Ward and duly accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising that were not already covered by the ensuing agenda.

Guest Speaker Mr Crispin Blunt MP, Member of Parliament for Reigate:

John Hayns welcomed our guest speaker to our meeting. Mr Blunt talked about the dangers of planning to the Green Belt and about his work as the co-chairman of the Cross Party Parliamentary Green Belt Committee which is concerned about the erosion and loss of Green Belt to building within the metropolitan area.

He also brought the meeting up to date with regards to the proposals for the Sutton Hospital site and the Epsom St Helier Trust. The public consultation of the previous autumn had been favourable and the Chairman of the Epsom St Helier trust was looking to making further steps towards the creation of a new acute hospital on one of the three sites.

Following questions to Mr Blunt on various topics the Chairman, Cliff Glanfield, thanked Mr Blunt for his informative talk and for giving up his evening to our meeting.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Cliff Glanfield started by saying this last year has been framed by a backdrop of continued cuts in local authority spending. Even basic maintenance was under pressure.

We had the "beast from the East", which only actually dropped about 10cm of snow, but we have still have seen the potholes multiply, due in part to cut backs in road maintenance expenditure. They do get repaired though, if you report them on the Surrey County Council website. However you do have to report each one, even if there are several together as it seems that contractors just get single instructions per pothole.

We have had the re-occurrence of "Lake Victoria" on the High Street. Apparently, the problem is more than just lack of gully cleaning though and we will engage with Surrey County Council Highways officers to establish what can be done here.

Also on the High Street, we have finally found out who owns the area outside Tesco and have successfully tracked down the managing agents. The diseased ash tree has been removed, although the stump still remains, and Banstead Village in Bloom has obtained permission to grass over the bare area and have already installed a new bench. We hope also to see new planters and bins

provided by Reigate & Banstead Council as well as some weeding and a bit more grass cutting as it comes up to judging time for Banstead Village in Bloom.

The proposal for a village sign at the bottom of Bolters Lane is gathering momentum and please do have a look at Brian Ransom's presentation at the back of the hall, if you want to support this.

As you may know, our membership is by household but we are starting to pull together a comprehensive database of members including e-mail addresses, which we hope to use for more effective communication going forward. We are of course conscious of our responsibilities under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and will only hold details with your consent.

Our planning sub-group continues to do sterling work and this year we made representations regarding Reigate & Banstead's Development Management Plan. This is important as it provides the Framework against which all planning applications are judged. The planning sub-group also continues to make representations regarding any inappropriate development, especially where we see an erosion of the green belt.

The Chairman continued saying, we have sadly seen some long-standing members of the executive committee retire over the year and said he would like to pay tribute to Roger Collins, a past chairman, Tony Ford, Graeme Ward and Gerald Bridge for their contributions over the year. I would particularly like to thank Mike Sawyer who was recently chairman, before that a vice chairman and led the planning sub-group for many years. Cliff presented Mike with a small token of appreciation.

He concluded by saying, with several retirees this year we find ourselves a little short of executive committee members, so if anyone has a particular skill or enthusiasm they are willing to bring to the table we would welcome a chat.

Treasurers Report:

David Gradidge was pleased to report that there had been an increase in giving of almost £1400 due to the raising of the subscription and he thanked Richard Saunders for their generous contribution towards the cost of printing the newsheets which has allowed us to use colour photographs. He thanked Cliff Houghton for his willingness to continue to be our honorary independent examiner.

The proposal to accept the audited accounts was made by Graeme Ward seconded by Gerald Bridge

i) **Election of Executive Committee:** Cliff Glanfield, Marion Hayns, Richard Heath, Ben Martin, Brian Ransom, David Talbot was proposed by Audrey Carty and seconded by Mary Palmer.

ii) **Election of Hon. Secretary** – Catalina Vassallo-Bonner and **Hon. Treasurer** - David Gradidge were proposed by Gerald Bridge and seconded by Bob Reeve

Questions to Councillors:

Cliff Glanfield welcomed our local councillors who took the floor and then replied to members' questions. Topics covered included planning, Recycling Bins in public areas, trouble in the Lady Neville Park potholes and invisibility of the local police and PCSOs.

AOB:

There being no further business the Chairman thanked both Residents and Councillors for attending and the evening concluded at 9.30pm.