

RAMSHILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of AGM held at Churcher's College on Wednesday 11 May @ 7:30 pm

Attending:

RRA committee members John Lees, Maurice Snell, Liz Wright, Andy Moffat and Marco Sacchi

Residents: Maroulla Sullivan, Nicky Gardner, David & Katherine Wolfe, Jan Anderson, Duncan Wright, Lesley Gibb, Phil Paulo, Huw Trevor, and Peter & Rosemary Hill (in person); and Barbara and Catherine (via Zoom)

Councillors Crissey, McKinney, Milner, Oppenheimer, and Shaw

Apologies:

Residents Roy & Sue Hubber and Michael Finch

1. RRA Chair John L welcomed everyone to the AGM.
2. John L confirmed that, after 10 years, all legacy issues have now been concluded successfully.

Cllr Oppenheimer described the dispute over a small piece of land giving access to Skinners Farm Lane. Following agreement, Petersfield Town Council have now taken over responsibility and will begin pruning / cutting back after the bird nesting season.

John L was thanked for all his hard work and perseverance in resolving all the issues.

3. Maurice S told the meeting that the RRA is entering a more positive phase now, with the emphasis on fun activities rather than heavy negotiations with councils and developers.

John L then asked for volunteers to join the committee which meets (usually over a glass of wine!) around four times a year. No-one came forward at the meeting but everyone was asked to consider privately and to spread the word among neighbours.

John L tendered his resignation as Chair but agreed to stay on until a successor could be found and then act as mentor. Maurice Snell (Treasurer and IT), Liz Wright (Secretary), Andy Moffat ('Green') and Marco Sacchi (Neighbourhood Watch) were re-elected unanimously.

To allay fears of a heavy workload, it was suggested including a job description for the role of Chair in the next issue of 'Roundabout'.

ACTION: John L / Liz W

4. Cllr McKinney gave an insight into grants available from East Hampshire District Council. RRA has already benefitted: for example, earlier this year it applied successfully for £1,000 for

tree planting. He suggested liaising with Lucy Whittle if the RRA wishes to apply for further funding for community events and/or projects.

ACTION: Maurice S

5. Cllr Milner told the meeting that £18,000 has been spent on replacing the fencing around the playground in order to 'keep dogs out and kids in'!

While welcoming the new fencing, resident Duncan Wright asked if childproof locks could be added to the gates. This was agreed.

ACTION: Cllr Paul M / Town Council (PTC) grounds team

6. A request for some sturdy benches to be installed around the estate was put forward by a resident. There was general agreement.

ACTION: Cllr Paul M

7. Andy M outlined 'green' activity to date during 2022:

- * planting of 10 fruit trees plus 123 hedge seedlings on the kickabout area (now featured on the Queen's Green Canopy online database);

- * removal of dead trees, coppicing hazel trees and grass cutting by PTC (though NoMowMay is currently being observed in order to allow wild flowers to grow and wildlife to benefit).

- * Andy M and Hampshire County Council (HCC) officer Mike Ripley had surveyed the estate to review the health of all trees planted by the roadside.

Resident Phil P, despite planning to move elsewhere in Petersfield, confirmed he would be happy to continue to look after the maintenance of the kickabout area where the fruit trees have been planted. This will include strimming to keep brambles down.

With the approval of HCC, Resident Nicky G proposed launching an 'adopt a tree' initiative. Families/households would be asked to water a tree and/or weed surrounding grills.

ACTION: Anyone interested to email gardnernick@btinternet.com

8. Plans to plant more trees along the path by the kickabout area have been abandoned on the advice of Southern Water. The focus will now turn to extending planting along the kickabout perimeter while also identifying other suitable areas around the estate.

More wildflower planting is planned for the autumn. Look out for the call for volunteers to help!

9. Maurice S reviewed the RRA's financial position since the last AGM.

After receiving a grant of £1,000 from East Hampshire District Council, and spending £95 (printing) and £638 (tree planting), there is currently a balance in the bank of £837.

10. Turning to the internet, Maurice S confirmed that fast fibre broadband is now available for all Ramshill residents.

He also reminded the meeting about the RRA website and Facebook page, asking everyone to sign up and to let him have any suggestions for improvements.

11. Reviewing communication, Liz W began by thanking all the volunteer 'posties' who deliver letters and copies of 'Roundabout' around the estate.

She pointed out that 'Roundabout' had been given a refresh and again asked for any suggestions for improvements.

12. Marco S said that crime on Ramshill is very rare. Monthly Petersfield crime reports can be emailed to residents on request.

13. There was discussion about the estate having its own postbox.

Cllr JC Crissey suggested a request for a postbox alongside a noticeboard and park could receive a favourable response.

ACTION: RRA committee

14. The idea of having 20mph signs to slow down traffic around the estate was discussed. It was noted that there is a problem with policing this speed limit.

15. While a small number of residents attended the AGM, resident Duncan Wright said he felt this signalled that people are generally happy living on Ramshill!

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.