



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 23rd April 2019 19:30
Park Street Village Hall

Present: 36 members including committee

1.Chairpersons Introduction

Thanked Members, Road Agents, Parish/ District councillors and guests for attending.

2.Apologies

Lisa Donovan
Kevin Morgan
John Churcher
Nicholas Tyndale (Parish Councillor)
Sue Rawle

3.Approval of 2018 AGM Minutes

Chair Dee Youngs sought approval; copies of the minutes were available on seats.
Proposed by Brian Murray and Seconded by Lucille Hurley

4.Guest Speaker Laurie Hart - Bricket Wood Station Heritage Trust

Laurie said the aim of the Heritage Trust was to restore the Old Bricket Wood railway station building to its former glory, setting up a Tea Rooms and Heritage Centre to hold the village Archives. Currently trying to get a lease arrangement in place with Network Rail who own the building. £11,000 raised so far for phase 1. They have set up an incorporated charitable organisation with trustees in place making it a membership organisation to obtain more funds.

The 1st AGM is at the Parish Centre Bricket Wood on the 23rd May 2019

5.Chairpersons report

Planning

No further news on the rail freight terminal and rumours abound on what the land could be used for including housing and a hospital. David Yates (councillor) said no decisions would be made on possible improvements to Park Street roundabout until a decision is made on the use of the proposed freight terminal land.

The Chair handed over to Bill Pryce Parish Councillor for an update on parish matters

Bill advised an amendment to the 2018 AGM minutes on page 5: 12 in the parish (not Park Street)

The Neighbourhood Plan should be ready for consultation early to mid-summer and that it was **key for residents to read it.**

The Parish Clerk Juliet has now left, and her replacement is Sue Hake. Contact details are tel: 01727 681443, email: clerk@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

There are two new parish councillors David Parry who joined in 2018 and David Yates joining this year. There is still a vacancy for another Parish Councillor.

Membership

We are still looking to increase our membership in the village and the magazine has seen some new members join having been delivered to everyone. The Chair asked that if you have new neighbours to encourage them to join and to all try and get 3 people to join, letting them know what we do for the £2.50 subscription. Publicise our website, email address, Facebook and Twitter. We have also created a Welcome Pack online with a few hard copies. We rely on your help for this and if you have any suggestions on what we can do differently or better to let us know.

Communications

Park Street News magazine

This is our main form of communication to the village; consideration was given to going online but we are committed to having a hard copy magazine so the whole village can be updated with news, events and to see what we do in the community. We know we have an aging population in our village, and some may not have access to the internet or may prefer a paper copy. We publish an online version at www.psra.org.uk. Neighbourhood Watch is again included in the magazine.

We are still working on Joined Up Thinking with Neighbourhood Watch. We committed last year for economies of scale and effort to work with NHW. We have learned lessons from the hiccups we had in September and the recent magazine deliveries in March. We have taken on board all your queries and will continue to make improvements. Any feedback or comments welcome. More Road Agents/coordinators are required for both committees.

Other Communications

- The website peaked in 2017 with nearly 6k hits but remains at a healthy number of hits nearly 5k (4998) in 2018. With an average of 400 views in a month between 2018 and Feb 2019.
- On Facebook we have increased both our likes to 189 and our number of followers to 210. The Chair asked if everyone could spread the word and hopes to find someone who can help with Social Media and publicity in the future.
- We are also on Twitter so if you don't already follow us please do.
- As always please check email addresses of people when you deliver magazines and ask for subscriptions. As we want to try and improve, the Chair welcomes any suggestions.

Going Forward what is PSRA doing?

- PSRA is committed to the village after 53 years we want to stay involved
- We still want to take on one project in the year if possible, on top of our scheduled Xmas and October Wellbeing events. Ideas still welcome.
- Our efforts to work joined up with NHW is still a work in progress and we will keep this under review.
- We remain as ever committed to pushing forward with the committee and have decided to revisit the frequency of meetings and what we do.
- The Chair said that Joy and she stepped in to assist the continuation of the Association in acting as Vice Chair and Chair respectively in 2018. They will remain in these roles but seek to fill the positions in the future or at the very least fill vacancies we continue to hold, some still vacant after 3 years.

- That said Chair said she must announce - as a formality and endorsed by the committee - that unless there are significant changes in committee support, membership and Road Agents in the coming year, the PSRA cannot be sustained and may close in 2020.
- To help us improve and hopefully continue, the committee has endorsed a 'Behaviours and Values' addendum to the constitution. (supplied to all)
- And, a little good news from the Chair's recent shout out in the magazine when she announced we may have to close: some wonderful residents came forward to offer support. Chris has joined us as Secretary: Karen who came to a committee meeting, and the Chair also met with Heidi, and then Christine & John who jumped in to put up the AGM banners. Suzanne who emailed in has a keen interest in eco-friendliness and very recently Lorraine and her son made contact.
- We are a happy band of volunteers and still have roles to fill, the vacancy info is on the sign in table. Please contact us if you are interested **it's even more important now.**

Village Events

We remain committed to everything we planned for this year

- Parish Fete 1st - 2nd June we hope to be involved on the Sunday
- Parish in Bloom and the Best Kept Front Garden competition being run by the Parish Council they will be selecting from the 3 villages and we might scout our own. This is likely to be around end of June beginning of July if you want to nominate someone please let us know. The awards will take place on 26th September at Greenwood Park.
- Remembrance Day will have PSRA presence on 10th November 2019. Last year was the 100th anniversary of the end of the 1st World War and the Chair was privileged to lay a wreath on the PSRA behalf.
- Our 3rd Well Being Day at the village hall is on 13th October. Please support us: come and get a massage, meditation etc. Look out for more information later this year.
- Xmas Lights switch on. Well supported last year, lights turned on by local celebrity Tommy Smith ex-Watford FC and now CEO of JW & Co. Councillors Featherstone & Nash attended to support us. Both school choirs performed as did the Big Band Sound of Badje. Details of this year's event, normally Thursday nearest 1st Dec, will be out in Sept - keep an eye out.

Community Projects

- The white gates and signs near the M25 at the entrance to the village (Bricket Wood end) have been refreshed with support from Cllr Sue Featherstone.
- We are still working on making an impact at the entrance to the village with planters and 'Welcome to Park Street' signs. We have had some wonderful volunteer support from a local carpenter Daniel Patrick to make the planters and a commitment to help planting from Burstons.

We are always looking for support from the whole community. If you have any skills or know anyone who has any to help with any projects, please let us know.

The Chair would still like to set up a **Call Tree** a list of people who might be able to help with specific projects/events. You don't have to be on or join the committee or be a professional; **just willing!** For example, setting out chairs, helping with banners in the hall, sticking up posters, manning a stall, collecting glasses from Waitrose etc.

6. Treasurers Report Lucille

For the period 1/3/18 to 28/2/18 the income was £7,000 mainly from adverts. Expenditure was £5,534 a decrease on last year. Cash/Bank holdings £15,000

7. Election of Officers

The Chair sought an en-block vote of the following officers standing for re-election

Chair (acting) - Dee Youngs

Vice Chair (acting) - Joy Mendelsohn

Treasurer- Lucille Hurley

Proposed David Parry **Seconded** Jon Breen

The President, Sandra Constable, re endorsed by committee

Vacancies still exist for:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Membership Secretary
- Event Organiser
- General Secretary

8. Election of Honorary Auditors

Proposed that we keep the same auditors for a further year, Mr Ian La Riviere and David Prince

Proposed Pam Miller **Seconded** Chris Skivyer

9.AOB

The Chair said she would like to thank and acknowledge the support given to the association by our volunteer committee.

- Pam Miller who left us as Membership Secretary but has come back to help and has put on this lovely spread tonight.
- Barbara Vernon who is heavily involved with Burydell Lane allotments and the village hall and liaises with us on their updates and support.
- Jon Breen helps us with all planning and contributing so much effort with Bill Pryce on the Neighbourhood Plan, which is almost a full-time job.
- Laurie Kanka who helps us with his previous Residents Association knowledge on verges and matters in the village and attends council meetings for us.
- Dennis Cowen who is our Neighbourhood Watch liaison and Christmas events' organiser until this year when he stepped down. Situation vacant so we need someone urgently
- Also, the Chair gave personal thanks to the ladies behind these men – Rita, Maureen and Carol who come along and are often our washer-uppers! Thank you sincerely
- Graham Smith who continues to support us with the website from afar with his full-time commitment to his young family.
- Simone Roback who joined us last year to help with administration and has now remained to support us more widely.
- Not least our officers Joy Mendelsohn who is not only our nominal Vice Chair but more specifically our Editor working tirelessly to make sure its produced and has interesting articles.
- Lucille Hurley who is our esteemed Treasurer and balances supporting us with her senior government position which keeps her exceptionally busy
- Finally, more recently Chris Matson who has taken up the 2-year vacant post of Minute Secretary.

The Chair hopes this will be the start of the floodgates of support to keep the PSRA going so not to close next year.

The Chair asked for any questions there being none handed over to: -

Guest Speakers Ollie Smith and Andrew Emerton: Burston Retirement village

Andrew started with the history of Burston Garden Centre currently 6th generation owners. Propose to build on unused land they own a 64-bed specialist care home with an additional 45 care bungalows, allowing resident's family to live with them. The primary resident will need to require weekly care and they envisage residents to be in their mid-eighties. The ethos is to encourage independence, mobility and to reduce loneliness. There will also be communal areas including dining facilities, treatment and activity rooms. The proposal went to planning a month ago but was rejected so they are now re-submitting a tweaked plan including access and junction changes, reduction in speed limit, losing 3 bungalows to create a 10-metre buffer zone between it and the Manor House and creating a new bridle way.

Plans will be re-submitted early summer.

The Chair thanked Andrew and Ollie asked if any one had any questions for them, there were none.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.45.

Cheese and Wine evening followed.