



# Park Street and District Residents Association

[www.psra.org.uk](http://www.psra.org.uk)

**Minutes of AGM of Park Street and District Residents Association (PSRA) held on  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.30pm in Village Hall, Park Street.**

**Present:** 40 members including the committee

## **Chairperson's Introduction**

Thanked Members, Road Agents and guests for attendance.

## **Apologies:**

- Cllr Sue Featherstone.
- Sam Cottingham
- Gill Cairns
- Roger Jones
- Bob Browell
- Richard & Ann Prickett
- John Harvey.
- PCSO Louise Traxon
- Simone Roebuck

## 1. **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the 2017 AGM had been published to the website for perusal and were available in hard copy on seats. The Chair Dee Youngs sought approval Proposed by Jon Breen and Seconded by Sandra Constable. Accordingly, the 2017 AGM minutes were approved as a true record.

## 2. **Chairperson's Report**

### 1. **Planning**

**Rail Freight:** No new development was reported and rumours abound about its possible use;  
**Neighbourhood Plan:** An update on the plan would be provided by Bill Pyrce, the Parish councillor. The Chair highlighted the role that Mr Jon Breen, PSRA committee member, had played (and continues to play) in the neighbourhood planning work.

### 2. **Road Safety**

**Verges** The PSRA continues to look at the damage and seek way to stop parking on them. The Chair referred to a helpful and polite letter developed by the committee for offenders who park their vehicles on verges; it has proved to be effective and was available for Residents to issue to offenders. The Chair informed attendees of central government plans to update the law which would make it illegal to park on verges and the probable introduction of fines for offenders

### 3. **Membership**

The Chair reported the committee's decision to deliver the newsletter to the whole village in a hope to increase membership. She invited attendees to encourage residents to sign up and to inform non-members of all the work that PSRA does for £2.50 annual subscription, and also the exciting changes afoot. She also reminded attendees that PSRA had social media access; Facebook, Twitter, its own website and email addresses.

#### 4. 100 Club

The Chair stated, as identified in 2017, with the number of Road Agents able to undertake door to door collections subscriptions continue to decline and PSRA had sought different ways to raise revenue. The 100 Club is a new scheme to run from April to August 2018. The scheme, fun, easy and for the whole community, would award 2 prizes per month of £20 to individuals who enter it. A bumper payment of £50 would be made in August. She highlighted that individuals would be able to increase their chances of winning prize by buying up to a maximum of three entries at £3 per entry. Attendees were invited to look at the rules and online application on our website. The first draw for April had been made and prize winners were: Pam Miller, AJ and ET Bell

#### 5. Communication

**Park Street News magazine:** Joy Mendelsohn had taken on the role of Editor following Suzi's decision to step down as Editor/ a committee member and would be building on Suzi's good work. The Chair informed attendees of the rebranding of the newsletter with a new name being PS. The rebranded newsletter would include articles from Neighbourhood Watch (NHW). NHW newsletter would no longer be produced following its emailed version in April. The Chair highlighted that PSRA would be conducting more "Joined up Thinking" with Neighbourhood Watch in future. Producing the newsletter with them was a first step and both associations would benefit from economies of scale and sharing effort. She welcomed thoughts and views from attendees

**Website:** The Chair reported the increasing use of the PSRA website in 2017 where there were 5,998 hits. We had 100 links to the website from Facebook, and in the first three months in 2018, there was already 1,385 views from 838 visitors reported. Our Facebook account has seen 1400 people look at our page, with 184 followers and at least 200-400 looking at any one post. The Chair stated that we will continue making best use of the different forms of communication to ensure PSRA reach continued to grow. She acknowledged that new technology did present issues notably maintaining valid email addresses. This required residents to notify PSRA of updates to email address and urged Road Agents to check with their members and advise them/the committee.

#### 6. Going Forward: The Chair explained that the Committee:

- will not be pursuing Charitable Status as it is not large enough to sustain the practicalities
- Would seek to undertake one project each year in addition to the Xmas and Well Being events.
- Would seek more "Joined up Thinking" / work with Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) following very proactive discussions with Peter Tiffany and colleagues. With both our diminished resource this makes practicable and perfect sense. Our first joint venture was to be the now cancelled Parish Event but we have other ideas including as advised the publication of PS magazine in September.
- We would make efforts to increase and support sustainability, supporting a campaign in St Albans on sustainability. The AGM today had attempted to be as "green" as possible with recyclable crockery and cutlery for the Cheese & Wine and recycle food. The Chair asked everyone to say "no to plastic straws" and recycle everything.
- Aligned to this, we continue to support Litter Picking, led by NHW every other month (Saturday and Sunday) – dates on our website. Dennis Cowen, on behalf of NHW, announced the campaign to clear the village of plastic and cans. Litter picking would take place at 10am on 26<sup>th</sup> May in How Wood and on 27<sup>th</sup> May at Park Street Recreation grounds. Colour coded recycle bags would be available and the council would collect them for recycling.

- With the continued resource issues, it had been necessary to reshape the association to ensure its continued effective working. The changes have been reflected in the reviewed and revised Constitution which has been endorsed: having been notified earlier than seven days of the AGM and there being no written proposed changes by members.
- Had agreed take up of key roles by Committee: Ms Dee Youngs as Minute Secretary and Joy Mendelsohn, as Editor, had stepped up to take on the roles of Acting Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Attendees were invited to notify PSRA of volunteers willing to take up roles currently vacant.

#### 7. **Village events:** The Chair highlighted:

- Best Kept Front Garden competition - would be run again by the Parish Council where favourite gardens from the 3 villages would be selected for a Parish winner. PSRA would be “scouting” the village during the months of June or July when flowers are in bloom for its own winner. The PSRA 2017 winner was Owen Murphy, happens to be the actor Cary Grant’s great nephew, who donated his prize to Park Street School gardening club. Nominations for best gardens should be made to [secretary@psra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@psra.org.uk)
- Well Being day – following the successful event last year, the event would be hosted again and would take place on **Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018** at the Village Hall
- Christmas Light Up – highlight in the PSRA calendar. Would take place again at the How Wood shops having been successful in 2017 despite the very cold weather! It had been well supported by members of the Police, and our PCSOs, and celebrity switch on by Hayden Stringer (Saracens Rugby) who helped draw the raffle too. Once again the Badje big band entertained and the Park Street School choir sang the carols.

**Further details on all our events would be provided by all our communications tools – website, email, village news, Twitter and FB**

#### 8. **Community Projects**

The Chair reported that last year the Committee had considered several projects. They included work to refresh the Village White Gates; a Community Orchard, and Branch Rd land use. The Branch road project was closed. News regarding the land, trees and Tesco sponsorship for the Community Orchard was still awaited. The association had however successfully secured support from Cllr Sue Featherstone to the refurbishment of the White Gates near M25 at the entrance to the village.

In 2018 the association would look at refreshing the signs near the gates, add floral planters as well as “Welcome to Park Street” signs.

The Chair would like to establish a **“Call Tree”** – anyone who can help, with just time, a skill, or a professional to assist us – we are grateful for a local carpenter is helping us with the Gates project – we would welcome any help.

Support from the community in delivering these community projects would be very welcome. Get in touch with [secretary@psra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@psra.org.uk)

#### 3. **Treasurer’s report and Presentation of Accounts:** The Treasurer, Ms Lucille Hurley, presented the Accounts for 2017-18 (subject to audit):

Income: £7, 060 [noting a £1,958 fall from previous year due to subscriptions falling quite significantly. Increase in advertising income which had accounted for 68% of the association’s income. Highlighted that the Committee was looking for alternative income streams noting the introduction of Well Being event last year and the new 100 Club. The car boot event would not be taking place this year.

Expenditure: £8,791 [noting costs were higher than previous year due to one off costs associated with the storage costs and cost of erecting Christmas lights. There was also a slight increase in the cost of production of magazine

An overall year-end deficit: £1,730 was reported.  
Carry over costs were just over £12,000

#### 4. **The Election of Officers**

Chair announced the following retirements from office:

- Suzi Clark
- Cllr Nick Tyndale
- Graham Smith (remains as web manager)

Vice Chair sought en-block vote of the following officers standing for election / re-election:

Election:

- Chair (acting) – Dee Youngs
- Vice Chair (acting) – Joy Mendelsohn

Re-election:

- Treasurer – Lucille Hurley

**Proposed** Jon Breen **Seconded** Sandra Constable

**Vacancies exist for:**

- Minutes Secretary
- General Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- Events Coordinator

#### 5. **Election of Honorary Auditors**

- Auditor – Mr Ian La Riviere

**Proposed** Dick Downs **and Seconded** Sandra Constable

#### 6. **Any Other Business**

The Chair recognised the significant role played by Dr Donald Minter, in supporting the village, who sadly passed away last year. The Chair regaled his role in relaunching the NHW with Mervyn Ramsey and local PC Nigel Read, in 1997. He also supported PSRA as Vice Chair for a short while. It was Mervyn and Donald that hatched the Cheese and Wine event as a way to thank NHW volunteers; PSRA is in good company in continuing this tradition for its Road Agents.

The Chair acknowledged the outgoing Officers for their excellent support and Lucille presented Suzi with flowers, Nick with wine and to both our PSRA thanks.

**Questions:** The Chair responded to questions on **subscription**. She stated that whilst electronic payment was the preferred option, as per the constitution, we encourage Road Agents to collect monies, and the door-to-door method was acceptable.

## **Guest Presentation: Bill Pryce on Neighbourhood Plan.**

Key points:

- St. Stephen Neighbourhood Plan relates to housing development within St. Stephen. St. Albans District Council are required to build between 10 to 15,000 houses. St. Stephen Parish has a high proportion of Green Belt areas and the Parish has to accept that some Green belt would be built on.
- Bill emphasised that residents cannot say “No” to some development. It is important that the Parish avoid the Council stepping in and dictating the place, style, number and location of any development of in the Parish. Residents could have a say on these issues once the plan is accepted.
- The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group established 5 working groups covering housing, business, green spaces, transport and Community. Volunteers had been asked to sit on one of the 5 groups to put the Plan together. It was important that it conform to the National Planning Policy Framework.
- The draft Plan is being finalised and will then go to the District Council for comment. Following some refinement of the Plan there would then go to the planning inspector who would discuss with District Council before presenting to the community for the referendum.
- Bill noted that developers would have to present special reasons for building on green belt sites. The Parish had developed a set of criteria to determine the value of green belt using the services of a professional body. He stressed that developers do not have to take notice of the criteria, but once passed the Parish would be able to say no to developers if they do not comply with the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Bill reported that the Plan did acknowledge the need for open spaces and that the area would not be flooded with housing. The 5 working groups would take into consideration the need for facilities such as primary schools, transport, medical services etc.
- There are 12 sites in Park Street identified for development including the area behind the Baptist Church in Penn Road, an area in Orchard Drive and an area in Park Street Lane.
- In Bricket Wood, there were housing development that was already approved for development namely HSBC area, Building Research Establishment.
- The Neighbourhood Plan is designed to take account of development over the next 15-20 years.

Bill Pryce invited residents to view the latest Neighbourhood Plan, to be presented at **Greenwood Park Community Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> June from 7.30pm.**

He finished his presentation by encouraging residents to become Parish Councillors and participate in all Parish Activities including the development of the **Neighbourhood Plan.** **He invited everyone to the Parish Meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.45