



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2014

Present

Irene Watson (Chair)	Claire Storey (GWP Scouts)
Sean Larkin (Vice Chairman)	Simon Jeffs (Model Yacht Club)
Peter Hill (Treasurer)	Peter Kirby (Model Yacht Club)
Jeremy Hodge (Goldsworth News)	Michael Addison (Resident)
Pauline Eastwood (Hall Manager)	George Binyan (Resident)
Roger Westcott (Bailiff)	Catalina Book (Resident)
Andy Jones (Web Site)	Mick Brook (Resident)
Steve Willson (new Web Site)	Ron Butler (Resident)
Paul Davies (Committee Member)	Chitra Rana (Resident)
Cllr Hilary Addison (WBC)	Aenne Hayman (Resident)
Cllr Rizwan Shah (WBC)	Wolf Ehlers (Resident)
Cllr Saj Hussain (SCC)	Ian Rickard (Resident)
Cllr Colin Kemp (SCC)	John Green (Resident)
Nick Roach (WBC)	Royer Slater (Resident)
Rev Daniel Natnael (St Andrews Church)	Pam Taylor (Resident)
Paul Chapman (Sea Cadets)	Chris Taylor (Resident)
Andy Morgan (GPRFC)	Jo Haward (Resident)
Jenny Ingoe (Minutes Secretary)	Bryan Cross (Resident)

In Attendance

Ray Morgan CEO, WBC

1. WELCOME & OPENING

The Chair of the GPCA opened the meeting at 7.35pm and welcomed those present to the 2014 Annual General Meeting. A minute's silence was observed to remember Kym Eastwood, a committee member who ran the bar in the Community Hall. Kym had been present at the 2013 AGM but sadly passed away in September after a brave struggle with cancer.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Jonathan Lord MP, The Safer Neighbourhood Police team, Cllr Ian Eastwood, Linda Hill, Rosie Sharpley, Sue Johnson, Peggy Collins, Steve Davies, Clive Drake, Jim McKay

3. MINUTES OF THE 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the AGM held on 20th November 2013 were agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. STATEMENT BY RAY MORGAN, CEO, WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Morgan apologised for his late arrival, and also for the fact there was still no firm date for the re-opening of the hall.

The good news is that Toad Hall Nursery is now open; this is one of the reasons for the delay as the decision was made to prioritise the nursery. There had been problems with the utility companies but it is anticipated that electricity and gas will be connected on 19th December. RM could not say with any confidence when the hall would re-open, but residents should be celebrating by Easter.

The old changing rooms are also being refurbished to provide accommodation for the Model Yacht Club and the Cycling Club, and to provide public toilets, but again there is no definite date for the completion of these works. The design for the toilets had been done and tenders were back in, but at a higher cost than anticipated; completion would possibly be Spring 2015.

Contractors have been appointed to replace the solar panels.

The whole area will be covered by CCTV. The area was deemed to be the best test site for new generation CCTV before the town centre system was replaced.

There are some things about the refurbishment of the building that RM is not happy with, for example the fencing round the children's play area which is somewhat harsh. Several members of the public were in agreement with this view. RM will raise the issue with the Council's landscape architects.

RM then took questions.

He agreed that installation of CCTV should be a priority and hoped this would happen by Spring 2015.

Several residents were concerned at the lack of maintenance of street lighting round the lake and that Serco were not responding to reports. NR advised that the contractors will wait until there is a full day's work to carry out before responding. RM will talk with colleagues from Skanska to see if they could assist but pointed out that the path round the lake is WBC land and therefore not actually Skanska's responsibility. He was unable to explain why the lighting round the recreation ground was replaced and not that round the lake, but will try to find out.

RM said there was no reason why CCTV should not be installed at the Hockey Club; he will check exactly where cameras are to be installed. HA commented that installing CCTV often meant that problems were moved on elsewhere; RM replied that the Police did not support that view.

There had been no further progress on the wetland project; it was difficult to take such projects forward in the current economic climate. WBC is considering changes to the current Climate Change and Bio-diversity Policies. In the meantime, Surrey Wildlife Trust could be approached about working with the community on the wetland project.

RM will look at the progress of the planning application to extend the hockey club and report back to GPRFC. Funding for the work had been allocated.

RM confirmed that he will honour the commitment made last year to assist GPCA with unavoidable expenses incurred whilst the hall was not generating any income.

RM was thanked for his attendance.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

6.1 Meetings

IW stated that, although she was elected chairman at the AGM in 2013, the period of her report was the year July 2013 to June 2014.

Meetings continue to be held every other month and these have been very well attended with around 20 people at each meeting. The mailing list of interested parties who receive the minutes stands at over 60.

6.2 The Hall

One of the major functions of GPCA is managing the Community Hall in Goldwater Lodge, but there has been no Hall to manage during the past year.

Liaison with WBC, their architects and contractors has continued throughout the period to try and ensure the views and requirements of GPCA were taken into account. However, the Chair's view was that these communications were not always as good as they could, or should, have been.

Colour schemes throughout the building, new flooring and kitchen units have been chosen. GPCA is supplying new appliances for the kitchen and bar, thanks to the generous support of Surrey County Councillors Saj Hussain and Colin Kemp.

The bench outside the hall had been removed by the contractors. It will be replaced with a new one commemorating the life and work of Peter Winter, past President, Chairman and Editor.

6.3 Goldsworth News

Another major function is the production of the community magazine, Goldsworth News. This is now published every other month.

- a) The year started with Amanda Coulson as editor but she had reduced her commitment for personal reasons. Jeremy Hodge has been acting editor for some months now and has been doing an excellent job.
- b) The magazine is now designed and advertising sourced by Andy Hills of Fat Crow designs. The magazine has had a makeover and is very bright and lively.
- c) Linda Hill continues as the Newsletter distributor. She has managed to keep the existing deliverers on board and has recruited more, in spite of the less frequent production

6.4 Web Site

Andy Jones has continued to run the website on Window on Woking. However, a new, interactive website is being introduced.

6.5 The Lake

GPCA continues to be represented on the Goldsworth Park Lake and Recreation Ground Users Group, which meets regularly, if not frequently, and acts as a co-ordinating group for all organisations using the lake and the surrounding area. A report on what has been going on with the lake will follow later in the meeting.

6.6 Other Activities

Although there has been no Hall to manage, GPCA has been very busy with other activities and campaigns.

- a) At the last AGM two residents, Stephen Davies and Steve Willson, volunteered to take on the design for new road maps to replace the old ones which are sadly dilapidated. They have developed a great design and identified a manufacturer. Once permission has been secured from SCC, the existing maps will be replaced, and if WBC agrees, one may be installed near the car park.
- b) Another Let's Go Fishing event, aimed at training beginners in the art of angling, was held at the very beginning of the year. Professional input came from angling coaches provided by the Environment Agency, supported by some of the bailiffs on the lake. The event was very successful, but it was decided not to hold another event in 2014.
- c) GPCA responded to the consultation on Electoral Boundary changes and the Chairman was pleased to report that the views of GPCA were accepted. Goldsworth Park will become one ward, although some small outlying areas will be lost.
- d) GPCA was represented at the Remembrance Day Service at St Andrews and a wreath was laid at the memorial.
- e) The largest campaign involved the public toilet. WBC announced that the "super loo" was to be removed and not replaced, which would have left Goldsworth Park Recreation Ground as the only park in the borough without a public toilet. Following a petition which gathered over 600 signatures in a couple of weeks, publicity in the News & Mail, Woking Advertiser, the Times, Telegraph and Daily Mail, on BBC Radio Surrey, BBC Radio Coventry, TV's The Wright Stuff and the Breakfast Show, plus pressure from Jonathan Lord, MP, WBC changed its mind and agreed to convert part of the building behind Goldwater Lodge into public toilets.
- f) There was also a threat to the children's play area in front of the shops. This was linked by many people to the application by Costa Coffee to open a coffee shop in part of the newsagents. GPCA established that this was not the case, but that the Site Managing Agents intended to replace the existing play equipment for safety reasons as part of a plan to refurbish the courtyard. GPCA pointed out to the Managing Agents that the biggest safety hazard was the uneven paving that caused many trips and falls. Improvements in the situation have yet to be seen.
- g) Ongoing activity includes:
 - Supporting the campaign to improve the crossing by the Fox and Flowerpot;
 - Opening up the footpath over Langman's Bridge;
 - Increasing the number of disabled parking spaces in the shopping centre car park;
 - Assisting residents with issues over common areas.

GPCA continues to work in co-operation with other groups on the lake and recreation ground: Woking Model Yacht Club, Sea Cadets, Woking Hockey

Club, Goldsworth Park Rangers Football Club, Dianthus Trading and the anglers; and in the community: Goldsworth Care, Strollers, Lakers, and our new neighbours, Woking and Sam Beare Hospice. The Chair stated that, if representatives of any of those groups were present and wished to give a short report on their activities they could do so at the end of the meeting, if time allowed.

The Chair concluded by thanking those who had helped with the work of GPCA during the year, particularly:

- Sean Larkin, Vice Chairman
- Peter Hill for his sterling work as Treasurer
- Jenny Ingoe for acting as Minutes Secretary
- Amanda Coulson and Jeremy Hodge for editing Goldsworth News
- Andy Jones for running the website
- Steve Willson for developing the new website
- Andy Hills and Knaphill Print for producing Goldsworth News
- Linda Hills and the Goldsworth news deliverers, who go out in all weathers to keep residents in touch
- Ian and Pauline Eastwood for their continued support with plans for the Hall
- Paul Davies who has come on board to help with the work involved in reoccupying the hall
- Residents for their support and efforts
- Jim Malyon, the auditor

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

7.1 Overall Position I&E

The accounts show a deficit of £4,054.74 for the financial year; this includes £3000 for 2 years insurance premiums. Other expenditure includes renewal of the Premises Licence; as advised at last year's AGM it is cheaper to continue to pay this than to allow it to lapse and the re-apply. £250 of miscellaneous expenses was part sponsorship for a Sea Cadet to attend the D-Day celebrations, as agreed at last year's AGM

7.2 Balance Sheet

As can be seen from the Balance sheet, the GPCA still has a healthy cash balance, despite not having any income for the past year

In answer to a question from the floor, the Treasurer stated that the Hall would not be revalued for insurance purposes and that the building would remain the property of and insured by WBC. GPCA will retain liability for the contents.

8 COMMUNICATIONS TEAM REPORT

JH reported that he had been editor for the past year. He expressed his gratitude to all contributors. Over 5000 copies of the magazine had been issued the previous month.

During his time as editor, his main focus had been on getting more people involved with the magazine. Several volunteers had come forward, Michael

Farnham, council press release editor; Malcolm Head, roving reporter and Chris Taylor, editor. JH will remain as Managing Editor.

Steve Willson had become involved and a new interactive website was now available. The intention was to initially publish stories on the website and then in the magazine. Plans are in place to link with social media.

SW then gave a brief demonstration of the new website.

9 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Sean Larkin, who was stepping down as Vice Chairman, took the chair for this item. No nominations for committee posts had been received prior to the meeting but it was proposed and seconded that IW and PH continue as Chair and Treasurer respectively. IW proposed Paul Davies as vice chairman; this was seconded by Andy Jones. As no-one was willing to act as Secretary, Jenny Ingoe agreed to continue as Minutes Secretary only.

The following were elected unanimously:

Chair	Irene Watson
Vice Chairman	Paul Davies
Treasurer	Peter Hill
Minutes Secretary	Jenny Ingoe

10 REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

10.1 The Lake

Roger Wescott said that, over the past 7 years, there had been many improvements to the lake and that the focus was now on maintaining what had been done and considering new projects for the future.

He expressed his thanks to GPCA for the continued support and asked for a vote of thanks for Irene Watson and Ian Rickard, the former Chairman, and Peter Hill.

10.2 Woking Sea Cadets

Paul Chapman thanked GPCA for sponsoring a cadet to attend the D-Day celebrations. 25 Sea cadets from the Southern area had attended and it was a successful week. Activities had included a 22km walk following in the footsteps of 47 Commando.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The new street maps were shown. SW had checked copyright with Ordnance Survey and been told this was open data and therefore no licence was required. SCC had offered some funding. Manufacturing would probably be by Royal British Legion.

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.55pm.