

GOLDSWORTH PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 20th November 1979.

PRESENT: Mr R.S. Eagleson            Chairman  
          Mr R. Cole                    Vice Chairman  
          Mr R. Bell                    Treasurer  
          Mrs J. Taylor                Secretary  
          Mr R. Compton              Chairman, Allotments Society  
          Mrs G. Stubbs              Minutes Secretary  
  
          Cllr P. Briley  
          Cllr E. Butler              Local Councillors  
  
          Mr J. Burton                New Ideal Homes Ltd  
          Mr P. Maloney              Representative of Developer's Architects  
  
          67 other members of the GPRA

1. Introduction

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming all those present.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (1978 AGM)

The minutes of the 1978 Annual General Meeting were accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed: Cllr P. Briley

Seconded: Mr J. Scratchley

3. Chairman's Report - Mr R.S. Eagleson

3.1 He stated that this had been a difficult year owing to the shortage of those wishing to help the Association.

3.2 He pointed out that the Residents Association could only make representations to the developer, and that some people believed militancy drew attention to the bad aspects of Goldsworth Park, thus devaluing their property.

3.3 He stated that residents should make individual complaints and the six local Councillors should be used more.

He stated that one of the major problems in the past year had been the lack of community facilities - for example buses, roads, central area and schools. He said that the Local Authority were experiencing problems as they had an excess of school places in the east of Woking. It was a question of how they should allocate the resources available to them.

He stated the short term problems of new phases and added that these were brought to the developer's attention. He said that many people had bought second houses on the Park, so it could not be all that bad.

He stated that the Residents Association had been very active in 1979. Discussions had been held at County Hall on education; representations to the Council on road safety had been made, particularly about the roundabout at the end of Parley Drive; the crossing for children at the junction of Arthurs Bridge Road and Goldsworth Road; the footbridges being erected on the estate. Representations had been made concerning the Surrey Structure Plan, and on the proposals for the Basingstoke Canal and the Central Area.

7 Many fund-raising events had been held in 1979: the Gala, jumble sale, dances and sponsored walk. It was noted that the bonfire was well attended.

8 In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the committee members and helpers and made an appeal to others to come forward and support the Association.

3.9 The Chairman introduced the Treasurer's report, thanking Ron Bell who was not standing for re-election.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report - Mr R. Bell

4.1 The Treasurer presented the accounts, copies of which were made available to those present.

4.2 The Treasurer briefly made a report on the accounts. The main points were the sponsored walk which had raised approximately £2300, and a deposit account which had been opened for community centre funds. This account currently stood at £3010.

4.3 In reply to a question, the Treasurer stated that surplus money was held in a bank deposit account, therefore earning interest.

4.4 The accounts were then put forward for acceptance.

Proposed: D. Paremain

Seconded: Cllr P. Briley

4.5 The Treasurer stated that he was not standing for re-election but hoped to continue helping the Association.

5. Allotments Society Report - Mr R.C. Compton

5.1 A strong, active membership was being maintained and all plots were occupied, with a waiting list of 7 to 8 people.

5.2 A water supply had now been installed; however costings for the extension were awaited. A central shed would be installed shortly. The Society was negotiating with the Council over car parking permission.

5.3 It had been a good year, with various competitions and social functions.

5.4 Mr Compton thanked all the Council officials who had helped and supported the Society, local Councillors, members of his committee and the Residents Association.

6. Social Secretary's Report - Mr C. Hardy

6.1 Many social and fund-raising events had been held; the most profitable had been the jumble sale which had raised over £300 for the community centre.

6.2 A barn dance would be held on 9th February in St John's Village Hall for which 120 tickets would be available.

6.3 The Social Secretary stated that he would welcome any ideas for fund raising.

7. The Goldsworth Gala - Mr A. Peacock

7. The Chairman acknowledged that this had been a successful event, owing to the hard work of Mr Peacock and his sub-committee.

7.2 The aim had been to unite the residents. The profits had been disappointing - about £450. Mr Peacock thanked the committee and the participants in the "Nok Out" competition.

7.3 Mr Peacock made a plea for ideas and help for the 1980 Gala. He stated that they would not be so adventurous and would concentrate more on the "Nok Out" competition.

8. Newsletter - A. Knowles

8.1 It was reported that changes had been made during the year, i.e. the main issue had been alternated with a shorter bulletin.

8.2 One of the major problems was to match the circulation with the membership.

8.3 A plea for articles and submissions was made.

8.4 Thanks were given to Mr A. Williams and Mr and Mrs R. Bell who were in charge of production and distribution. It was stated that there was a need for faster distribution. The phase reps were thanked for all their help.

9.1 The Treasurer proposed that a sum not exceeding £600 should be voted by the members in order to purchase duplicating equipment. It was passed by a majority of those present.

10. Election of Officers

10.1 Only sufficient nominations had been received, therefore elections were not necessary. All those nominated were therefore elected, unopposed.

REPORTS ON THE CENTRAL AREA

11. Community Centre - Mr R. Cole

11.1 The only site suitable for the community centre was within the Central Area.

11.2 A prefabricated building of approximately 40' x 80' had been suggested, but this depended on the nature of the site.

11.3 The Council were looking at the Shanklin-Cox proposals for the Central Area, and the developer had enlisted the help of architects Scott, Browne, Rigg & Turner.

12. Council's Report - Mrs E. Butler (Local Councillor)

12.1 Mrs Butler stressed that the plans for the Central Area would depend on the views of the residents.

12.2 A supermarket of 18,000 square feet had been suggested by the Council, leaving room for about 20 other small shops.

12.3 She stated that in her view the surrounding small shopping centres must be protected and there must be variety for competition and choice.

13. Developer's Report on Central Area - Mr P. Maloney (Representative of the Developer's Architects)

13.1 It was envisaged that a shopping area, offices, a church, a public house, toilets and a car park would be provided in the plan. The artist's impression was a central square surrounded by buildings.

13.2 It was suggested that a supermarket of 26,000 square feet be provided, along with about 10 other shopping units. Research had shown that this size was the minimum that most supermarket chains would take.

13.3 In reply to the Council's wish to protect other local centres, he stated that it was possible that they might suffer; however the developer would not build a centre that was not viable.

13.4 An application for permission to build the central site had been made.

14. Reply from a Councillor - Mr P. Briley

14.1 Research as to the size of supermarkets in Woking Town Centre was stated by Mr Briley to be: Sainsbury's 33,000 square feet; International 16,000 square feet.

- 14.2 He suggested that the developer was looking for viability for his own profit and that his proposal was for a hypermarket.
- 14.3 He stated that the size of the community centre should be increased along with the amount of money that the developer and Council were willing to contribute.
- 14.4 He stated that the Shanklin-Cox proposals were not a detailed plan, merely a concept, and that the developer was not obliged to follow the Council's proposals.
15. Chairman of the Community Centre - Mr R. Cole
- 15.1 He stated that a community centre should include a youth club, as an example, as it was needed urgently, and not a meeting hall as shown on the proposed plans. Soon 1900 houses would be occupied on Goldsworth Park, and from the views of the residents so far obtained a supermarket of the larger type would be the only one acceptable.
16. Developer's Report - Mr H.J. Burton
- 16.1 Last year 300 private homes were occupied and 150 council houses. The outlook for the coming year was not looking so good.
- 16.2 The new styles of housing had been well received.
- 16.3 Following the conclusion of the dual carriageway problem, building in the areas next to it had begun. Construction of the rest of the link road through the estate might begin in early 1980, then traffic from Knaphill would go through Goldsworth Park.
- 16.4 Alder Valley were proposing a temporary bus service from Knaphill to Lakeview and there would be a Chobham - Woking express commuter service.
- 16.5 An application for an hotel had been made.

16.6 He felt that a large supermarket was needed in order to offer a large range of goods and attract the regular shoppers. The company had had experience of a smaller store near Cambridge which proved to be too small.

16.7 He stated that permission for a road network, a car park, a petrol station, toilets and shop units had been applied for. The issue of shopping had still to be decided.

17. Questions

17.1 The Chairman opened the meeting to questions.

17.2 The main points arising from the questions are as follows:

- a) A plea was made that if saplings were endangered by building, residents should be informed in order that action could be taken.
- b) It was stated that contractors' vehicles could not be stopped from using Creston Avenue - they could only be advised not to use it. It was hoped that the road would soon be adopted.
- c) There had been no progress on the issue of the legal covenants governing fence position and height. The Council should be consulted.
- d) Part of Winnington Way had already been resurfaced. The bank of trees on Phase 22 would be retained for two to three years.
- e) The surface of one of the footbridges was wearing. The contractor was making proposals for repair.
- f) Denton Way would be cleared of the mud from time to time.
- g) The contractor had been directed not to use any access to building sites via completed phases, especially to Meadway and Muirfield Road on Phase 16.
- h) No details were available about outstanding maintenance work on roads which had not been adopted.

- i) Mr Burton agreed to resolve the problem of street lighting on Phase 19.
- j) Mr Burton agreed that some maps of the area would be available and there were some signposts leading off the main roads.
- k) New Ideal Homes would be interested in occupying the proposed offices in the Central Area for a short time. There was no suggestion of an extension of the proposed office block beyond the proposed 10,000 square feet.
- l) He agreed that there was a need to canvass the opinions of residents on their requirements in the Central Area.
- m) He stated that their aim was to provide a topcoat for footpaths within four to five months of selling houses on a phase. The developer tried to ensure that there were no dangerous points and asked to be informed if there were.
- n) Play equipment to be provided for Goldsworth Park would be fixed items only.
- o) Mr Burton advised that it was planned to clean the canal.
- p) Brookwood Farm is a listed building; however it would not be renovated for several years.
- q) A network of footpaths that would ultimately link up was being provided; however many were not yet constructed.

18. Conclusion

- 18.1 The Chairman thanked Mr Burton for attending and answering questions.
- 18.2 There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.