



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24th JULY 2019

Present:

Irene Watson (Chair)
Tina Hartley (Treasurer)
Celia Young (Secretary)
George Binyon (Editor, Goldsworth News)
Gerry Smeesters (Project Manager, NGP)
Cathy Salmon (Social Secretary)
Steve Willson (Webmaster)
Cllr Ann-Marie Barker (WBC)
Cllr Chitra Rana (WBC)
Cllr James Sanderson (WBC)
Cllr Saj Hussain (SCC)
Hannah Rees (Woking BC)
Gary Rimay-Muranyi (Dianthus Trading)
Roger Westcott (GP Angling Club)
Peter Kirby (Radio Sailing, Woking)

Residents:

Sarah Abbott
Hilary Addison
Gill Brookling
Clive Drake
Holger Marsen
Valerie Marsen
Katie Sherlock (NGP)
Royer Slater (GN Writer)
Sue Slater
Sandra White (LCAG)
Liz Wilkinson
Francis Windsor

Apologies

Chris Martin (Vice Chair), Christina Candey (GN Advertising), Cllr Colin Kemp (SCC), Sandie Bolger (SCC Youth Development Officer)

Residents: Wanda Binyon, Rob & Barbara Challoner, Peggy Collins, Sue Johnson, Ian Rickard, Jackie Waltham.

1. OPENING:

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS:

The Minutes of the GPCA Meeting on 23rd April 2019 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING/OUTSTANDING

To be dealt with under agenda items

4. COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Chair explained that the order of the meeting would be changed to enable residents' concerns and questions to be dealt with first. Residents had been invited to submit questions and comments via the minutes, the website and the Facebook group, and a number had been received.

Q. M J (not present) had raised the question of the lack of benches on the north side of the lake.

A. IW & HR responded that it was not policy to site benches close to houses along the lake path owing to potential noise nuisance caused by young people gathering round the benches in the evenings. In addition, the land on the left of the path (going clockwise) is private property belonging to the house owners and most of the land on the opposite side of the path slopes too steeply down to the lake to site benches safely.

- Q. L H (not present) had commented that there are not enough “dog-poo bins” around the estate resulting in dog waste left lying around, and that there are no bins in Sythwood except near the school.
- A. IW commented that, although the newer bins were “multi-functional” with separate compartments for recyclables and general rubbish including dog-poo, it is possible that not everyone recognises that they can be used for dog-waste as this is not on the signs. GRM checked the bin outside and said there was no mention of dog poo. HR said that another delivery of bins had just been received and she would welcome suggestions for locations; there was a request from the floor that some be sited at bus stops and HR said she would locate bins near the bus stops in Sythwood. GB said that the ultimate answer is responsible dog-owners but and that is something for which it is difficult to legislate or enforce!
- Q. BC (not present) commented on the rapid increase in the rat population recently.
- A. HR responded that WBC is aware of the problem and is baiting locations where there have been reports of rat activity. If BC contacts her with the locations where he has seen rats, they can be investigated and baited. RW added that rats do travel more in hot weather to find water.
- Q. JW (not present) asked what was happening to the Fox & Flowerpot?
- A. IW explained that the landlord, Ian Cox, had died in January and his son, co-licensee, had said he would keep the pub going until the lease expired. The brewery is currently trying to find a new licensee.
- Q. A? (not present) asked who is responsible for trimming/cutting back the trees on the estate; the trees behind 16 & 17 Watercress Way are very overgrown and make the houses very dark.
- A. IW will supply HR with the details of the resident.
- Q. JW (not present) commented on the lovely wildflower verges and roundabouts; she asked if there could be a wildflower meadow on Goldsworth Park.
- A. GS replied: “in time”. IW said that the GPCA/NGP needed to get on with it – the necessary permission to do it was granted over 2 years ago; a definite plan was needed then volunteers could be found to make it happen. A test patch or two need to be identified and a date chosen when the grass has been cut to get volunteers to clear the grass. KS said that it would take machinery to break up the grass; IW said that the GPCA had funds or could seek grants to pay for the hire of a rotavator and operator, but first there needs to be a plan and costings. LW said that poppies and vetch are coming through already but it takes time.
- Q. SW raised the matter of a piece of land in Blencarn Close where there is a tree surrounded by daffodils but Serco mowed the area while the daffodils were still blooming; he asked if this patch could be added to the wildflower project.
- A. HR and SW will discuss this separately.
- Q. JB asked why the road-side grass verges, which look so attractive with clover and other wildflowers, were mown when they were not overgrown.
- A. Cllr.SH replied that SCC has started mowing less often to encourage wildflowers. HR said that Serco has maps of those verges where wildflower have been sown so they know where not to cut.
- Q. GB said that, on the previous evening, he and his neighbours had heard loud music which went on from early evening until about 11.30pm. Was this appropriate for the area?
- A. GS said that he had heard music and had seen a group of people dancing on the basketball court but they had gone by 8.30pm. However, he could hear music after that. GRM said there was no music in the Dianthus Building or the Community Hall but there were often youths in cars in the car park with radios on very loud. IW commented on how

sound carried across water. GRM said that there were always staff on site when there were events and that noise was monitored closely. IW said that WBC Environmental Health should be contacted about noise nuisance; HR said to call the usual WBC tel. no. 01483 755855.

- Q. GB asked whether there was any progress on the installation of double-yellow-lines and “no parking” signs at the junctions of Armadale Road and Clifton Way.
- A. IW said that this had been referred to Surrey CC; Cllr.SH said that it was in the programme. GB added that the junction of Clifton Way and Denton Way was also a problem and hoped this could be included in the review. IW said she had also asked for a further issue in Willowmead Close to be included.
- Q. HM mentioned continued parking problems in Sythwood and Willowmead Close. The unacceptable parking in these areas is largely caused by the lack of parking space near schools. There was discussion about the problems faced by parents with children to take to more than one school and the problems of residents who could not get to work or appointments because of bad parking. SW commented that the traffic situation outside the schools had not been helped by the cutbacks in busing provision for children with special needs, but Cllr.SH clarified that there is still provision around school times, although there is now no provision 24/7.
- Q. A resident asked what is being done about rebuilding the pizza shop that was destroyed by fire and the empty estate agents by Waitrose?
- A. IW had been in touch with the Managing Agents on more than one occasion and had been told that the insurance claim had been agreed and tenders for rebuilding were out – everything was “in hand”.
[Latest information is that work on the pizza shop will start at the end of August and Herbies will return in due course. A tenant is being sought for the empty shop next door.]
- Q. HM asked if dogs were allowed in the lake as he had seen someone throwing a ball repeatedly into the water for his dog to retrieve. RW said that he had seen at least 6 dogs being encouraged into the water yesterday and he had also seen half a dozen young men and a group of girls swimming in the lake.
- A. IW and HR confirmed that neither dogs nor people were permitted to swim in the lake. There are signs but the feeling is that they are too few and too far from the lake, and not sufficiently prominent. IW asked if WBC was actively considering a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) covering dogs on leads, etc; HR said that this was being considered for the whole borough but that it is a process that takes a long time to implement, so new signage will be installed for now. WBC is reviewing signage and would welcome comments on some of the ideas she had brought along. The problem of enforcement was raised and HR said that Council officers could enforce a PSPO. IW referred to research that showed that a PSPO appeared to change behaviour so that less enforcement was needed.
- Q. HM asked what could be done about hedges on private property getting overgrown and overhanging the footpath.
- A. HR said to contact WBC who could write to the householder to request that they cut the offending hedge. If that fails, Serco could be asked to cut the hedge.
- IW reported back on a question from CC at the last meeting about the steep slope at the entrance to the shopping centre car park that made it hazardous for people in wheelchairs and mobility scooters. The Managing Agent said that he had looked at the slope when he was last on-site; he said that it would not be a “simple fix” and would be very costly. However, they were currently looking into the refurbishment of the whole carpark and have asked the consultants to look at this issue and see what could be done.

5. OFFICERS' REPORTS

5.1 Chair's Report

IW reported that there is no more news about our application to become a CIO. The Charity Commission is currently dealing with applications submitted in February, so the GPCA's application will not, in all probability, be looked at before September or October.

IW offered formal "congratulations" to Brockhill on its 30th anniversary. Cllr.SH said that Brockhill was a flagship facility and there should be more like it. IW commented that Brockhill offers so many facilities, such as hairdressing, daily activities, meals and visiting professionals, all open to residents and non-residents alike, but few people seem to be aware of this.

5.2 Treasurer's Report

TH reported that draft financial statements were available and that a full report will be presented at the AGM once they had been audited.

The GPCA is now using on-line banking.

Payment on invoices for advertising in Goldsworth News is being monitored more closely and action on late payers is being taken.

Current net assets stand at £30,397.

5.3 Natural Goldsworth Park

Thames Water is making £10,000 available to improve the woodland and make it more accessible. Discussions are taking place between TW, WBC and GPCA/NGP. The idea is for there to be a wood chipped path through the woods. The route has yet to be confirmed as there is a need for a tree survey and input from the Bat Group before any clearance is made, even of invasive non-native species. It has yet to be decided who will manage the budget and employ the contractors but it will not be the GPCA/NGP. There were concerns that a path might encourage undesirable visitors but some clearance of undergrowth might deter such incursions. There are signs of badger activity again so care will have to be taken but GS said that the TW representative is very eco-minded. It is hoped that work can begin in November of this year.

RW referred to the wildflower meadow and said that in his experience, if you start a project, even on a very small scale, and then ask for help, you will get volunteers on board. GS said he did not have the time this year to lead on the meadow but would support anyone who would lead. He could identify an area which was not productive at present which would be a good place to start. A wildflower meadow is not easy to establish or manage so someone with some expertise in this area is needed. We need to advertise for someone to take charge of the project, preferably someone with expertise in this area. There is expertise within other community groups and WBC and there may be some practical assistance. In hindsight, the paths through the meadow should have been mown earlier in the year as some plants have been trampled.

The Big Butterfly Count is on at the moment and an ID chart of butterflies is on the NGP Facebook page and the GPCA website.

RW reported on the lake and said that earlier this summer, the adult swans fell ill, the cob (male) died but the pen (female) was taken to a swan sanctuary. There had been two cygnets but one disappeared but the other was taken to the sanctuary. Both the pen and the cygnet are now thriving but will not be returned to the lake. It is probable that new swans will fly in next year. Other wild-life on and around the lake is doing well and the grebes have a second brood.

Some sad news is that one of the original carp, which has been in the lake since it was completed in 1975, has died aged about 50 years old.

Work-parties were held around the lake last weekend, and the pile of debris by the playground will be chipped by SERCO. Work was done on some of the fishing platforms.

WBC has asked RW to conduct guided walks around the lake, explaining what has been achieved and detailing future plans. He will be giving a talk at Brockhill which will need a PowerPoint presentation, and maybe another at Maybury Community Centre.

LW asked whether there was a closed season on the lake for fishing during the spawning-season. RW responded that there was legislation brought in around 1840 for a closed season from 14 March to 16 June to protect the fish and other wildlife but the restrictions have been lifted from non-moving waters subject to the controllers of the waters. TW and WBC control the lake and allow fishing throughout the year although the Club has rules to protect fish in certain conditions.

GB asked for an update on the tree maintenance. HR said she did not have a specific date but that it would be in the autumn. There are some stumps still to be ground out where roots are damaging the path.

SW asked if TW was ever likely to dredge the lake as it must be silting up. RW explained that the lake is a balancing pool and the depth of the lake is less important than the amount of water it can take on top. Dredging would be difficult as the silt contains bacteria, heavy metals and other undesirable elements which are safe while held in the silt under water but would be dangerous if allowed to dry out. If dredging was necessary, the silt would be taken away for treatment.

5.4 Communications

GB said that the next edition of Goldsworth News is due out on 7th September. All contributions should be submitted by 19th August.

CS explained that the GPCA is proposing to hold a Summer Event in September 2020, in partnership with Dianthus Trading. CS will be very pleased to receive any ideas for stalls, organisations that might be interested in exhibiting, etc. The plan would be for organisations to have their own space, for which they pay a fee, and they keep any profits they make.

6. Any Other Business

IW thanked HR for the hi-vis jackets with the GPCA logo and the litter-picks for use in future GPCA litter-picks, the next of which will be on Saturday, 12th October. RW reported that, during the last work-party, there was virtually no litter around the lake. A question was asked whether litter-picks could be extended to streets; IW suggested that the reminder of the litter-pick in Goldsworth News could be used to ask residents if they would like their road to be picked and added that they should be asked to join in. It was suggested that Costa Coffee be asked to send a couple of staff to help, as they did with the first litter pick.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.05pm.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the **AGM, at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 6th November 2019**, in the Community Hall at Goldwater Lodge.

Goldsworth Park Community Association
Statement of income & expenditure
1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
	£	£
INCOME		
Donations & legacies		
Dianthus donation	1,000	-
Christmas tree donations	168	100
Grant income	500	544
	<u>1,668</u>	<u>644</u>
Charitable activities		
Bar takings	3,339	12,644
Hall bookings	5,740	29,439
Magazine advertising	4,902	6,113
	<u>13,981</u>	<u>48,196</u>
Investments		
Bank interest	47	28
TOTAL INCOME	<u>15,696</u>	<u>48,868</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Bar expenses		
Stock	2,305	10,147
Staff costs	1,220	3,153
Equipment	215	4,172
	<u>3,740</u>	<u>17,472</u>
Hall expenses		
Hall manager	1,087	3,206
Rent & rates	95	562
Gas, electricity, waste	1,326	9,145
Cleaning	- 178	6,480
Repairs & maintenance	612	4,538
Redecoration	4,695	-
Legal fees, licences & payroll	531	270
	<u>8,168</u>	<u>24,202</u>
Magazine expenses		
Printing	6,000	7,659
Distribution	357	275
	<u>6,357</u>	<u>7,934</u>
Donations	910	465
Christmas tree	218	151
Total expenditure on charitable activities	<u>19,392</u>	<u>50,223</u>
Other expenditure		
Insurance	1,101	2,071
Stationery, postage, printing	186	319
Website & email	206	-
Parking & mileage	7	13
Legal & professional	50	-
Accountancy	480	480
Sundry	166	1,202
Total other expenditure	<u>2,197</u>	<u>4,085</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>21,589</u>	<u>54,308</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	<u>-5,893</u>	<u>-5,441</u>

Goldsworth Park Community Association
Balance Sheet
31 March 2019

	2019	2018
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank current account	6,129	7,656
Bank savings account	23,567	23,520
Cash	292	4,659
Lake restoration fund	409	409
	<u>30,397</u>	<u>36,245</u>
 FIXED ASSETS		
Leasehold property	-	253,671
 TOTAL NET ASSETS	 <u>30,397</u>	 <u>289,916</u>
 FUNDS OF THE CHARITY		
Restricted funds	409	409
Unrestricted funds	29,988	289,507
 TOTAL FUNDS	 <u>30,397</u>	 <u>289,916</u>