



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2019

Present

Irene Watson (Chair)
Chris Martin (Vice Chair)
Tina Hartley (Treasurer)
Celia Young (Secretary)
George Binyon (Editor, Goldsworth News)
Gerry Smeesters (Project Manager, NGP)
Steve Willson (Web Master)
Christina Candey (GN Advertising Manager)
Cllr Ann-Marie Barker (WBC)
Cllr Chitra Rana (WBC)
Cllr James Sanderson (WBC)
Cllr Saj Hussain (SCC)
Hannah Rees (WBC)
Dave Fry (WBC)
Gary Rimay Muranyi (Dianthus Trading)

Residents

Mike Griffiths (Goldsworth Care)
Katie Sherlock (NGP)
Roger Westcott (GPAC)
Sandra White (LCAG)
Hilary Addison
Wanda Binyon
Martin Clark
Wendy Clark
Steve Davies
Gill Edwards
Peter Eggleton
Sharon Kearney
Ian Rickard
Chris Wright
Sheila Wright

1. Opening and Welcome

The Chair of the GPCA opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everyone to the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Goldsworth Park Community Association, the last AGM of the old GPCA.

2. Apologies for Absence

Guests: Kerry Bennett (Woking & Sam Beare Hospices); Matthew Byrne (JLL); Jon Davies (Knaphill Print); Arran Henderson (Woking Borough Council); Peter Kirby (Radio Sailing, Woking); Sean Larkin (Lakeside Fellowship); Jonathan Lord MP; Fran Siwicka (Waitrose); Rev Kate Wyles (St Andrews Church)

Residents: Michael Addison; Gill Brookling; Ron Butler; Bryan Cross; Ian & Pauline Eastwood; Sue Johnson; Holger & Valerie Marsen; Sue & Royer Slater; Liz Wilkinson

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 6th November 2018

In the interests of the environment, printed off copies of last year's minutes are not available as they were sent out to everyone on the mailing list.

The minutes were agreed.

4. Introduction

Irene Watson said that there would be reports from herself (Chair) and Tina Hartley (Treasurer). Both would be happy to take questions but requested that they be left until the end of each report or, if they were general questions, until the second part of the meeting.

After the reports, there will be a vote on the resolution to dissolve the GPCA, now that the GPCA CIO is registered with the Charity Commission followed by elections for the GPCA officers for the very short time left.

After the formal business, there will be a refreshment break when residents can chat to the committee, Councillors and neighbours followed by question time. Those with questions are asked to state their name and whether they are a resident or representing an organisation.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

For reporting purposes, the GPCA's year is July to June but some of the reports may go a bit wider than this.

The Constitution of the GPCA sets out the objectives, the first of which is to promote the benefit of the residents of Goldsworth Park, which is taken to mean representing and promoting their interests and there are several ways in which we do this.

5.1 Meetings

At the last AGM, it was agreed to hold public meetings on a quarterly basis with the Committee meeting between the quarterly meeting to conduct the GPCA's business.

This pattern was broken by the Extraordinary General Meeting on 29th June 2018 followed by the 2018 AGM held on 6th November. After that, meetings resumed, and public meetings were held in April and July. Turnout has generally been good with 60 at the EGM, 40 at the AGM and 30 at each of the ordinary meetings.

The mailing list of people who get minutes and other information now stands at 120.

5.2 Communications

Goldsworth News continues to do well under George Binyon's editorship with lots of interesting stories. It switched to quarterly publication in January this year and that format has proved better suited to the resources of the editorial team and aspirations of the new-look, streamlined, GPCA.

The editorial team is currently under strength and anyone who would like to be involved in the magazine be it by writing, photography or production would be welcome.

Advertising is holding up well which means the magazine is financially self-sufficient thanks to the efforts of Advertising Manager Christina Candey.

The **Web Site** www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk, with Steve Willson as web-master, is a useful way for residents to keep in touch with the GPCA. Current and past editions of Goldsworth News are available on the website.

The **Goldsworth Park Facebook Group**, set up by Cathy Salmon, now has 360 members and continues to grow. It provides a quick way to facilitate two-way communications with residents.

5.3 Community Matters

The GPCA was represented at the Remembrance Day Service with a wreath laid at the Memorial outside the Health Centre.

The GPCA organised the Christmas Tree in the shopping centre courtyard, for the third year, with contributions from the Church, the shops, the pub and the Angling Club. Christmas songs and carols around the tree were led by the Community Choir, SingGold and many residents joined in.

The GPCA monitors the condition and maintenance of the shopping centre to ensure a safe environment for residents. Currently, the GPCA is pressing the managing agents to improve access to the centre for wheelchair and mobility scooter users. The managing agents have said that Herbies will be returning to their shop once the repairs are completed.

The GPCA organised two litter picks – Spring and Autumn – both of which were well attended by residents; it was good to see so many children taking part. Thanks are due to Woking Borough Council for supplying the GPCA with personalised hi-viz jackets and litter pickers. There seems to be less rubbish to collect than in earlier litter-picks so perhaps they are having an effect. The area to be litter picked may be widened to roads where problems have been reported.

As always, the GPCA continues to support residents with matters such as problem parking, planning issues and the management of common areas.

5.4 Natural Goldsworth Park (NGP)

Goldsworth Park is lucky to have the lake, the woods and a meadow and fortunate to have Gerry Smeesters and Roger Westcott to look after them as part of the NGP Project.

Surveys continue in order to update the nature records of plants, birds, bats, insects and butterflies, and to provide a benchmark against which to measure the impact on the habitat of any changes the project initiates as well as changes that may arise from wider habitat loss and climate change.

Thames Water, which owns the woodland, is funding a walkway through the woods as part of their community and nature programme. They are working closely with NGP and Woking Council on this project, but the start date has not been announced.

A small area of North Meadow was identified as appropriate for a trial wildflower area. Thanks to a grant from Surrey County Council, machinery was brought in to prepare the ground and with help from Norman Johns, a local wildflower expert, a meadow mix of grasses and native wildflowers has been sown.

The Project Manager has provided a report which will be circulated with the minutes.

On the lake, the coots, moorhens and great crested grebes all had one or more broods. The swans chose an exposed site to nest but, with a little help from well-wishers, managed to hatch two cygnets. Unfortunately, the adults became ill, the male died, but the female and the one cygnet were taken to a Swan Sanctuary where both are doing well. The other cygnet disappeared. The kingfishers were active but there was no sign of their breeding this year.

The work parties on the lake banks, organised by Angling Club, continue the work of the Lake Bank Restoration Project. The work parties are not only for anglers and residents are welcome to join in; they are run in spring and autumn and the dates will be on the Angling Club's website, the GPCA website and social media.

5.6 The Community Hall

This will be the last report on the Hall as the GPCA relinquished the lease on 31st August 2018. On 1st September 2018, it was leased to Dianthus Trading which continues to operate it as a community building, and honoured all the GPCA bookings. The Council agreed that the GPCA will have first refusal on leasing the Community Hall again should Dianthus Trading surrender their lease.

As part of this arrangement, Dianthus Trading and the GPCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding under which Dianthus Trading will donate £1,000 to the GPCA each year in recognition of the investment that the GPCA had made in the Hall, and will provide the GPCA with room for meetings and storage space free of charge.

5.6 Thanks

The Chair wished thanks to be recorded to everyone who has helped with the work of the GPCA during the year, particularly: -

- Fellow Trustees and other committee members for their support and help over the year;
- The regular contributors to Goldsworth News including Royer Slater, Roger Westcott and the Vicar, Kate Wyles;
- Christina Candey for sourcing advertising and Knaphill Print for printing Goldsworth News;
- Linda Hill and the Goldsworth News deliverers, who go out in all weathers to keep residents in touch;
- Steve Willson for running the web-site;
- Pauline Eastwood for organising the litter picks;
- Hannah Jennings from WBC for her help with many issues;
- Gary Rimay-Muranyi for his support.

6. Finance Report

The Chair said that the new Treasurer had made a very positive start in the role, updating the accounting software and the way accounts are presented, and introducing on-line banking.

The Treasurer referred to the accounts which had been circulated with the agendas. The format is different from last year as the Charity Commission had published a template for small charities and the GPCA had been advised to use it. The accounts have been examined by Hamlyns, in Horsell, and they are satisfied that all is correct.

The first page shows income and expenditure. Income amounted to over £15,000 which includes:

- Income of some £9,000 from the hall and bar in the last two months of GPCA.
- Income from advertising in five issues of Goldsworth News which amounted to nearly £5,000. The advertising is now managed by a volunteer in-house, so all profits accrue to the GPCA. The magazine is now profitable.
- The £1,000 donation from Dianthus and other donations for the Christmas Tree.

Expenditure of £21,000 includes:

- Hall management costs of £11,000 which included the costs of redecoration, required under the terms of the lease.
- The costs of printing and distributing the magazine of £6,000.
- Donations amounting to £900 to other local charities.
- Admin costs of £1,000 which included insurance, examination of the accounts, website and email.

Financially, it was not a very good year for the GPCA, but fundraising is being planned. The reserves are healthy at £30,000 and, once fundraising is in hand, decisions can be made about what use to make of the reserves.

7. Resolution to dissolve the “old” GPCA

Earlier this year, the Trustees agreed a new Constitution for the GPCA based on the Charity Commission’s Association model CIO. This model is the one with voting members other than the Trustees because it was believed that residents – the community – would wish to be involved in the GPCA and be able to vote for the Trustees and on important issues.

The application to become a CIO was submitted in April but, due to pressure of work at the Charity Commission, it took until October to be approved.

The new constitution is available on the website and residents will see that the objects of the CIO are very similar to those of the “old” GPCA – the CIO is really a continuation of the GPCA with a different structure. The main differences are that managing a community building is no longer mentioned and reference to maintaining the character, amenities and environment of the area has been added.

The Charity Commission requires Association CIO’s to have a membership register so residents will be invited to become members of the GPCA, rather than how it worked in the past where residents were members just by virtue of living in Goldsworth Park. Initially, invitations will be sent to people on the contact list and the Facebook Group, and through Goldsworth News.

Now that the GPCA CIO has been registered, the “old” GPCA can be dissolved – hence the Resolution which was included in the invitations to this meeting, and publicised in the press and noticeboards.

This resolution, which is in accordance with clause 20 of the existing Constitution, is that the Goldsworth Park Community Association, Registered Charity No. 287684, (the existing charity) be dissolved on 31st December 2019 (or such other date as the Trustees may decide) and all assets and liabilities held for the purposes of the charity be transferred on that date to the Goldsworth Park Community Association CIO, Registered Charity No. 1185628, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) formed under the Charities Act, 2011.

This resolution authorises the Charity Trustees of the existing charity to sign such agreements and execute such deeds as are necessary to give effect to this transfer provided that, in the case of any assets held for restricted purposes, they shall ensure that similar restrictions are imposed when the assets are transferred to the CIO.

The Chair called for a vote by show of hands and the resolution was approved unanimously.

8. Election of Officers and Committee

As the GPCA will be dissolved on 31 December 2019, it was suggested that the current Committee, comprising IW – Chair, CM – Vice Chair, TH – Treasurer, CY – Secretary and GS – Committee Member, should stay on for the short time left. This was proposed by Cllr Saj Hussain, seconded by Hilary Addison and the meeting voted unanimously in favour.

Break for refreshments

9. Questions from the floor

CC asked if there were any plans for a fair or fete next year. IW said that there would be an event run jointly the GPCA and Dianthus Trading with the GPCA managing land-based activities and Dianthus managing lake based activities. GRM said that he saw the event as a launch for the new GPCA CIO which would also benefit other small, local charities. The event will be on 12 September 2020, a date chosen because of the number of events in June and July.

MG asked for more information about the path through the woods and an assurance that wildlife would be protected. GS explained that he was awaiting more information from Thames Water about the precise route but that the path would run diagonally through the woods from the lake path near the footpath near the point to North Meadow and have a chipped bark surface. TW are aware of the wildlife in the woods (a badger but no foxes, a flock of jackdaws and occasional deer) and will be using a contractor who is a specialist in wildlife areas. They will try to preserve native trees but will take out cherry laurel, an invasive non-native shrubs.

CC referred to the abundance of wildlife around the park and said she now had 7 resident parakeets and 3 hedgehogs. SK said that she had 5 hedgehogs living in her garden. GS asked for pictures of the hedgehogs for the Facebook Group.

MC asked if there were plans for more housing, specifically social housing, in Goldsworth Park. IW said that GP is already the most densely populated part of the Borough and she was not aware of any such development other than the supported housing being built next to the Salvation Army. There have been one or two applications for infill development but Cllrs SH and AMB said they were not aware of any such planning applications at present.

WB expressed concern about overgrown trees around the lake and beside footpaths; they appeared to be cut back up to just over head height but the top branches were left untouched, obscuring the lights and leading to very dark areas. HR explained that the routine cutting only goes up to 7ft and a specialist team is required to work above this height. This team is due on site shortly and should resolve the problem. WB added that there are also some problems with hedges on private property growing over footpaths. It appears that Serco can deal with these issues, if asked.

SD asked about the future of the Lakers building. AMB said that Surrey CC was consulting on the future use of a number of community buildings and was seeking suggestions for use by youth groups, faith groups, community groups, etc. SH said the consultations were still at an early stage. KS asked about the closure of Strollers. IW said that it had closed because the number of users had dropped and there was a lack of volunteers to manage the facility. The room had been returned to the Goldsworth Park Scouts and Guides who own the building.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and, there being no further business or questions, closed the Meeting at 9.15pm.

Goldsworth Park Community Association
Receipts & Payments
1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Last Year £
RECEIPTS				
Christmas tree donations		168	168	100
Other donations	1,000		1,000	
Bar sales	3,339		3,339	12,644
Hall bookings	5,740		5,740	29,439
Hall grants		500	500	544
Magazine advertising	4,947		4,947	6,113
Bank interest	47		47	28
TOTAL RECEIPTS	15,073	668	15,741	48,868
PAYMENTS				
Donations made	910		910	465
Christmas tree costs	50	168	218	151
Bar costs	3,740		3,740	17,472
Hall costs	8,088	500	8,588	25,404
Magazine costs	6,357		6,357	7,934
Insurance	682		682	870
Accountancy	480		480	480
Legal & professional	50		50	
Administration	564		564	1,533
TOTAL PAYMENTS	20,921	668	21,589	54,309
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)	(5,848)	0	(5,848)	(5,441)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Cash funds last year end	35,836	409	36,245	41,686
Cash funds this year end	29,988	409	30,397	36,245

Goldsworth Park Community Association
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
30 June 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Last Year £
CASH FUNDS				
Bank current account	6,129		6,129	7,656
Bank savings account	23,567		23,567	23,520
Cash	292		292	4,659
Lake restoration fund		409	409	409
	<u>29,988</u>	<u>409</u>	<u>30,397</u>	<u>36,245</u>
FIXED ASSETS				
Leasehold property				253,671
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u><u>29,988</u></u>	<u><u>409</u></u>	<u><u>30,397</u></u>	<u><u>289,916</u></u>