

# **GOLDSWORTH PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CIO**

## **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING, 7.30pm on WEDNESDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2021 on ZOOM**

### **PRESENT:**

#### **Trustees**

Irene Watson – Chair  
Celia Young – Secretary  
Tina Hartley – Treasurer  
George Binyon – Editor  
Cathy Butt – Social Secretary

#### **Support Team**

Steve Willson – Webmaster  
Bob Cowell – Community Matters  
Christina Candey – Advertising Manager

#### **Corporate Members**

Cllr Ann-Marie Barker – WBC  
Cllr James Sanderson – WBC  
Cllr Saj Hussain – SCC  
Geoff McManus – WBC  
Seanne Hunter Hill – WBC  
Sylvia Lambart – GP Guides  
Roger Westcott – GP Angling Club  
Patrick Coad – St Andrews Church

#### **Speaker**

Mike Griffiths, Goldsworth Care

#### **Members**

Hilary Addison  
Gill Brookling  
Martin & Wendy Clark  
Maryel Cowell  
Royer Slater  
Robert Thomson  
Liz Wilkinson

#### **Non-members**

Jonny Cope  
Michael & Margaret Hussey  
Chris & Sheila Wright

#### **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Chitra Rana  
Bob Challoner – Project Manager NGP  
Rupert Crossland – Head of Governors,  
Beaufort School  
Ron Butler – Resident  
Steve Davies – Resident  
Holger & Valerie Marsen – Residents

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Irene Watson (Chair) welcomed everyone meeting and gave a particular welcome to PC Iona King, who is one of the Police Team dedicated to Goldsworth Park, and also to Seanne Hunter Hill, our Neighbourhood Officer at Woking Council.

The Chair congratulated Jonny Cope on his marriage which had made the BBC News as one of the first weddings to take place after 12<sup>th</sup> April.

As at previous meetings on Zoom, everyone would be muted but would be able to ask questions and make comments by using the “raise your hand” button, sending a note through “chat”, or just by waving at the camera.

As there is a guest speaker, the usual items, such as minutes of the last meeting, and Trustees’ Reports, would be deferred until later in the meeting.

The Chair then introduced the Guest Speaker, Mike Griffiths, the Chairman of Goldsworth Care, who will talk about the work of this “good neighbour” scheme, and then take questions. If you have a question, please give your name, and if representing an organisation, give its name, before speaking.

#### **Mike Griffiths**

MG explained that *Goldsworth Care* is one of 11 such schemes in Woking. It has rather “fuzzy” boundaries, in that it takes in Goldsworth Park, an area the other side of the canal, and Kingsway. It was started in 2001 and was the third to be started in the Woking area, after West Byfleet and Horsell. Originally it was a “car scheme” with the remit of giving lifts to

clients to places such as local hospitals and GP surgeries, shops, hairdressers, podiatrists and other similar destinations including The Vyne.

These are normally one-off trips, but there are some are regular bookings, e.g. taking a client to chemotherapy or dialysis. Drivers have also, rarely, taken people further afield, for example, to Victoria Coach Station or to St Helier Hospital. The *Goldsworth Care* leaflet says they undertake odd jobs and dog-walking, but they have not been asked to do many jobs of this nature so far.

In “normal” times, *Goldsworth Care* also provides its clients a very popular Strawberry Tea in the Summer, and a Christmas Party, for all its clients.

Sadly, *Goldsworth Care* is only able to offer a skeleton service during Covid restrictions. Only one passenger per car is allowed, and both driver and passenger must wear face-coverings. Any car used must be disinfected before and after the trip.

**Who are the clients?** Anyone can be a client of *Goldsworth Care*. There are currently 120 clients on the register, aged 22 to 101 years old.

Most drivers can take shopping trolleys or fold-up strollers in their cars, but not wheelchairs. The volunteers are not allowed to lift people in any way. Some cars have levers or handles that can help people with mobility issues.

**Who provides the service?** There are 17 volunteers split into Duty Officers and Drivers. Duty Officers work on a rota-basis, a morning once a week or once a fortnight, taking calls requesting help and passing them on to the volunteer drivers. The drivers take the jobs if they are free.

**To contact the Duty Officer, call 07751 801587.**

By 2012, *Goldsworth Care* had made 5,000 trips, and 10,000 by 2019, with 500 trips in 2019-2020.

*Goldsworth Care* is supported by Surrey Community Action and Volunteer Woking which advise about the availability of relevant training courses, such as dementia care. *Goldsworth Care* advertises by leaflet drop, by press articles, attendance at events, posters in GP and dentists' waiting rooms, articles in *Goldsworth News* and on the Community Notice-Board outside Waitrose. There is also a web-site – Woking Good neighbours, on which GC has a page.

**How is GC funded?** Clients give what they feel is appropriate and what they can afford for the service provided. GC has had support from the Waitrose Community Matters Scheme and Cllr Colin Kemp (SCC) funded the purchase of levers and handles to facilitate access to vehicles. In general, the donations from users cover the costs.

MG ended by saying that volunteers are always welcomed and he asked that everyone should tell their neighbours about *Goldsworth Care* as it seems that many people living on Goldsworth Park are not aware of its existence.

## Questions

SW Drivers are required to have a DBS Check and are reimbursed at the rate of 45p per mile.

CB: Does GC operate 7 days a week?

Reply: GC operates 7 days a week. There is only phone cover Mondays to Fridays, but you can phone during the week, and book a driver for a weekend journey.

HA: Is there a problem with getting volunteers?

Reply: There is always a need for more volunteers, as Duty Officers and Drivers. 4 new volunteers have joined during “lockdown”, but they haven’t done any driving yet.

CC: Does G C provide care in the home?

Reply: No. They can deliver shopping, but not provide personal care.

A-MB: What is the commitment for volunteers on the Duty Phone?

*Reply:* One morning or afternoon a fortnight on a day they choose. Drivers are called in turn, letting the Duty Officer know if they are free to take on a request.

SH: Is GC working with any of the other local Good Neighbours Schemes during the pandemic.

*Reply:* No.

SH: Has GC asked for funding from WBC?

*Reply:* Cllr Colin Kemp provided funding for a specific project but GC has not had to seek additional funding. With clients' donations and the Green Token scheme, GC is in a reasonably happy financial state.

JE: Do drivers have to get special car insurance?

*Reply:* No. Volunteers have told their insurers, but none has had to increase their insurance.

CB: Does GC use social media?

*Reply:* No but it has a page on the Woking Good Neighbours Scheme website.

RS: said that he had reported on organisations that ran errands, such as collecting , medication and that provided company for clients who could not get out. Does GC undertake these things?

*Reply:* During Lockdown, drivers did collect medication or shopping for people who were isolating but could not visit people in their homes. Informally, some drivers did call their regular clients for a chat and but people did not ring in seeking someone to talk to even though GC was prepared to operate a telephone buddy system. GC does not undertake jobs in people's homes. SW said he had undertaken a couple of small jobs for clients but volunteers had to keep within their own capabilities.

CC: Would a volunteer driver be able to use someone else's vehicle? CC has a specially adapted vehicle that she is no longer able to drive. Her insurance covers other drivers over 23 years old.

*Reply:* MG and SW would come to see her vehicle and come to a decision.

IW thanked MG for his informative talk and said we had all learned more about GC.

## **2. Minutes of last Meeting**

The Minutes of the GPCA General Meeting on 21 January 2021 were approved.

## **3. Community Matters**

- 3.1 JE: Concerned about the number of elastic bands dropped by postal workers while delivering mail. She had written to Royal Mail and been advised that they are "dropped inadvertently" but, to judge by the number we see, they are dropped "routinely". Royal Mail says the bands are bio-degradable over 12 months but, in that time, they are unsightly and a danger to wildlife, who think they are worms and try to eat them. This problem is countrywide. Could one of our Councillors please "nudge" Royal Mail?

Cllr SH meets regularly with Royal Mail and will raise the issue locally and nationally, if necessary. It is a waste of resources.

Cllr A-MB: Can't the posties be issued with a container to put bands into?

- 3.2 GB: What is happening to the site of the old Robin Hood pub? Part of the fence has now been removed, and it has become a hot-spot for fly tipping. When will the site be either developed or tidied up?

Cllr SH: There are plans for the development of the site, but they have not yet been able to proceed. The site is cleaned up from time to time. SH will find out why the fence has not been replaced. Plans will come forward soon.

IW: Could Cllr SH please get back to the GPCA about the Robin Hood site, and the Royal Mail elastic bands? He said he would.

- 3.3 MG: Concerned about parking in Sythwood where cars park so close to the corner of Fenwick Close that it is often very difficult to pull out of the road. The police say they need to catch people parking illegally but SCC Highways could improve matters by installing double yellow lines around the junctions, and by having staggered white lines to move traffic to other side of the road.

Cllr A-MB: There is a consultation about parking and yellow lines, including some in Sythwood, closing soon Several parts and she send MG the link to be able to see and comment on the plans.

IW commented that the double yellow lines do not extend far enough back from the corner. Cllr SH said that residents can request for them to be extended.

BC: Double yellow lines have been installed around the junction of Clifton Way and Armadale Road, and the problem is much better. Thanks are due to GB and Cllr SH.

- 3.4 IW: There had been a comment on the Facebook Group or Nextdoor about the filthy state of the paving around the GP Shopping Centre. She had checked it out and agreed so she contacted the Managing Agents of the Shopping Centre who said that they had inspected the site the previous day and agree that it needs attention. They are seeking tenders from specialist cleaners – a very satisfactory response. There had also been a complaint about the litter bins are constantly overflowing, causing loose litter to blow around the Centre. The Managing Agents said that the litter bins are emptied and the litter is picked *daily*, but the easing of lockdown seems to be creating more litter. They will ask the contractors to pay more attention to this.

- 3.5 MC: Raised the issue of the poor condition of the pavements in Bishops Wood and Amstel Way – potholes and uneven surfaces create a trip hazard. Cllr SH said he will visit MC tomorrow morning to inspect the pavements. BC: agreed that the pavements in many areas are in a bad condition with roots causing cracks. Cllr SH can arrange for a survey of footpaths.

WC commented on how lovely the trees along Lockfield Drive look and what a boon the lake is to residents.

- 3.6 RS said that the grass beside the footpaths in the shopping centre, particularly outside the gym, is seriously eroded and requested that something be done to remedy the situation. IW commented that the grass next to virtually all the footpaths round the lake and in the recreation area is all worn to mud as walkers have been stepping off the paths to maintain social distance. It may or may not need reseeding to help recovery. The area outside the gym is probably part of the shopping centre and so under different management arrangements from the other footpaths.

GMcM said that he had asked SHH to keep a note of concerns with which they might help and, although he could not make promises, they would do what they could.

- 3.7 On a more positive note, BC noted that white lines and other road markings had been renewed recently.

- 3.8 IW reminded the meeting that the funding of the **Picnic Tables and Benches** from the Community Infrastructure Levy had been approved, and the and the tables, benches and rubbish bins have been ordered. She has been chasing the suppliers for some weeks now and managed, on 20<sup>th</sup> April, to speak to the company that will be doing the installation. They were not able to give a date for the installation but hope to be able to do so soon. She hoped that it's very soon!

- 3.9 IW reported that there is now green mesh around the **Lakers** site and signs up about the demolition of the remaining buildings, but there does not appear to be a planning application in yet. Information about the use of the site is still as at our last General Meeting – a possible re-build as accommodation for care-leavers, with some community space.
- 3.10 Cllr JS informed us that the **Lakeview Community Centre** is potentially to be used for Youth Work, as an extension to that offered in Knaphill.
- 3.11 IW voiced concern about the high rate of Covid infection in GP. There were 12 cases in the 7 days up to 15<sup>th</sup> April – up 9 on the previous figure. Compared with the average in England, GP is at the very far end of the “above average” scale. GP has the highest Covid rate not only in Woking, but in the whole of Surrey.
- GMcM said that the GP rate *is* above average. Woking was at around at 600 new cases but this is now down to the high 20s per 100,000, The Council’s Public Health Officials are working proactively. GMcM will send the current figures to the Chair but, of course, they are changing week by week.
- Update from the Chair:** as of 24<sup>th</sup> April, GP and the majority of Woking wards had fewer than 3 new cases each.
- 3.12 JA asked if it is necessary to make an appointment for a Lateral Flow test at Goldwater Lodge? GMcM said that it was now a “walk in” facility and added that home-testing kits are also readily available now. (Look at “NHS home testing corona virus”).

## 4. Officers’ Reports

### 4.1 Chair’s report

Since the last Meeting, the Trustees have appointed Bob Challoner, the Project Manager for Natural Goldsworth Park, as a Trustee. In accordance with the Constitution, he will have to stand for election by the members of the GPCA CIO at the AGM in October. (The latest Report on NGP can be found on our website).

The **Spring Litter Pick** arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> April was postponed because of the Duke of Edinburgh’s funeral. It will now be held on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May, from 2.00pm**. Meet outside the public toilets/yard gate behind the Goldwater Lodge. Please let the Chair know if you will be coming as a safety briefing will be sent out and a register has to be kept. Litter pickers and hi-viz jackets will be provided.

### 4.2 Treasurer’s Report

Things have been pretty quiet on the financial front. There was income from advertising in the printed Winter edition of Goldsworth News.

A donation of £100 was made to Goldsworth Cub Scouts on their re-opening, to provide each Cub Scout with their own supply of pencils and paper (Covid regulations). This matched the donation to the Guides and Brownies last year.

A donation of £50.00 was given to The British Lung Foundation in memory of Roy Anders who had been the Caretaker/Cleaner at the Community Hall for 11 years and who died in January.

A contribution towards work on the lake bank and fence round the Wildlife Area was made to the Angling, who will undertake the work on our behalf.

### 4.3. Editor – Goldsworth News

The Spring issue of Goldsworth News was, once again, on-line. We hope to be able to print the Summer issue, for June 2021. The deadline for copy is 18<sup>th</sup> May. Any

contributions for the magazine will be very welcome – articles or comments. The magazine gives good potential coverage for local issues.

#### **4.4 Natural Goldsworth Park**

There has been a review of the original Vision Statement for NGP, which can be found on the GP website. A mammal survey will be undertaken soon, with the help of experts, and it is hoped that other species-specific surveys will be undertaken this year.

#### **4.5 Social Secretary**

Our Facebook membership stands at over 1,000 members.

An Easter Picture Trail around the lake was held, using a score sheet on the Facebook page to record “finds”.

There have been two very successful Quiz Nights via Zoom, and the next Quiz will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. Please let Cathy know if you wish to join in, so that she can send you the link for Zoom. ([social@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:social@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)).

#### **4.6 Community**

Bob Cowell is planning to produce a charity calendar for 2022, showing scenes from Goldsworth Park. He is looking for many more pictures of at least 2Mb quality. There is no restriction on when these were taken or of topics; most of the pictures submitted so far are of the lake and more variety would be welcomed. Be aware that you need specific permission from any people (adults or children) who appear in your pictures. Any entries to [community@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:community@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)

### **5. Any Other Business**

- 5.1 SHH (WBC Neighbourhood Officer) invited everyone to contact her if there are any areas she can help with. Phone: 01483 743702 / email: [Seanne.HunterHill@woking.gov.uk](mailto:Seanne.HunterHill@woking.gov.uk)
- 5.2 MC asked for news concerning the Skatepark? IW said she had consulted all members of the GPCA, local youth groups and the Facebook Group and the response had been very positive bar one comment. She hoped to progress it soon after speaking to the Head of Sport and Leisure at the Council. WC asked if there had been concerns about an increase in anti-social behaviour. IW said the one adverse response concerned noise and litter. She added that research indicated that these fears were generally groundless.

**Update from the Chair:** The Skatepark is now logged on the Your Fund Surrey Commonplace Map at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/voluntary-community-and-faith-sector/funding/community-projects-fund>. Please visit the site and express your support for this project.

- 5.3 SHH said that the funding for the upgrade of the BMX Track was now in place:

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 and it is hoped that it will be at either Goldwater Lodge or Dianthus Building.