



**MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Held on WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021**  
**In the Dianthus Building Upper Deck**

**Present**

**Trustees and Postholders**

Irene Watson – Chair  
Celia Young – Secretary  
Tina Hartley – Treasurer  
George Binyon – Editor, Goldsworth News  
Bob Challoner – Project Manager, NGP  
Bob Cowell – Communities Officer  
James Elstone – Webmaster  
Christina Candey – Advertising Manager

**Corporate Members**

Cllr Ann-Marie Barker WBC  
Cllr James Sanderson WBC  
Cllr Saj Hussain SCC  
Cllr Lance Spencer SCC  
Geoff McManus – Woking Borough Council  
Hilary Harris – GP Cubs

**Apologies - Corporate**

Hannah Bowler – Events Organiser  
Jonathan Lord, MP  
Seanne Hunter-Hill – Officer, WBC  
PC Iona King  
Sandie Bolger – Youth Development Officer  
Rupert Crossland – Beaufort School  
Peter Kirby – Radio Sailing

**Individual Members**

Sarah Abbott  
Michael & Hilary Addison  
Gill Brookling  
Barbara Challoner  
Martin & Wendy Clark  
Maryel Cowell  
Ian Eastwood  
Holger & Valerie Marsen  
Julie Newsam  
Royer Slater  
Steve Willson

**Apologies - Individual**

Wanda Binyon  
Pauline Eastwood  
Margaret Gower  
Sue Johnson  
Pamela Marshall  
Gordon & Ann Moss  
Peter & Alice Roberts  
Katie Sherlock  
Susan Suleski  
Brian & Maggie Thomas  
Robert Thomson  
Liz Wilkinson

**1. Opening and Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm by welcoming everyone to the second Annual General Meeting of the Goldsworth Park Community Association Incorporated Organisation. She said that it was good to see everyone in person once more – particularly Ian Eastwood, one-time bar manager and one of our Councillors for so many years, who had done so much for sport in the Borough; she congratulated him on having the new Sports Centre in Sheerwater named for him – The Eastwood Centre.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence will be listed in the minutes.

**3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 2020 AGM, on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020, were circulated shortly after the meeting and again with the invitation to this AGM. Any matters arising would be dealt with under the relevant headings.

## **4. Trustees' Annual Reports**

### **4.1 Chair's Report – Irene Watson**

The Annual Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Once again, activities had been curtailed by Covid-19 and the lockdown.

**Goldsworth News** was published quarterly as usual, but the September 2020 and March 2021 issues were on-line rather than printed. Copies were emailed to all members of the GPCA CIO, and the magazine is available on the website. The Facebook group gave the link to the website. The interruptions to "normal service" resulted in the loss of a few deliverers, and, as usual, more volunteers are sought.

The **Facebook Group** continues to grow, and now has over 1,100 members. It is a very good way of communicating with residents.

**Meetings** were also affected by Covid, and all four meetings during the year were held via Zoom. Following an idea agreed at the previous AGM, there were speakers at the quarterly meetings, and there had been interesting talks from Inspector Dave Bentley (Woking Police), Mike Griffiths (Chair of Goldsworth Care) and Ollie Foster (Woking Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer). It may have been a combination of the interesting speakers and the accessibility of Zoom, but all the meetings were well attended.

**Activities in the Community** were also curtailed.

- On Remembrance Sunday, the Chair laid a wreath at the memorial outside the Health Centre on behalf of the GPCA and residents, at a very much curtailed Act of Remembrance.
- The GPCA organised the Christmas Tree for the shopping-centre courtyard for the fifth year. Thanks go to St Andrew's Church, the shops, and the Angling Club for their donations and practical help with setting up the tree. Due to Covid, there was no carol-singing round the tree.
- The two litter-picks, in September 2020 and May 2021, were both well attended, and the GPCA has lent litter-pick sticks and hi-viz tabards to a few residents who go litter-picking on their own. The efforts to keep Goldsworth Park tidy were enhanced by two youngsters who chose litter-picking as the voluntary activity for their Duke of Edinburgh awards, one of whom has completed his task and has been "signed off" by the Chair.
- Although we were unable to hold any face-to-face events, three Quiz Nights were held on Zoom, in February, March and May. They were very enjoyable, stretching both general and specific knowledge. The last one was won, resoundingly, by a team from Brockhill.
- Bob Challoner, the Project Manager, will speak about Natural Goldsworth Park later in the meeting.
- Finally, on membership of the GPCA CIO, there are currently 7 Trustees, 104 Individual Members and 29 Corporate Members from 17 organisations. Only Individual Members have the right to vote for Trustees, for changes to the Constitution, or to close the Charity down. At present, information is still sent to people on the old mailing list who have not joined as Members of GPCA CIO, as well as to Members.

### **Questions**

There were no questions

### **4.2 Treasurer's Report – Tina Hartley**

The Accounts for 2020/21 had been circulated with the Annual Report and copies were circulated. The Treasurer summarised the accounts:

## **Income**

- The remainder of the “old” GPCA funds - £1,044 - were transferred to the CIO.
- Advertisements in Goldsworth News raised £1,864.
- Donations towards the cost of the Christmas Tree amounted to £115.
- There was a donation to Natural Goldsworth Park of £60.
- 2 of the annual donations from Dianthus Trading were made during the year amounting to £2000.

## **Expenditure**

- There was a small expenditure of £25 on prizes for the Quiz Nights
- The cost of printing Goldsworth News was £2,402. Not all advertising income from the summer edition had been received by the end of year but, overall, Goldsworth News usually makes a small profit.
- The cost of the Christmas Tree was £172 so the GPCA's contribution was £53.
- £117 was spent on repairs to the wildlife area fence and the other repairs carried out by the Angling Club
- Donations of £100 were made to the Scouts and the Guides to help with the cost of additional equipment needed due to Covid and there was a donation to a charity in memory of Roy Anders, the retired hall caretaker.
- The GPCA's Public, Employers and Trustees Liability Insurance amounted to £606.
- Administration costs of £44 was mainly bank charges

Overall, the GPCA made a profit of just under £1,500 and holds over £29,000 in the bank. The Treasurer said that suggestions about where money could best be used or donated would be welcome.

## **Questions**

MC asked where the GPCA's funding came from.

The Chair responded that the GPCA had no regular income other than £1,000 per annum from Dianthus Trading. Other income is from advertising and donations, as recorded in the Accounts.

### **4.3 Other Officers' Reports**

#### **Natural Goldsworth Park – Bob Challoner**

BCh introduced himself as the new Project Manager for Natural Goldsworth Park, having taken over from Gerry Smeesters in February 2021.

A review of the 2017 Vision Statement, conducted with the help of a small team of residents, restated NGP's objectives, primarily to conserve the Meadow and woodland and to enhance their biodiversity where appropriate. It set out a 5 year programme of conservation and enhancement projects and identified opportunities for promoting community engagement with the Meadow and the woodland.

The review was endorsed by the GPCA Trustees and has been published on the GPCA website. The website has been updated with more information about the history of the Meadow and woodland habitats, and biodiversity surveys.

Other activities of note included:

- ~ A small mammal survey in August 2021 with a further survey planned for October. A survey of reptiles and amphibians is planned for spring 2022.
- ~ Continuing discussions with the woodland owners Council and Thames Water regarding a coordinated management plan and the meadow management regime.
- ~ The new woodland path is well-used by the community. Future work will address the invasive cherry laurel and, possibly, thinning trees to increase daylight penetration.
- ~ Wildflower seeding to extend the ranges of some of the 103 flowering species.
- ~ Reducing the number of paths crossing the Meadow to create larger undisturbed areas that will benefit wildlife. An additional path to be cut in 2022 between the car park and Claydon Road.

Projects for 2022 include:

- ~ Following the recording of two very rare moths, nomination of the Meadow and woods as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI). This does not confer statutory protection as do Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), but if granted, should offer protection against future development. The application will be considered next year.
- ~ Tree screening between the playground/recreation area and the Meadow and replacing the cherry laurel along the lakeside path with native hedging. The Tree Council, which is administering a Network Rail funding programme, is enthusiastic and has provisionally included both projects in its 2022 programme.

Facebook posts about the moth finds and the local fox each reached over 1,000 people. Special thanks go to Katie Sherlock who has administered NGP's social media platforms since their inception but who has sadly decided to retire.

Sincere thanks also to the local residents who have regularly volunteered for NGP activities; their help is much appreciated.

### **Questions**

GBr asked if the trees would be designated for the Queen's Jubilee Planting?

Cllr SH said that Surrey CC had 1.2m trees to plant for the Jubilee - all native species.

The Chair suggested that Cllr SH and BCh should discuss the options.

## **5. Election of Trustees**

The Chair explained that according to the Constitution, one third of the Trustees must retire each year but may stand for re-election for three terms of office. As there are currently 7 Trustees, 2 will retire each year.

This year, Chris Martin, Vice Chair, and Cathy Butt, Social Secretary, have given notice that they will retire and not stand for re-election. We are grateful for their service to the GPCA and wish them all the best for the future.

Bob Challoner was elected as a Trustee by the other Trustees in April 2021, to fill a vacancy. According to the Constitution, he must retire and stand for re-election. The Chair called for a proposer, a seconder and a show of hands to elect him as a Trustee.

Proposer: Holger Marsen

Secunder: Steve Willson

Agreed by unanimous show of hands.

Bob Cowell has applied to become a Trustee, focussing on Community issues. The Chair called for a proposer, a seconder and a show of hands to elect him as a Trustee.

Proposer: Hilary Addison

Secunder: Cllr Saj Hussain

Agreed by unanimous show of hands.

The Chair said that, before moving on to Questions and Any Other Business, she would like to record her thanks to:

- Her fellow Trustees for their work, particularly to Cathy (and Matt) Butt for organising the Quiz Nights.
- George Binyon for editing Goldsworth News and the regular contributors, including Royer Slater, Roger Westcott, Bob Challoner, and Rev Kate Wyles, vicar of St Andrew's Church, who has now left the parish – we wish her well for the future.
- Christina Candey for sourcing advertising for Goldsworth News.
- Linda Hill and the Goldsworth News deliverers, particularly the brave man who delivers to all the roads where there is no regular deliverer.
- The Angling Club members who help erecting and removing the Christmas Tree.
- Seanne Hunter-Hill, our new Neighbourhood Officer at WBC, for her help on so many issues.

- Gary Rimay-Muranyi, for his support.
- And finally, our Councillors, who support what we do, and particularly Cllr Ann-Marie Barker for hosting our meetings and Quiz Nights on Zoom.

Cllr SH thanked the Chair for “keeping it all together”.

HA thanked Cathy Butt for her wonderful work in initiating and organising the on-line Quizzes during lockdown.

The Chair announced that Steve Willson, the Webmaster, had decided that it is time for him to retire. She wished to record her thanks and those of everyone who used the website, for his service to GPCA over the years. She was pleased to be able to introduce James Elstone who responded to the advertisement on Facebook and has already started as the new Webmaster.

Katie Sherlock, who managed social media for Natural Goldsworth Park, has also stepped down from this role due to pressure of work. The Chair wished to record thanks to Katie for her work with the Project.

The Chair asked that anyone who is interested in getting involved with the work of GPCA, maybe but not necessarily with a view to becoming a Trustee in the future, should contact her. The GPCA needs volunteers in order to be able to continue.

## **6. Questions from the Floor**

**Q.1** GBr said she had noticed an increase in flights over Goldsworth Park of private jets bound for Farnborough. It was not just a post lockdown increase and there could be 10 to 12 flights an hour. She had looked the airport’s website and knew about the narrowing of the flight path and that they proposed to increase flights. She found the planes noisy and questioned how an increase in small jets carrying only a few passengers fit with the Government’s Green agenda. She wondered how much this is affecting the well-being and enjoyment of residents – it was having a negative impact on her life.

There followed a general discussion between attendees, some of whom found the noise disturbing and others who were not affected at all.

Cllr A-MB explained that Woking BC had been an observer at the Farnborough Airport Consultative Committee but was about to get a seat at the table. She hoped to represent the Council on the Committee so could raise such issues. She will report back.

**Q.2** The Chair asked if there any news about Lakers but the answer was No.

## **7. Any Other Business**

- 7.1** Cllr SH explained that Surrey CC was about to start the next review of parking so anyone with issues relating to parking, double-yellow lines etc, should get in touch with him or Cllr LS. There was a lot of discussion about problem parking and the lack of enforcement, particularly outside Sythwood School, at drop-off and pick-up times. There were also comments about what double yellow lines signify and how the message could be put over to drivers who parked on them. HM said it would help if SCC put up signs saying that parking on the double-yellow lines was prohibited. GMcM explained that WBC acted as agents for SCC and had a team of Enforcement Officers who attended schools at the relevant times on a rota basis but there were a lot of schools and a small team. The rules state that drivers can load and unload on double-yellow lines, but it must be a “continuous process”. WBC has issued parking tickets outside schools but many drivers appealed and the Council has lost on appeal at the independent adjudication panel. This is an expense to the Council, and resources must be used wisely. Within the town centre, there are areas where loading and unloading is prohibited and these are shown by yellow lines across the pavements. WBC would issue parking tickets if anyone parked there. The Chair asked Cllr LS if he could investigate this for outside schools.

**7.2** GMcM gave some feedback on issues raised with SHH, the Neighbourhood Officer. There had been some tree work involving birch and pine and work in Hawkeswell Close which had been raised at an earlier meeting was scheduled for November. He explained that the Council has a “wish-list” for tree planting and has planted over 300 trees in the last year. Sometimes, people offer trees to the Council, but the cost is in planting and looking after them. He requested that residents help with watering any new trees planted near them.

**7.3** The Chair said there are a few things she would like to mention.

**( i ) Community Infrastructure Levy Funds**

Last year there was discussion about what to do with the £7.5k allocated to Goldsworth Park. Thanks to Cllr Ann-Marie Barker, there are now 3 picnic tables near the lake and a number of benches and bins round the pitches and meadow.

**( ii ) Christmas Craft Market.**

For the first time ever, there will be a Goldsworth Park Christmas Craft Market held on the paved area outside St Andrew’s Church, on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 10.30am and finishing at about 2.00pm. There will be craft stalls and gift stalls, entertainment for children provided by the Guides, Carol singing by the Community Choir and Andy’s café will be open for hot drinks, cakes and mince pies. The instigator and organiser Hannah Bowler, who works with Goldsworth Brownies, is keen to get involved with GPCA events. Several stalls are booked up already. The charge for a stall is £10.00 and any surplus finds will go to local charities. Please do come along on the day and help to make the first Christmas Market a success.

**(iii) Goldsworth Park Calendar**

Bob Cowell is organising a calendar with photographs of the Park by local residents. It will cost £5 and profits will go to local charities. When asked, virtually everyone present said they would buy one.

**(iv) BMX cycle track**

The funding for the BMX track has been agreed and it has to be finished by the end of March 2022. The footprint of the site is the same as the existing track but it appears that what is proposed is more than just an upgrade and may have an impact on wildlife. There has been no formal consultation; GMcM said this would take place in November. The GPCA will circulate any consultation documents and put them on the website.

**( v ) Skatepark and playground**

The plan is to apply to Your Fund, Surrey but this is proving to be quite difficult as the application process is convoluted and one has to be quite far down the track before making the application. It is not available for developments which are a local authority’s statutory duty and now it seems that the proposal has to benefit the wider community. The Chair explained that there is a backlog of applications and, if the application was put in tomorrow, it would be 3 – 4 months before it was looked at. Cllr SH said that Your Fund is more streamlined now and that he and Cllr LS could try to expedite things.

The Chair met with WBC Officers and a Skatepark designer to discuss what might be possible and at what cost. Prices are much higher than they were last year. In view of the cost, applications will go to Your Fund and other sources of funding but funding is very tight wherever you are. There is no modern concrete skatepark in the whole of Woking; the metal ones are beginning to fall into disrepair and are noisy.

With regard to the playground, there has been little progress as yet but the Council has said that they will advise on what may be possible.

SA asked if the skatepark and BMX track would have any impact on the trees. BCh replied that the existing trees would remain, and the new planting would make a demarcation between the recreation area and the Meadow. Trees would be planted in preference to a hedge to maintain the feeling of open space rather than have a

physical barrier. The Chair said that skatepark would be tucked in between the BMX track and the playground, but not as far out as the playground goes, so that there would be room to extend the playground. Neither would impact on the Meadow.

- 7.4** TH commented on the **lights around the lake**. The lights provide only a very narrow beam of reddish-orange light between long stretches of pitch-darkness. This is dangerous for people using the path, especially runners. She asked if it was possible to do something to improve the lighting, with brighter bulbs or less space between the lights. Cllr LS said that SCC uses LRDs and will double them up where necessary. GBi said that the lights round the lake are not LEDs and that an upgrade to the lights was promised some years ago but it hasn't happened. They are in a dire state – some are out, and it takes weeks to get them replaced. The path is next to deep-water, and there is a need to keep them on all night. They are all old lights, and overdue for an upgrade. The Chair remarked that the lights were angled downwards some time ago, partly because of light-pollution, but also for the bats, which feed over the lake but don't like the light. WBC are responsible for the lights around the lake and in the carpark. Cllr LS pointed out that installing LEDS saves money in the long run. Cllr A-MB will take this on board.
- 7.5** The Chair reported that a post on Facebook had said that the disabled toilet was in a bad state with no toilet paper for two weeks and not cleaned. She had asked SH-H to investigate. GMcM said that he was aware of the report and that the toilets are cleaned and supplies are restocked every morning; photos are taken to show what has been done but toilet paper is regularly taken from public toilets. Cllr A-MB will reply to the person who raised the issue.
- 7.6** SA commented that a number of newly planted trees had been vandalised and asked if anything could be done to curtail this? GMcM said that the Council was aware that they will lose a number of new trees. BCh said that trees the Tree Council are only whips, and those on the Meadow would need to be protected by metal cages not only from vandals but from the deer.
- 7.7** Cllr A-MB reported that the Council is holding a series of **Consultation Events** across the borough to find out what residents see as their priorities for the future. The Goldsworth Park event will be at St Andrew's church on 6<sup>th</sup> December from 7.00 to 8.30pm. See the Council's website to book a place.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 9.30pm