

GOLDSWORTH PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CIO

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 7.30pm on WEDNESDAY, 20th APRIL 2022 in the COMMUNITY HALL, GOLDWATER LODGE

Attendees

Trustees & Postholders

Irene Watson	Chair
Celia Young	Secretary
Tina Hartley	Treasurer
George Binyon	Editor, Goldsworth News
Bob Cowell (BCo)	Community Officer
Christina Candey	Advertising Manager

Corporate Members

Cllr Ann-Marie Barker	WBC
Cllr James Sanderson	WBC
Cllr Chitra Rana	WBC
Cllr Lance Spencer	SCC
Cllr Sajid Hussain	SCC
Seanne Hunter-Hill	Neighbourhood Officer
Gary Rimay-Muranyi	Dianthus Trading
Patrick Coad	St Andrews Church
Michael Griffiths	Goldsworth Care
Roger Westcott	GP Angling Club
Hilary Harris	GP Cub Scout

Resident Members

Hilary Addison
Michael Addison
Gill Brookling
Stephen Chester
Steve Davies
Ian Eastwood
Abid Kayan
Holger Marsen
Jonathan McColl
Julie Newsam
Royer Slater
Robert Thomson
Liz Wilkinson
Steve Willson
Chris Wright
Sheila Wright

Apologies

Bob Challoner, Project Manager, NGP
Wanda Binyon
Maryel Cowell

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that it was good to be back face-to-face again. She asked everyone who wanted to speak to raise their hand and to state their name clearly for the record.

There was no speaker at this meeting as there would be a discussion about the GPCA.

There were a few apologies, which will be recorded in the minutes.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 19th January 2022 had been circulated and agreed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising would be dealt with under the usual headings.

3. Questions from the floor

As usual, questions from the floor come first but this would not prevent anyone from raising questions later.

- 3.1 JN commented on the number of cigarette ends on the footpath beside the Dianthus building and asked if there was any possibility of a cigarette bin. GR-M said that this was down to Toad Hall staff who come out for a smoke out of sight of the nursery. Dianthus clients are provided with ashtrays, and the staff clear up. IW said that the GPCA could formally ask Toad Hall to ensure that their staff keep the area clean and tidy. GR-M said that he had been monitoring the littering by nursery staff and had already been in touch with the Nursery Manager.

JN said there were also a lot of discarded Costa cups. IW suggested that JN could collect cups as evidence and that GPCA could then approach the manager of Costa.

Cllr SH pointed out that there are Council Marshalls who have the power to fine those seen to be dropping litter.

HH advised us that Goldsworth Park Scouts and Cubs will be doing a litter-pick on 21st May.

- 3.2 HH asked what was happening to the Lakers site. Cllr LS and Cllr SH said that no firm decision had yet been taken. IW commented that the idea of community space for young people on the ground floor and accommodation for care-leavers on the upper floors had been mooted over a year ago and had been generally welcomed. The situation may be clearer by summer/autumn. There were no plans to be viewed as yet.

- 3.3 HH raised the question of responsibility for the upkeep of the road serving Lakers, the Generation Centre and the Church. Since lakers had closed, the burden had been born by the remaining parties. Cllr SH said that he will notify interested parties as soon as any plans are known.

SW asked if Woking BC would be taking charge of the building and was advised that it is the responsibility of Surrey County Council.

- 3.4 RW (Angling Club) mentioned that a fence had recently been erected around the nesting swan. Originally there had been a notice requesting that people leave the swans alone but this had been taken down as it drew attention to the nest. He requested that, if anyone sees anything untoward happening to the wildlife, they should report it either to himself or to the police

LW asked if the existing fencing would be extended further back. RW said that this did not appear to be necessary. IW said that if the cost of fencing was an issue here, the GPCA could contribute, as a community project.

IW reminded those present not to feed the swan while she was on the nest, she rarely ate while incubating eggs and the left-over bread encourages rats.

- 3.5 GBr mentioned the perennial problem of dogs off leads around the lake. RW agreed this is an ongoing issue. New signage has been introduced, with a polite “ask” to keep dogs on leads and RW and the lake bailiffs speak with people to encourage them to keep their dogs on leads around the lake. In respect of the nuisance caused to wildlife, IW said that she had read that the Council was planning to appoint a Wildlife Officer. Cllr A-MB could not say when this would happen. Cllr SH suggested that Goldsworth News might run an article about keeping dogs under control around the lake; GBI replied that, in the 5 years that he has been editor of Goldsworth News, several articles to this effect had been run to no avail! BCo asked if badly behaved dogs constituted anti-social behaviour, but it was thought that, in order for behaviour to be considered to be anti-social, it had to be persistent and by the same perpetrator.

4. Community Matters

4.1 Tribe project.

The Chair asked if there was anyone present who had been on the development group for the TRIBE project and who could report back. MG had been on the development group and reported that, as it stands, access to the project is pretty “high tech”, but it is in the development stage and should become more accessible to everyone.

SW felt that the project was maybe trying to do too much. The intention is that access to information will be by smartphone or tablet, but that members of the public who use Goldsworth Care tend to only use landline phones, and the technology would not be helpful for them.

GBr had attended two sessions with the development group. She could see the potential of the project but had lots of questions that are as yet unanswered.

IW expressed a concern over DBS checks/safeguarding where individuals were offering their services as carers.

There would be a drop-in Open Day at Andy's on 27th April between 10.30am and 2.30pm, where people would be on hand to explain the platform. IW and CY would attend.

4.2 Waitrose Carpark

Patch repairs to the carpark would begin on Monday 25th April. Direction and speed signs would also be repainted. The "disability" bays will remain as they are now.

4.3 Lake lighting

A couple more lights have recently failed and, hopefully, will be replaced with LED lighting.

4.4 Kirkland Avenue crossing

CY and her friend who lives in Oakfield will meet with Cllr SH on 3rd May, to discuss the possibility of creating a "refuge" type of crossing in Kirkland Avenue, near to Oakfield, so that those living in that area do not have to walk the considerable distance to the crossing at Beaufort School in order to cross Kirkland Avenue safely to catch a bus in the Woking direction. This would be of great help to those with mobility problems, and also, it appears from the response to an article in Goldsworth News, be of benefit to schoolchildren and parents, too. It is hoped that a proposal can be put to Surrey CC following the meeting with Cllr SH.

4.5 Yellow lines

The promised consultation documents that were expected at the end of March have been delayed, but Cllr SH gave an assurance that they are "on the way". IW urged attendees to report local problems with parking to their Surrey CC Councillor.

4.6 Regenerated BMX Track

There will be a "soft" opening of the regenerated BMX Track on Saturday 23rd April at 11.00am. The track has "unofficially" been used by the public over Easter.

4.7 Lighting in new bus shelters

Cllr SH confirmed that lighting has now been installed in the new bus shelters. The "boxes" near the shelters that were mentioned at the last meeting of GPCA provide the power.

4.8 Green Waste Collection

The "green" waste collection service is now back to normal.

Refreshments

5. Officers' Reports

5.1 Chair's Report

The Chair announced that she will be retiring as Chair and Trustee at the AGM in October. She explained that it is nearly 30 years since she was first elected to the GPCA Committee and, in that time, she had been Events Organiser, Secretary, Editor and, for the last 9 years, a Charity Trustee and the Chair.

She said that she hoped that most residents appreciated what the GPCA does in keeping them informed, representing their interests to the Council and other organisations, arranging community events and more but she felt that it may be taken for granted. It may be a sign of the times but when, just recently, a call for volunteers to help with events was put out in Goldsworth News, on the website and the Facebook Group, there was not even one reply. If

there are no volunteers, then some of the activities that the Chair organises or helps with now – litter picks, the Christmas Tree in the Centre, the Christmas Market – may not happen in the future. Volunteers come forward for one-off events, such as litter picks, but don't seem to commit to anything they view as long term.

The GPCA is also in need of at least a couple of new Trustees to return to the number when the CIO was established – the maximum number is 9 and the minimum is 3 and there are currently 6.

Trustees are elected by the Membership to manage the Charity not to undertake specific roles. Trustees use their skills and experience in the most appropriate way to benefit the Charity. Only the Chair and Treasurer have to be Trustees. There is no prescribed time requirement for the role – just what you can spare. For other roles, like Secretary and Editor, there is no requirement to be a Trustee. The Advertising Manager, Webmaster and Events Co-ordinator are not Trustees.

The Chair recognised that it may be a big ask, but she asked that residents consider becoming a Trustee of the GPCA or to volunteer to help in other ways. No-one wants to get back to the situation the GPCA was in not long before it applied for CIO status when there were only 2 Trustees and the Association was on the brink of collapse. The GPCA is run **for** the community **by** the community so the Chair asked that residents considered whether they had a little time to spare for the community. If a lot of people do a little then no one person has to do a lot. Please contact the Chair to find out about volunteering as a Trustee or in any other role.

Another example of where there has been no response to advertisements is the Editorship of Goldsworth News. After 5 years, George Binyon is standing down as Editor of Goldsworth News. He will remain as a Trustee. He will be a hard act to follow but if anyone is interested in taking over and would like to know more, please contact George. He will edit the next edition in the summer and will work with a new Editor for a handover. Goldsworth News has been published for over 40 years and it would be a shame if it ceased now.

A number of those present expressed regret at the Chair's decision.

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 The Chair explained that she was supporting the Hospice with its Dragon Boat Fun Day on Sunday, 15th May by organising a rota for serving light refreshments. She was looking for volunteers to make cakes and to serve on the day for an hour or so between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Could volunteers please contact her.

SW asked if the GPCA was having a stall at the Dragon Boat Day. The Chair questioned what would be on the stall and who would staff it.

- 6.2 CC said she had difficulty in projecting her voice and suggested sitting in a circle. It was thought that there are often too many people to sit in a circle but Dianthus Trading could be approached about providing a P.A. system with a roving microphone. There was a brief discussion about what had been said earlier about the difficulty in hearing what was said from the floor and the possibility of a hearing loop but modern hearing aids are digital with volume controls and do not work with loops.
- 6.3 CC asked if the GPCA was organising anything for the Platinum Jubilee. The answer was "No" as a call for people to help received no replies. SH and GBi both thought many people were organising parties in their streets. Following a comment about how Horsell and Knaphill were both organising village-wide events, RW said that Goldsworth Park was not a village and had a different feeling. IE said that Goldsworth Park is unique in that it is all built in cul-de-sacs. Residents might know their immediate neighbours but did not know people outside their own little community. Some are having street parties but, in other roads, people do not know their neighbours and do not want to socialise.

AK asked about having a funfair and other entertainments. The Chair said this might be possible but there was a lot of work involved in planning and running such an event – risk assessments, permissions, insurance, etc – and it would depend on having people to organise it.

RW referred back to when the GPCA organised the Party-in-the-Park and asked if there had been more of a community spirit years ago. It is possible that there was but there had still been a shortage of volunteers to help organise the event although people helped out on the day.

- 6.4 JMcC (aged 23) felt that there was little for young people to do or to meet up – a nice wine bar or bistro would be great as the pub is not to everyone's taste. SA agreed that there were few facilities for social activities in Goldsworth Park.

IE reflected that people grew up and their needs changed but the Chair thought that there would always be people of all ages living in Goldsworth Park and that people needed to get to together to organise things for themselves. SD said that the Church organises events such as the skiffle nights.

- 6.5 BCo said that there were a few calendars left which he was selling for £3

In closing, the Chair thanked everyone for attending. She said that she hoped she had not sounded too full of doom and gloom – usually she is like Mr Micawber in believing that something will turn up; she hoped that this would be true this time. She will report back at the next meeting on 20th July.

There was a **Vote of Thanks** to Irene Watson for all that she has done for Goldsworth Park Community Association over so many years.

The meeting ended at 9.35pm.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 20th July 2022.