

# **GOLDSWORTH PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CIO**

## **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 7.30pm on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in The Lodge, Wishbone Way, GU21 3RT**

### **Attendees**

#### **Trustees & Postholders**

George Binyon (Chair)  
Celia Young (Secretary)  
Tina Hartley (Treasurer)  
Bob Cowell (Community Officer)  
Dueyna Chinere (Trustee)  
Steve Davies (Trustee)  
Christina Candey (Advertising Manager)

#### **Residents**

Jesse Boon (NGP)  
Sheena Benyon  
June Icaza  
Ian Eastwood

#### **Corporate Members**

Cllr Ann-Marie Barker (WBC)  
Cllr James Sanderson (WBC)  
Cllr Saj Hussain (SCC)  
Cllr Stephen Oades (WBC)  
Seanne Hunter Hill (WBC)  
Sylvia Lambert (GP Guides)  
Hilary Harris (GP Cubs & Scouts)  
Patrick Coad (St Andrew's Church)

#### **Guest**

Martin Sullivan

### **Resident members**

Chris Arthur  
Jill Arthur  
Steve Willson  
Jenny Ehlers  
Wanda Binyon  
Roger Hayman  
Aenne Hayman  
Sarah Abbot  
Gill Brookling  
Chitra Rana  
Maryel Cowell  
Malcolm Walrond  
Liz Wilkinson  
Irene Watson  
Peter Eggleton  
Royer Slater  
Hilary Addison  
John Covus  
Roger Westcott (GP Angling Club)  
James Elstone (Webmaster)  
**Apologies**  
Bob Challoner (NGP)  
Margaret Gower  
Holger & Valerie Marsen  
Pamela Marshall  
James Rickwood (CO Woking Sea Cadets)  
Francesca Siwicka (Manager, Waitrose)  
Rev Scott Smith (St Andrew's Church)

### **1. Welcome and introduction**

New Chair George Binyon introduced himself and welcomed those present to the meeting. The Chair said he had been a resident of Goldsworth Park since the late seventies and had edited the Goldsworth News before taking up his new role.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last general meeting on July 20th 2022 had been circulated and agreed as a true record. Any matters arising could be dealt with during questions from the floor.

### **3. Chair's report**

An email had been sent out to members asking if the trustees could be doing things better. There was not a huge response, but resident Royer Slater has some new ideas.

Two new trustees have been appointed – Dueyna Chinere who is experienced in event management and fundraising and Steve Davies, the Chair of Goldsworth Care. There are now six trustees, but the Constitution does allow nine, so, if anyone else is interested to know more about being a trustee, please speak to George or one of the other trustees.

Celia Young will be standing down as secretary (but willing to remain as a trustee) at the AGM in October, so we will need a new secretary. Please speak with George or Celia if you might be interested

to take up this position.

George has recently had a meeting with Cllr Ann-Marie Barker, who being the ward councillor as well as the leader of Woking Council, is only too aware of one of our local problems – dogs not under control, especially around the lake.

George, Celia and Patrick Coad, from St Andrew's Church, sat on the panel to select someone for the new role of Local Area Coordinator for Goldsworth Park. There has been no news of an appointment as yet from Surrey County Council.

Natural Goldsworth Park is working with Woking Council and Thames Water on projects concerning the woodland to the east of the lake and the Meadow. Bob Challoner will be stepping back as Project Manager of NGP, and Jesse Boon and Pamela Marshall will be taking on this position.

Last month's litter pick was well attended, with a considerable amount of litter being retrieved, mainly from the woodland areas and the Meadow.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report – Tina Hartley**

A donation of £470 has been made to the Creative Sewing Workshop, a follow-up group from Horsell Scrubbers, which started as a group making scrubs for NHS workers during the pandemic. The Workshop uses The Lodge as its meeting-place, tutoring young people to repair clothes and sew new clothes. Several people from Goldsworth Park are members of the Workshop.

A contribution of £260 was made towards the repair of the Goldsworth Park War Memorial outside the Medical Centre.

There was no outlay for the Goldsworth Park Christmas tree this year, as we were able to collect a tree from Wisley Common Preservation Group at no expense.

There was no Autumn issue of Goldsworth News magazine, as we didn't have an editor. The winter magazine made a loss, but there was a profit of £300 for the Spring issue.

We are anticipating a loss from our funds this coming year. Our reserves stand at £26,500.00.

We are awaiting the annual contribution to GPCA from Dianthus Trading.

GPCA has been asked to consider making a contribution to the refurbishment of the Oakfield play area – for two extra swings. This is under consideration by the trustees.

#### **5. Community Matters – Bob Cowell**

Last year was our first year of selling the Goldsworth Park Calendar, and about 200 were bought. This year, we only sold 81, so we need to consider whether to create another calendar for 2024, maybe restricting the number printed to 100. RW suggested using different outlets to sell the calendars. BC responded that he had asked all the shops in our local shopping area, but most of them did not wish to sell them. IW suggested that if more people submitted photographs, their friends would buy the calendars. There was a suggestion to have a table outside Waitrose to sell calendars, but we would need permission from the managing agents. Another suggestion was to have a children's photo competition, which might encourage grandparents to buy. There seemed to be a general consensus that we should do one for 2024.

#### **6. Natural Goldsworth Park – Jesse Boon**

Activity this year has consisted mainly of conservation of the Meadow, especially with the advent of the new BMX Track.

In February, a good number of residents of Goldsworth Park took part in an exercise to clear invasive species, mainly cherry laurel, from the woodland area adjoining the woodland path, guided by a conservation expert from Thames Water.

We had been hoping to plant several groups of native British trees in March, between the BMX Track and the Meadow, to act as a definition between the recreation area and the Meadow, but this has been postponed until November, which will be the next time of the year that is suitable for planting trees. A-MB asked if there would be a small-mammal survey this year, and if so, would volunteers be required.

JB responded in the affirmative to both questions – there will be information on the NGP Facebook page.

## **7. Communications**

The Chair reported that new editor Chris Taylor has now produced two issues of the Goldsworth News. Sadly, Linda Hill, who had overseen the distribution of the magazine since 2009, died in February. Peter, her husband, will continue with the distribution. GPCA has made a contribution to the charity nominated by the family in Linda's memory.

## **8. Lake/Goldsworth Park Angling Club — Roger Westcott**

GPAC secretary Roger reported that there have been plenty of frogs and toads spawning in the lake, and the Great Crested Grebes are courting.

An area on The Point has been fenced off because the swans are nesting there. However, sadly, the fence has been broken down four times in four weeks, and Roger has asked if we can get PCSOs between 5.00pm and 7.00pm at weekends, to monitor this situation. The woodpiles around the lake have also been destroyed, with the wood being thrown into the lake.

The Dragon Boat Race, Day which is a Fund-Raising event for Woking Hospice, is on May 14th. The organisers have been made aware of nesting site.

Angling club work parties top-dressed the fishing platforms last weekend, and the club does litter-picking around the lake every-other day – litter is not a big problem around the lake.

Membership of the club is now over 200.

Mainstream Fisheries in Lancashire will be delivering a supply of tench in the near future.

Two boats were sunk last year and have now been planted-up with native lilies. Mesh cages have been put in for nesting coots.

A comment was made from the floor, that SERCO are cutting the grass on The Point which is a food source for the geese that congregate there.

Action: Roger will contact SERCO to dissuade close cutting in that area.

GB mentioned that five slats on one of our new picnic tables have been damaged by fire (possibly by a disposable barbecue).

Action: Roger will follow this up to see if we can get the slats replaced.

Question, CC: Do we have CC-TV around the lake?

Response A-MB: Most of the damage around the lake is done after dark, so CC-TV would not be of any use. She will take this up with Woking Police.

## **9. Questions and contributions from the floor**

Resident and Goldsworth News columnist Royer Slater: "We have lamented over the years that Goldsworth Park doesn't have a "village" sense of community. Could GPCA bring the various local "communities" together more, eg Scouts, Guides, church etc? Could we ask those "communities" to bring events together?"

There might be the possibility of celebrating the birthdays of the various local organisations.

Could we have an annual parade, like there is at Chobham, or Tea on the Rec like Bisley? Horsell has an annual "Garden Safari". Could the residents of GP open their gardens to the public?

Event Bright has a link – "15 ways in which communities could come together" – could we make use of some ideas from that?"

MW - hears many different languages being spoken around GP. What is the contact between GPCA and the various international communities?

RS – We could celebrate the different nationalities within GP.

IW – There is a huge turnover of residents on GP, so making lasting connections is difficult. Those who are long-time residents/older residents are not able to volunteer their services. How do we spread the word about events? Can the GP Facebook page be made available to everyone, so that events can be publicised? Can we advertise events in the News & Mail?

SA – Can we advertise in the Round and About magazine?

RH – What about different nationalities showcasing ethnic foods?

GB – This is something that does happen in the Lakeview part of GP.

Cllr JS – The Lakeview community would be happy to engage more with GPCA.

RW – A lot of people who use the lake area are not residents of GP, but just visiting the amenity of the lake.

SW – Getting information to people is still difficult – many residents of GP don't know of the exist-

ence of GPCA.

IE – Can we have a directory of the organisations that do exist in GP in Goldsworth News, with times and places of meetings?

SW – Don't forget we do have the GP Website.

IW – We are dependent on organisations telling us of what they are doing. If they don't make use of GPCA and tell us what they are doing, we can't publicise it.

### **Lakers site redevelopment**

Chair - There has now been formal notification that the site of the old Lakers building, which was used for youth facilities for GP until it burned down in January 2018 will now be redeveloped as a short-breaks facility for adults with learning difficulties and/or autism. There is no provision for youth facilities, as we had previously been led to expect.

BC said that New Ideal Homes had originally sold the land to SCC for £1 on the condition that the site was used for youth provision.

IW – pointed out that there had been no consultation for youth provision in GP. This had come about because the Lakers building had been burned down and not repaired or rebuilt, so there was currently nowhere to house youth provision in GP, and therefore no existing provision for youth. This did not seem to have been taken into account during the consultation process.

Cllr SH – Surrey CC were previously looking to provide youth provision on the ground floor of the new building, with care-leavers' provision on the first floor.

JE—Told the meeting that a friend of his had approached SCC with plans to build a dance studio on the site but no consideration had been given to this proposal. Cllr SH expressed surprise that this had been the case.

Chair – Who will have the final say on the planning application?

Cllr SH – Surrey CC.

Cllr JS – Has anyone here actually been canvassed about the plan?

No-one confirmed that they had been canvassed.

Chair – Is this just a consultation on the planning or a consultation on community use? There has been no consultation on youth provision.

HH – The Scouts and Guides who used the neighbouring Generation Centre had experienced some anti-social behaviour when Lakers was open. The uniformed groups themselves were a youth provision.

HH – Voiced concern about the management of access to the building site, as so many organisations and the medical practices all use the same narrow access road.

Cllr SH – Youth provision is not a statutory service.

IW – Is respite care a statutory service?

Cllr SH – Not statutory, but it saves money by not sending people out of their local area.

### **10. Any other business**

There was no further business.

### **11. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be the AGM in October on a date TBC.