

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on WEDNESDAY, October 23rd 2024 in The Lodge

Trustees and Postholders

George Binyon – Chair and Trustee
Chris Taylor – Secretary & Editor Goldsworth News
Tina Hartley – Treasurer & Trustee
Dueyna Chinere – Trustee
Bob Cowell – Communities Officer & Trustee
Celia Young – Trustee
Hilary Addison – Trustee
Christina Candey – Advertising Manager

Corporate Members

Anne-Marie Barker – WBC
Stephen Oades – WBC
Martin Sullivan – WBC
Saj Hussain – SCC
Lance Spencer – SCC
Patrick Coad – St Andrew’s Church
Roger Westcott – GPAC
Hilary Harris – GP Cubs

Members

Michael Addison
Jenny Ehlers
Ian Johnson
Irene Watson
Ian Eastwood
Royer Slater
Anthony Golding
Maryel Cowell
Cameron Hartley
Steve Willson
Wanda Binyon
Chitra Rana
Phil Stubbs
Julie Newsam
Liz Wilkinson
David Schofield
John Covus
Steve Davies

Opening and Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the fifth Annual General Meeting of Goldsworth Park Community Association CIO.

Guest speaker

A very interesting and informative talk was given by Janet Ashton who is a volunteer from Zero Carbon Guildford’s Home Energy Advice Taskforce which provides a free no obligation, impartial energy efficient advice service to residents on how to improve energy use efficiency. Janet covered a range of options from loft insulation and wall insulation through to simple changes such as placing radiator foil behind external wall mounted radiators. The availability of grants was also covered – Zero Carbon can guide residents through the grants that may be available at the time. Zero Carbon also provides advice on air pumps.

Janet held a Q&A session during which various views and experiences were exchanged.

Janet was thanked for an interesting and thought-provoking interactive session.

Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the meeting on October 18th 2023 had been distributed. They were agreed as an accurate account of the Meeting.

Trustees' Annual Report

George gave an overview of the GPCA activities over the year which included:

- Laying a wreath at the Remembrance Day service
- Supplying, erecting and decorating the Christmas tree in the shopping centre, with St Andrew's Church and Goldsworth Park Angling Club
- Meeting throughout the year with various members of Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council
- Two GPCA Trustees attended a Surrey Wildlife Trust wildflower course, after which Yellow Rattle seed was planted
- Running various working parties including litter picks and cherry laurel clearance
- Running the refreshment stall for the Woking and Sam Beare Hospice Dragon Boat race day
- Sponsoring the children's rides at the Summer Fair organised by the Guides and St Andrew's Church
- Supporting the Lakeview Community Fun Day;
- Running a tea and cake afternoon for local residents.

The Chair informed the meeting that the GPCA Facebook Group currently had more than 1700 members. The Chair thanked all the Councillors for responding to the various items raised via the Group.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's reported that the GPCA incurred a loss of £3,067 for the year ending 30th June 2024. The only source of income to the GPCA is revenue from advertising for Goldsworth News. The aim is for advertising to cover the cost of printing – this was achieved during the reporting period. Expenditure included funding the fairground rides for the summer fair, donations to the Lakeview Community Fun Day, the wildflower course, insurance plus a shortfall between the cost of the Christmas tree and donations received.

Councillor Saj Hussain thanked Tina for maintaining the GPCA accounts.

Natural Goldsworth Park

The Chair was disappointed to report that no volunteer(s) had come forward, despite several attempts, to fill the position of Project Manager for Natural Goldsworth Park. That said projects are still progressing where resources allow. The primary work is being led by Tina, who following attendance with Celia at a Surrey Wildlife Trust course, has run several working parties to prepare areas of the Meadow to sow Yellow Rattle seeds. The work was mainly undertaken by Tina and her family to which the GPCA owes huge thanks.

Tina and the whole family were thanked for their tremendous effort.

The GPCA continues efforts to find a Project Manager for Natural Goldsworth Park.

Angling Club and the Lake

Roger Westcott (Goldsworth Park Angling Club) spoke about activities supported by the club and about wildlife on Goldsworth Park Lake. The club has been operating for 10 years and has grown in strength with matches against other clubs, some of which raise money for charities. The Club

continues to be involved in or to lead the planting and maintenance of the lake and lakeside and is always willing to assist and work with the GPCA.

Roger said that a wide variety of birds has been seen using the lake or lakeside throughout the year. Five cygnets are progressing well and starting to fly, so will at some point leave for pastures new. An item of concern is that people are feeding the wildlife. Roger pointed out that food left on the bank encourages rats so visitors should stop doing this so the rat population will decline. Visitors should not feed bread to the birds. Pellets are available and food must be thrown only on the water, NOT on the bank, which feeds rats. People should keep a distance from all wildlife so they do not become associated with humans and reliant on us.

Roger and the Club were thanked for their ongoing support.

Retirement and election of Trustees

Charity Commission rules for a CIO charity like the GPCA require new trustees to be formally elected by members at the AGM. Bob Cowell and Hilary Addison were re-elected following the completion of their periods, while Celia Young, Dueyna Chinere and Tina Hartley had expressed their wish to continue as Trustees and did not require re-election.

George Binyon announced that he is retiring as a Trustee and also as GPCA Chair. He was thanked by the Trustees for all his hard work over the years and presented with a gift from the Trustees. Irene Watson on behalf of the residents also thanked George for all the support given to the GPCA.

George in response thanked all the Trustees and volunteers for the support he had received.

Questions from the floor and AOB

Topics were raised by attendees were:

Question – Why has the Waitrose donation not been used?

Response – The Waitrose donation has been used in the most part for the purchase of the Yellow Rattle seeds for The Meadow.

Question – Any update on cutting the cherry Laurel?

Response – Celia informed that the land is owned by Thames Water whose permission is required before work can take place. It is extremely difficult to obtain a response from Thames Water but Celia is continuing to attempt to obtain a response.

Question – Roger asked if there would be a Christmas Tree this year in Goldsworth Centre.

Response – The Trustees need to rethink the location and tree size. Roger informed that the Angling Club were willing to assist. Patrick also happy to help. Dueyna to progress.

Dueyna reminded the meeting of several upcoming events:

- GPCA Litter Pick – 26th October 2024
- Goldsworth Christmas Market – 29th November 2024
- GPCA Quiz Night – 28th February 2025

The meeting closed after Saj Hussain (Surrey CC Councillor) had thanked the Trustees and volunteers for their support.