

NORTH WEST FARNHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of 34th Annual General Meeting

17th June 2009

The Chairman, Mr Ostime, opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to both the Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Lucinda Fleming and the Mayor of Waverley, Councillor Mrs Pat Frost and also to the members of the Association.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from: Mr Scott Nelson, Mr Barry Edwards, Mr David King, Mr Mark deQuervain, Mr and Mrs Pitt, Mrs Mary Soames, Mrs Anne Tweed, Sheila Bone and John McLoughlin.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting held on 18th June 2008 were approved as a correct record.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the general overview of the year's activities had been covered in recent Newsletters.

Regarding Planning and Highways, our Speed Watch was up and running in Crondall Lane. There were consultations to respond to and he hoped that our 'small voice' had some effect on policy decisions. He felt that often one had to scratch away for some years asking for something to be done, especially as far as Highways were concerned. However, he reported that we have had some success in this regard over the past few years due in great part to the help of our Surrey County Councillor, Pat Frost and he was very grateful for that. There were still some outstanding matters on the agenda with special reference to the crossing for pedestrians from Old Park Lane across into Farnham Park, but he appreciated the real difficulties with that situation.

The triangle of land at the junction of Crondall Lane and Hill View Road was still not resolved. The land was part owned by Surrey County Council and by Waverley Borough Council but neither had it on their maintenance list

As ever, the concern for The Fields and its protective designation was foremost in the minds of the Association and the situation was continuously monitored.

Mr Ostime reported that there had been two recent cases of cars being dumped and set alight in the Fields – at least one had smashed through the gate. The damage had now been repaired with the cost being shared between the Association and the farmer. He thanked Mr Peter Brolley who did the work again, free of charge. In both instances the Police were on the scene very quickly and the wrecks were removed within a few days.

The Chairman welcomed three new members from Blenheim Mews, Beavers Road. He regretted that little could be done to improve the mess and inconvenience at the moment, but despite the recession, it was good to see work was progressing on the second stage of this development.

Representatives of the Association had attended various meetings locally - the Farnham Society's Annual meeting for Residents' Associations, the Town Council meeting for Electors and a Mayor's coffee morning for Residents Associations. As Mr Ostime had mentioned in the Newsletter, the

Town Council had run a Workshop for residents to contribute their views for the Design Statement – the town’s input to the Waverley Local Development Framework.

He said that last year he had expressed his thanks to the Farnham Town Council for their efforts in furthering interests of town and residents. He wished to repeat those thanks through the Town Mayor who again he was delighted to welcome this evening.

Mr Ostime thanked all those who had served as Officers and Committee members – Harriet for still being on the Committee as secretary and Scott Nelson who unfortunately was not with us this evening but who had been Treasurer for the past 6 years. He thanked all the road representatives and collectors and for their work during the year.

Mr Ostime concluded his report by saying Farewell as this was the end of his term of office. He was very pleased indeed to be handing over to Dr Penny Marriott who was so very well qualified to be our Chairman with her experience as a past Councillor and indeed a former Town Mayor. He was sure she would bring a fresh impetus to moving the Interests of the Association forward and he wished her well.

4. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer, Mr Scott Nelson, was absent from the meeting and Mr Tony Ostime presented the Accounts of the Association for the year ended 30th April 2009.

He reported that the Association had had another satisfactory year. He noted that the subscription income was considerably up from last year due to the diligence of the collectors and that other income was down. He noted that expenditure was considerably below income, with no liability for other projects pending. The net result was another year of surplus of approximately £400 leaving the Association with a balance of £6848 – a very healthy situation.

Mr Ostime thanked Mr Barry Edwards for auditing the year’s accounts.

Mr Christopher Turrall queried the £2 Membership fee and why it was so low.

Mr Ostime replied that it was left at that amount to encourage as large a membership as possible.

Mr Fish proposed the adoption of the accounts. This was seconded by Mrs Matthews and the motion was carried unanimously.

5. Election of Officers and Committee

The following were elected:	Chairman	Dr Penny Marriott
	Treasurer	Mr Barry Edwards
	Secretary	Mrs Harriet Ellis
	Committee	Mr Mark deQuervain
		Mr David Hepper
		Mr David King
		Mr Graham Leach
		Mr Tony Ostime

These were all proposed, seconded, and unanimously elected.

6. Any Other Business

(a) Crossing from Old Park Lane to Farnham Park.

Mr John Benton, (Beavers Close) suggested rerouting the footpath along the edge of the field, and allowing pedestrians to cross into the Park at the main entrance, with good visibility to both right and left.

Councillor Pat Frost said she would log it with the Proposed Rights of Way improvement.

(b) Beavers Road / Crondall Lane access

A member reported that it was very dangerous to turn out of Beavers Road into Crondall Lane as visibility was obscured by overgrown foliage.

PF said it was the responsibility of the owner to trim the foliage. Surrey CC could visit, and leave a card advising the owner of their responsibilities. If the Council had to trim the foliage, the owner would have to pay for any work done.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Dr Penny Marriott opened the question and answer session by thanking Tony Ostime very much for all the hard work he had done for the Association and how much it was appreciated.

She invited both Lucinda Fleming, Town Councillor and Borough Councillor, and Pat Frost, Borough Councillor and Town Councillor, to answer questions from the residents.

Q Christopher Turrall explained the concerns of the new residents in Blenheim Mews about the strip of land abutting their properties. Rumour had it that the second developer was trying to buy the strip and the residents were very anxious and against further development in that small area. There is an American Oak with a preservation order in the middle of the land.

A David Hepper had approached a Governor of Potters Gate School. The school owns the land and there is no reason for them to sell it. Any money from a sale would go to the Local Authority and not to Potters Gate School so the school has nothing to gain.

Mr Fish supported this understanding.

Q Andrew Thompson asked about a bus service along Crondall Lane.

A PF said she would look into it, but she was not hopeful.

Q Mr Peerman asked if there was any chance of 20mph limits on the smaller roads.

A PF said she would raise the matter in the Farnham Traffic and Transport Committee but asked how could the limit be enforced? She cautioned against over-signage and losing sight of the beautiful town we have in Farnham. She said it was important to get the balance right which is very difficult in Farnham which has two major roads passing through it.

A member suggested polite notices.

A PF suggested increased manning hours on the speed watch and in more effective places.

A Chris Cleland explained that there were many rules and constrictions, one of which was the necessity for a 50 – 100 yd sight line, which ruled out many ideal speed watch spots.

Q David Hepper remarked about the difficulties of parking in the town centre and it seemed a free-for-all on a Sunday.

A PF replied that car parks were free on Sundays. Sympathised with all travellers over the misuse of the loading and unloading times and chaos and congestion it brought to the town. More traffic wardens were needed but not available. She will look into it.

Mayor Frost went on to outline the forthcoming road surface improvements: South Street corner leading into Union Street, the Ridgeway, and East Street.

A member expressed his annoyance with the sandwich shop's van always parked in Downing Street at rush hour.

A member suggested a red route to put a stop to obstructive parking.

Mayor Pat Frost referred to Mr Ostime's speech and said that we didn't have a 'small voice'. She said the councillors were always available to be approached and asked for help. She said that we mustn't underestimate the value of our voice! She asked the audience what they felt about pedestrianisation. The majority were opposed to the idea, but there were members who thought it a good suggestion and one which could improve the town for pedestrians. Again, the problem

was the two major roads going straight through the town which gave little lea way for alternative routes.

Q David Hepper asked if the Mayors were aware of any proposed expansion of UCA. One of his concerns was that pressure on the rented housing market inflated the rents beyond the means of the local residents.

A Neither Mayor was aware of any expansion plans.

Dr Marriot closed the discussion at 9.15 pm and thanked the Town Mayor and Mayor of Waverley for attending.