

Minutes of Sion Hill & Summerhill Road Resident's Association AGM - 6pm Monday 23rd October 2023

Present: Michael Maude (Acting Chairman), Sally Painter (Secretary), Ian Cutter (Treasurer), Patricia Ludlam & Joanne Johnson (Committee Members), Richard Ludlam, Andrew Wyon, Ann Cowan, Vin Madden, Nigel Worne.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone and read out apologies from:

Neil Barnes, Paul Crowsley, Tim Painter, Linda Wyon, Brenda Clayton, Jeff Atherton, Cliff & Carolyn Haresign, Gwyn Randolph, Sue Thomas, Tumse Pedersen, Glenys Henshaw, James & Nicki Portman.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM of 8th December 2021.

Michael Maude asked for comment, then approval, and those present agreed the minutes were a true record.

3. Chairman's Report.

Michael reported that following a successful gathering at South Lodge in August, thanks to the kindness of Jacqui and Richard Parker, we had added several new members. Now our Membership amounts to 74 which is almost exactly 75% of the households within our catchment area.

He went on to say that the Committee does not write to members about every issue it responds to. However, the Membership will always be consulted on major local issues that may affect us. He said that the Committee's Contribution was invaluable and deserves our grateful thanks.

A number of issues keep cropping up. Here are the latest developments.

Parking

A Resident's Parking, Zone has been introduced to the area, and although initially controversial, has been less disruptive than expected, with one exception. The Council has so far refused to provide visitors' parking bays in Summerhill Road, despite providing almost an excess of them on Sion Hill. The Association continues to press the issue with our Councillors. Michael went on to say that there is some political infighting between Officers who are employed and who feel under resourced, and Councillors who are elected.

Golf at High Common

Both the traditional golf and the footgolf have proved successful and relations between golfers and nongolfers on High Common are mostly good. The Council has retained the responsibility to provide playable greens but has not managed so far to do this. Nevertheless, the course is open. The contractor Royal Victoria Park Golf and Footgolf has recently agreed with the Council a programme to accomplish this, but it is now too late in the season to complete the work until next year. Meanwhile it is not viable to keep the course open 7 days a week and the days will shortly be reduced to 3. I also believe that next year's long grass mowing programme is being determined by recommendations from Avon Wildlife Trust.

Andrew Wyon wanted to know who was against golf returning. Michael said that it was the surrounding Resident's Associations of St. James Square, Cavendish Road, Cavendish Crescent, Lansdown Crescent. They preferred dog walking only. However, there is a By-law that states that dogs must be kept on a lead. Patricia Ludlam said that she liked the long grass on High Common and agreed with the plan to cut the grass just once a year, as this is correct for encouraging wildflowers. She liked the paths that had been cut as well. People have commented that ticks were a problem, and she felt this was possible because of the deer. However, if people and dogs kept to the paths ticks would not be a problem.

Low Traffic Neighbourhood and Local Plan

Michael stated that there is nothing currently to report. Andrew Wyon said that he did not think the LTN applied to us. Patricia said that a proposal made by Lansdown Crescent RA, Cavendish Crescent RA and Cavendish Road RA to close off Lansdown Crescent to the top of Cavendish Road, and make Cavendish Road one way to prevent speeding vehicles, would effectively cut us off. We exerted pressure at consultations that Joanne and Patricia attended. Joanne said that they were talking about closing Winifred's Lane at one point. She went on to say that a further consultation was proposed this summer, but had not taken place. With regard to the **Local Plan**, the Committee have been keeping an eye on developments on Sion Hill Campus of Bath Spa University. Joanne said that there were many restrictions to the site, such as building within the existing footprint, preserving the green space and existing rights of way, that planning might not be granted. Michael added that the University will be there until the end of the next academic year, and said that any future development would seriously affect the quality of life in our area.

Local buses.

Michael said that the Bath Spa University Bus is no longer running, but the 700 bus service has been assured for the foreseeable future. He went on to say that he had been unable to find any contract cut-off date.

4. The Treasurer's Report

Ian Cutter thanked Neil Barnes for doing the job until now, and for assisting with the handover.

30th September 2021 HSBC Opening Balance		£201.10
4th October 2021 cheque paid out via Neil Barnes.		-£201.10
4th October 2021 HSBC Closing Balance		Nil
13th December 2021 transfer to Lloyds Bank via Neil Barnes.		£201.10
13th December 2021 Lloyds Opening Balance.		£201.10
Membership Income 13-31st December 2022	£10.00	£211.10
31st December 2021 Closing Balance		£211.10
Membership Income 1st January - 31st December 2022	£60.00	£271.10
Expense - Annual FOBRA Membership	- £25.00	
31st December 2022		£246.10
Membership Income 1st January 2023 - 21st September 2023.	£60	£306.10
Expense - Annual FOBRA Membership.	- £25	
Summer Party (flowers for Mr R & Mrs J Parker)	- £56	£225.10
Closing Balance 30th September 2023		£225.10

Ian Cutter - 19th October 2023

Ian asked whether the moratorium on the Membership Fee was to be extended. Michael put this to the committee, and it was agreed.

5. Election of the Committee

Michael asked the whether the Committee should be re-elected, and all present agreed. He went on to say that in accordance with the Constitution he is no longer eligible to remain in the chair. He said that he would continue as Acting Chairman, but asked everyone to look around for a potential candidate and to try and persuade her/him to take the task on.

6. Any Other Business

Michael said that there had been a suggestion to plant spring bulbs in the central reservation of Summerhill Road. The Committee thought it would be a good idea, so Michael said he would get in touch with Maggie Marks and see if she could get a team together to carry out the task, and that the Association would pay towards the bulbs.

Sally mentioned that there had been a request to have a defibrillator situated in the area, and that the Committee approved of the idea. Jane Paxton and Ailsa Higgins, who had done the initial research on this, were prepared to organise the funding to take the project forward. Joanne said that she thought a power supply might be a problem. Michael said that maybe that could come from street lightning.

Patricia said that the pavement on the steep hill down to Cavendish Road was very slippery, and implied that if the weeds were cleared the path would be safer for pedestrians. Sally said that she had contacted Fix My Street twice since August, but there had been no action.

There being no further business the meeting was closed, and attendees were offered a glass of wine.