

## **PETTS WOOD & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH 2022 IN PETTS WOOD MEMORIAL HALL**

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr John Powell	Chairman	Mr Phil Birch	Mr David Boswell
Mrs Andrea Stevens	Vice Chair	Mrs Deborah Baker	Mr Alan Bodley
Mrs Susan Radford.	Treasurer	Mr Rane Ranasinghe	Mrs Elizabeth Strachan
		Mr Mel Wright	

#### GUESTS:

Mr Peter Fortune (GLA Member)	Mr Bob Hadley (RA Federation & Crofton RA)
Cllr Simon Fawthrop	Mr Ted Fenwick (Crofton RA)
Cllr Tony Owen	Mr Roger Barber (former committee member)
Cllr Keith Onslow	Mr Chris Harris (former committee member)
Mrs Liz Johnston (PW Business Association)	Mr Michael Ayers (PWDRA webmaster)
Mrs Marian Smith (Gazette Editor)	

About 50 other members were present

#### APOLOGIES:

Mr Gareth Bacon (MP)	
Mr Matthew Amer (Bromley Council Airport Monitoring Officer)	
Mr Sam Pettman (National Trust Ranger)	
Ciji Varughese (Petts Wood Library)	
Mrs Janet Guntrip (Secretary)	Mrs Katrina Summerfield (committee member)
Mr Brian Eaton (committee member)	Mr Phil Macer (committee member)
Mr Graham Knight-Zhang (committee member)	Mrs Julie Cockett (Membership Team)

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The Chairman opened proceedings by welcoming our guests and members. Apologies have been received from those listed above.

He formally recorded that our secretary for nearly 40 years - Janet Guntrip - was retiring, PWDRA are seeking a volunteer to replace her and the search starts with this AGM.

#### 1. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM – 20 MARCH 2019, & OF THE 2021 EGM – 20 OCTOBER 2021

The last AGM Minutes, copies of which had been available via the website and on the top table before the meeting, were taken as a true and accurate record. Mr Callinan proposed that they should be adopted, Mr Condon seconded the proposition and it was carried by the meeting.

In addition, the EGM Minutes, copies of which had been available via the website and on the top table before the meeting, were taken as a true and accurate record. Mr Callinan proposed that they should be adopted, Mr Condon seconded the proposition and it was carried by the meeting.

#### 2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman's Report had been published in the March Gazette. The Chairman asked if there were any questions about his report. There were none and he commended his report to the meeting. Mr Harris proposed that the Annual Report should be adopted, Mrs Radford seconded the proposal and it was carried by the meeting.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT & RE-ELECTION OF AUDITOR

The Treasurer presented the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 as published in the March Gazette on page 12. She informed the meeting that subscriptions of £5 per member household had been collected in 2021. This was in place of no subscriptions being collected during the first lockdown of 2020 and represented subscriptions for both 2020 and 2021. She stated that there was a healthy reserve which might be needed for the future and would allow the Association to contribute to community projects. The Treasurer proposed that the subscription for 2022 should remain at £5. An increasing number of members are paying subscriptions via bank transfer and we are looking at ways to enable web-based payments of the annual subscription. There being no questions, Mrs Radford thanked Fred Dale for auditing the accounts and she commended the accounts to the meeting. Mrs Johnston seconded the proposal and it was carried by the meeting.

It was proposed that Mr Fred Dale will be asked if he will agree to continue as Auditor for a further year and Mrs Radford recommended that, in his absence, he should be so elected if he agrees. Mr Birch proposed that he should be so elected, Mr Barber seconded the proposal and it was carried by the meeting.

### 4. AMENDMENT TO RULE 18 OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Chairman informed the meeting that this was an amended proposal from the EGM held in October 2021. The Chairman read out the statement, which is reproduced below, with the amendment shown in italics:

"The committee shall meet at regular intervals, to be agreed from time to time, to conduct the business of the Association. Each committee member shall be required to attend a minimum of one third of the meetings held in a given year. *Should any member fail to achieve this minimum requirement, the committee shall have the power to require said member to resign, unless a simple majority vote decides there are exceptional circumstances. Such a vote will not be allowed for a second consecutive year.* At a committee meeting a quorum will consist of seven members of the committee."

The Chairman asked if there were any comments on the proposal from the floor. There were none. Mrs Johnston proposed that the amendment to Rule 18 be accepted and this was seconded by Mr Stevens.

### 5. NOTICES

May Fayre – The Chairman reminded the meeting of the date - Monday 2 May 2022 and introduced Mrs Johnston of the Petts Wood Business Association who organises the May Fayre. She explained what was on offer at the May Fayre and if anyone had any queries to get in touch with her.

Brian Eaton, committee member for Community Liaison, runs the PALS (Petts Wood Against Litter) group which regularly collects litter from the shopping district area. In his absence he requested more volunteers and to please contact him if you wish to volunteer.

### 6. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Mr Powell invited some of our guests to say a few words and then answer questions from the floor.

#### GLA Member Peter Fortune

Mr Fortune outlined his background - he was ward councillor for Cray Valley East from 2010, then ward councillor for Hayes & Coney Hall from 2014 through to 2022. He was elected as the GLA Member for Bexley & Bromley in 2021. He stated that in his experience people are not aware of what the GLA actually does and it seems very 'inner' London. He felt that there are three things that impact Bromley borough as far as the GLA are concerned. These are policing, the increase in the Mayoral precept and the expansion of ULEZ (Ultra Low Emissions Zone) to include Outer London boroughs.

He has concerns that crime in our area is viewed as low-level and more investment in policing in our area should be forthcoming. The police force is in disarray following the resignation of former Commissioner Cressida Dick. The Met is leaderless. There are doubts as to who will replace the former

commissioner, with rank-and-file officers being very despondent. He has concerns about the way that this is progressing.

Regarding the increase in the Mayoral precept for this year 2022, this will be an increase of 8.8% over 2021. This was voted through by the GLA by a simple majority. Peter Fortune feels that there is a lot of waste within the GLA, including an increase in the Mayor's staffing as well as a personal Mayoral PR budget of over £1 million.

The expansion of ULEZ (Ultra Low Emissions Zone) is a concern. This was originally established to stop traffic going into Central London where air pollution was at its worst. The Mayor is proposing that this is expanded to cover the whole of the Greater London area. For those drivers with non-Euro 6 compliant vehicles, a charge of £12.50 per day will be made if you drive in the Greater London area. There is a £500m hole in the TfL budget. £5 billion has been covered by Central Government. However, the Mayor needs to look for ways to cover the on-going deficit. Expansion of ULEZ is one way to gain additional revenue. However, implementation costs do not appear to have been factored in - expansion of the camera network will be needed to cover all the roads in Greater London. This will come at a cost. The Mayor is citing air quality as a concern and he wants to see an improvement. Therefore, he is targeting older vehicles by charging them. Peter Fortune feels that this proposal is acting as a bridgehead for road user charging in the future where there will be a charge per mile. He feels that this will be driven through unilaterally and that Inner London policies will happen to Outer London boroughs like Bromley.

There were several questions from the floor including queries regarding the London Ambulance Service, the increase in Council Tax, cycle lane and further clarification about ULEZ and the next mayoral election (2023 & 2024 respectively). Mr Bodley reported that his Council Tax had increased by a greater amount than what has been indicated above. He was told to query this as it seemed to be an error.

### Councillors

Cllrs Fawthrop, Owen and Onslow were happy to take any questions from members.

Mr Callinan of Wood Ride enquired about step-free access at Petts Wood station and was informed that preliminary work had started on a temporary access bridge from Station Square to West Approach but it would take time due to the complexity of the proposal. Mr Callinan also asked about the lack of public toilets in Petts Wood and the wider area. He mentioned Norman Park and High Elms which do not appear to have usable toilets. Mr Powell mentioned that the Norman Park athletics track has toilets. The councillors stated that there is no budget for public toilets but communities could come together and provide alternative solutions.

Mr Tormey of Beaumont Road asked about Conservation Areas with regard to there being no budget to enforce regulations and rules pertaining to Conservation Areas. Cllr Fawthrop stated that there was a budget to enforce issues that might emerge in our Conservation Areas and that Bromley Council has the ability to make enforcement. However, the will to do so is another matter. Cllr Fawthrop went on to highlight the protections that were in place in Petts Wood, including the ASRC and extension to Conservation Areas. The latter has given the area greater additional protection and he would have liked a wider area to have had this benefit.

A resident of Silverdale Road enquired about garden land (from 41 Hazelmere Road) being severed and sold off for development. Cllr Fawthrop stated that no planning application had been received yet. He mentioned the fact that the land is adjacent to the newly created The Thrifts Conservation Area as well as being within the ASRC. This will have an impact as it has in a recent loft conversion proposal in the area. Several amendments had to be made before permission was granted. Conservation Areas do add value as well as helping to protect the area.

Cllr Owen mentioned that a lot of developers are 'gaming' the planning system. Multiple applications for the same site are submitted - some retrospective - followed by appeals, some of which are for non-determination. Our MP, Gareth Bacon, is trying to change the law in parliament regarding this. He is endeavouring to make building without getting the required permission first an offence via a bill in Parliament. Councillor Owen is hopeful that something might be in the next Planning bill that goes to Parliament regarding this.

Cllr Owen also mentioned about housing targets set by the GLA. A result of this is that we are seeing the 'Croydonisation' of some parts of our borough. The main issue is obtaining land to build enough properties to satisfy these housing targets. Do we take marginal Green Belt land, for example? Peter Fortune, GLA Member, stated that he had concerns that TfL-owned land could be given automatic planning permission for residential developments. Cllr Owen stated that the Government Planning Inspectorate appeal decisions were disappointing. Mr Powell interjected that residents should object if they have concerns about development proposals. Any objections that the Association might make are considered to be just one objection.

Ms Mendelson of Petts Wood Road mentioned issues with another resident using the rear access road at the back of the shops for building work in Kingsway. Whilst the use of the rear access way would be viewed as a civil matter, as it is an unadopted road, any building work not covered by permission should be reported to the councillors as enforcement action can be taken.

Ms Blazye of Petts Wood Road enquired as to whether anything could be done about cigarette smoking debris which is an issue in some parts of Station Square, like the rear of the Daylight Inn. The councillors replied that this was a matter for street cleaning and suggested it be reported on Fix My Street. Cllr Owen mentioned the Licensing Act and that licence holders must operate under certain conditions. The resident mentioned pavement space being taken up by tables/chairs and Cllr Owen asked the resident for further details.

Mrs Johnson of Sefton Road enquired if any further postal boundary changes were proposed. She highlighted the time when Petts Wood was not a postal district in its own right. Cllr Owen stated that the Council had spent a lot of effort in defining Petts Wood. Then the Post Office stated that deliveries are organised via their system and that Orpington is the postal area for Petts Wood! Cllr Owen then highlighted the local boundary changes affecting Petts Wood & Knoll wards and the possibility of parliamentary boundary changes which are being consulted on at the moment.

Mr Curbishley of Shepperton Road enquired specifically about the Crofton Lane cycle lane layout regarding the pavement, cycle track and road. Mr Powell replied that he had looked at the cycle lane plans several times and road safety reports are not reflective of opinions; it is not an issue that PWDR has dropped. However, it is apparent nothing is going to change soon. There has been lots of criticism of the layout of the cycle lane, particularly with regard to safety issues. TfL and Bromley Council are consulting regarding changes to the bus change-over area. Mr Boswell stated that TfL at the outset identified Crofton Lane as being one of the top 10 cycle lane locations in Greater London. He wanted to know if our GLA member knew the locations of the other nine.

Mrs McKeown of West Way enquired about Biggin Hill Airport (BHA) in terms of plane sizes and movements. Cllr Fawthrop responded that currently there is the Noise Action Plan (NAP) Review taking place. BHA have benefitted from the extended operating hours granted in 2015. However, as a result of those extra hours being granted, several pledges had to be made by BHA - none of these have been met. The annual 50k cap on aircraft movements was mentioned. Mrs Stevens said that BHA matters were very much on-going and she had received replies to complaints about aircraft movements which were not particularly satisfactory.

The Chairman mentioned continuing issues with vehicle crime including theft of vehicles from driveways as well as stealing catalytic converters. His advice was to invest in Faraday pouches and other devices to impede thieves.

He also reminded members about his request for a replacement secretary.

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In conclusion, the Chairman thanked guests and members for attending the meeting and mentioned that copies of *A History of Petts Wood* were available for sale. He invited everyone to enjoy a glass of wine and the refreshments which had been supplied by Jean Wood and Richenda Tadman.

The formal business of the meeting closed at 9.22 pm.