

PETTS WOOD & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 20th OCTOBER 2021 IN PETTS WOOD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr John Powell	Chairman	Mr Phil Birch
Mrs Andrea Stevens	Vice-Chair	Mr Alan Bodley
Mrs Janet Guntrip	Secretary	Mr David Boswell
		Mr Brian Eaton
		Mr Graham Knight-Zhang
		Mr Phil Macer
		Mr Rane Ranasinghe
		Mrs Katrina Summerfield
		Mr Mel Wright

GUESTS:

Cllr Simon Fawthrop	Cllr Tony Owen
Mrs Liz Johnston (PW Business Association)	Mr Michael Ayers (PWDRA Webmaster)
Mr Chris Harris (former committee member)	Mr Chris House (former committee member)
Mrs Caroline Bailey (Membership Team)	

About 20 other Members were present

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Keith Onslow	Mrs Susan Radford (Treasurer)
Mrs Deborah Baker (committee member)	Mrs Elizabeth Strachan (committee member)
Mrs Marian Smith (Gazette Editor)	Mr Max and Mrs Wendy Holley (members)

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The Chairman opened proceedings by welcoming members and guests including our two ward councillors, Simon Fawthrop and Tony Owen. He congratulated the latter on becoming Deputy Mayor this year. Apologies, which included our Treasurer Susan Radford, had been received from those listed above.

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman stated that usually he would have published his Report in the Gazette, but circumstances had been dictated by the pandemic since March 2020. The committee had had no face-to-face meetings for over a year and two AGMs had been cancelled. However, the committee had continued with their work representing Petts Wood and its residents.

Mr Powell reminded the meeting that the Association had booked the Memorial Hall for the next two AGMs: 23rd March 2022 and 22nd March 2023. He would be reporting on the current committee later but he wished to mention that our long-standing Secretary would be stepping down at the 2023 AGM and we were looking for a replacement in the next year and a half, hopefully to work alongside Mrs Guntrip for the handover.

There had been two events in Petts Wood during the year which the Association had supported with donations of £1,000: Petts Wood Calling and the postponed May Fayre. We were also looking to support

the Christmas Carnival on 27th November when the Christmas lights would be switched on with a firework display, assuming no restrictions had been reinstated.

We had maintained close liaison with Thames Water concerning the replacement watermain in Franks Wood Avenue and Queensway and the attendant road works and traffic restrictions. Mr Powell thanked Mr Boswell for the sterling work he had done in this regard. We had also formed a unique collaboration with Crofton Residents Association on safety issues caused by the cycle lane which had been constructed recently in Crofton Road.

The committee continued working virtually throughout the pandemic, but had resumed face-to-face meetings in September. Since our last AGM in 2019 we had welcomed several new faces onto the committee: Mel Wright (National Trust), Alan Bodley (Public Transport), Phil Macer (Crime and Policing), Katrina Summerfield (Membership) and Michael Ayers (Webmaster). In addition Caroline Bailey and Julie Cockett had volunteered to help support Katrina Summerfield in her Membership role.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT AND RE-ELECTION OF AUDITOR

In the Treasurer's absence the Chairman read her Report to the meeting:

As we were unable to hold our normal AGM last year, Mrs Radford could not report on the 2019 figures at a meeting. The figures were, however, published in the Gazette as usual in 2020. The accounts were fairly standard and we ended 2019 with a small surplus of £2,458.

2020's accounts were, of course, affected by the pandemic. The biggest effect was on the subscriptions, as successive lockdowns put a stop to our Road Stewards collecting money. We only received £240 as opposed to the normal figure of around £11,000. Gazette printing costs were also lower than usual, reduced by about £5,000, as for many months we only printed a small number. We ended 2020 with a deficit of £2,960, which was expected, and as we had a healthy reserve and hoped that this was a one-off event, it was not a concern. The 2020 accounts were published in the April Gazette this year, as lockdown meant it was more difficult to meet with our auditor, Fred Dale. Mrs Radford thanked Mr Dale for managing to get the audit done. There being no questions Mr Knight-Zhang proposed that the 2019 and 2020 accounts should be adopted, Mr Stevens seconded the proposal and it was carried by the meeting.

It had been decided by the committee that, when our Road Stewards were able to start collecting subscriptions again this year, we would ask for £5 to cover membership for both 2020 and 2021. Being able to handle a note rather than coins made it easier for both Road Stewards and members. Those who felt less confident in going out found other ways to collect their subscriptions, including having members pay directly to our bank account. This is something we can continue to do, although it is vital that we are advised of payments, so that they can be reconciled by the Treasurer and added to our records by Road Stewards and our membership team.

As we had a mandate from a previous AGM to increase the subscription to £5 per annum when it was considered necessary, Mrs Radford envisaged that we would continue with the subscription at this level. Mrs Fogden proposed, seconded by Mr Eaton, that the subscription should continue at £5 per annum and the proposal was carried by the meeting.

Mrs Radford proposed that Mr Fred Dale should be re-elected to be our auditor, Mr Harris seconded the proposal and it was carried by the meeting.

3. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chairman stated that he was sorry to see Chris Harris and Chris House leave after many years of service, and we tragically lost Derek Marrable, our Crime and Policing representative for over a decade, last year. However, we were delighted to welcome onto the committee Katrina Summerfield (Membership) and Mel Wright (National Trust), together with Alan Bodley (Public Transport) and Phil Macer (Crime and Policing) who both joined during lockdown.

With Chris Harris' retirement the committee had elected Andrea Stevens as Vice-Chair; she also covered Planning and Biggin Hill Airport.

The new committee had been proposed and seconded for a three-year period from March 2020 and the names were published in the October Gazette. The officers - Chairman, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary - were duly elected and the rest of the committee were elected *en bloc*.

4. ELECTION OF TWO LIFE MEMBERS

Mr Powell reported that two long-standing and dedicated committee members stood down in 2020:

Chris Harris joined the committee in 2006 to cover Public Transport. He was Vice-Chairman to Paul Stanley from 2010 to 2012 and, when Mr Stanley resigned suddenly, he became Acting Chairman and Vice-Chairman from 2012 to 2013 when Mr Powell took over as Chairman. He remained his Vice-Chairman until his retirement. Mr House joined in 2004 as Membership Secretary until 2010 when Joanne Cummins took over. He also became our National Trust representative in 2005 and took over the Chair of the National Trust Petts Wood & Hawkwood management committee, a post he still holds. Both supported Mrs Stevens for some years on the Planning Sub-committee.

Mr Birch proposed that Mr Harris and Mr House should be elected Life Members of the Association, Mr Eaton seconded the proposal and it was carried by the meeting. Mr Powell thanked them both for their support and dedication and presented them with Life Membership certificates.

5. ADDITIONS TO RULES 14 AND 18 OF THE CONSTITUTION

Rule 14 The following addition had been put forward by the committee:

"In the event of a pandemic, natural disaster, or similar exceptional circumstance which makes the holding of an Annual General Meeting impractical, or unlawful under Government rules or guidelines, if officers are due for re-election, they shall continue in post until such time as a properly constituted EGM can be arranged."

Mr Knight-Zhang pointed out that later in the Constitution an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) was referred to a Special General Meeting, so it was agreed to change 'Extraordinary' to 'Special' as in: *"...until such time as a properly constituted Special General Meeting can be arranged."* As amended, the rule change was proposed by Mr Stevens, seconded by Mr Bodley and carried by the meeting.

Rule 18 The following addition between the two sentences had been put forward by the committee:

"Each committee member shall be required to attend a minimum of one third of the meetings held in a given year."

Mrs Fogden suggested that there should be an explanation as to what would happen if a committee member failed to attend sufficient meetings. As our members would need to see the added explanation, it was agreed to adopt the rule change as it stood and then put the extra sentence forward for adoption at the AGM in March 2022. As it stood, the rule change was proposed by Mrs Fogden, seconded by Mr Macer and carried by the meeting.

6. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Mr Powell invited the meeting to ask questions of the committee and ward councillors.

Gazette subscriptions Mrs Tomlinson of Petts Wood Road stated that in her report the Treasurer had referred to members paying by bank transfer and she asked whether this included individual members or just Road Stewards. If the former, then she was not aware that this was a possibility and she was sure that a lot of members would like to use BACS. In Mrs Radford's absence Mr Powell explained that all aspects of communication with our members were under discussion by the committee, including obtaining email addresses which had become vital. Since the pandemic few people used cash, so bank transfer was a viable alternative. The committee would report back to our members as soon as possible.

Trains Mrs Tomlinson asked for an update on train travel from Petts Wood. Mr Bodley said that he had written to Southeastern to ask for the reinstatement of 4 trains per hour on the Victoria line. He had so far had a very non-committal response. He stated that Thameslink did not serve Petts Wood well and it was

quicker to travel to London Bridge and change. To have trains terminate at Bromley South did not make sense when they could just as easily continue to Orpington.

Replacement watermain Mrs Tomlinson asked when the works on the watermain in Queensway and Franks Wood Avenue were to finish. Mr Boswell said that Thames Water had done an excellent job up to now with no delays to the schedule and they had given a finish date of the end of November. It remained to be seen whether they would be able to keep to that date. He advised members not to try and avoid the temporary lights but to stay on Queensway, as diversion routes such as Lakeswood Road had become just as congested.

Biggin Hill Airport Mrs Tomlinson asked about the increased frequency of planes over Petts Wood and Mrs Stevens agreed that they were relentless. Biggin Hill Airport's Noise Action Plan (NAP) was up for review and at present there was a cap on air traffic movements of 50,000, but BHA wanted to revert to the 125,000 movements allowed in the lease. Mrs Stevens pointed out that that figure was set at a time when most movements were by light aircraft, but now BHA was catering for very large jets. Bromley Council was due to meet on 24th November to decide on the NAP. Mrs Stevens was concerned that the airport's flight tracking system was inaccurate and showed planes to be other than where they actually were when seen from the ground. The airport was currently investigating but not over Petts Wood where the approach funnel was much wider. They also claimed that they had 30,000 supporters, but this was based on inaccurate data. BHA's recent proposals for fare paying passengers, challenging the lease and threatening to go to a tribunal if thwarted, were rejected by the Council and their threat was unfounded.

Step-free access at the station Mrs Fogden of Fieldway was concerned about the proposed plans for Petts Wood Station which showed ugly lift shafts on both sides of the railway. Mr Bodley agreed that the brick towers would be a magnet for graffiti artists and they needed to be more sympathetically designed. Mrs Stevens said that no thought had been given to the Station Square conservation area on the east side and the tower was out of keeping with the surrounding buildings. The plans stated that there were no residential properties to consider, but there were flats above the shops and the Daylight Inn was a locally listed building. She had suggested that the towers should be set further behind but there were problems with high voltage cables. She added that the whole scheme for step-free access at the station could take a long time to come to fruition.

There being no further questions from the floor, Mr Powell invited our two councillors to say a few words.

Cllr Tony Owen Cllr Owen reported that he had been reliably informed that Victoria trains which had been terminating at Bromley South would now go on to Orpington. There had been problems for some years with the shops at 172, 174 and 176 Petts Wood Road, where rear extensions had been built without proper drainage or any regard for oak trees with TPOs. This had resulted in neighbouring gardens being flooded. In all cases the extensions had been built without planning permission and retrospective applications had been submitted. This was a real problem, as unscrupulous developers could challenge the Council continually in the hope that they would eventually capitulate. Our local MP, Gareth Bacon, had set down a 10-minute rule in Parliament to make building without planning permission a criminal offence and this had a lot of backing.

Cllrs Owen and Fawthrop had raised objections about the Crofton Road cycle lane at a Scrutiny meeting but had been overruled. The Council seemed to be worried that if they refused any of TfL's grants, they would lose the money altogether. Petts Wood & Knoll now had a representative on the Environment committee in Cllr Fawthrop and their next meeting was on 17th November when the cycle lane would be discussed. There would be a full report at the next Development Control meeting, but as there was a very full agenda it would be a written report.

Cllr Simon Fawthrop Cllr Fawthrop said that if anybody had any questions for the Environment meeting on 17th November they would need to be presented by the end of this month. He urged them to do so. At a meeting of the full Council questions would be asked: was the cycle lane value for money, and how do you judge whether the scheme has been successful? There were no answers to these questions.

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In conclusion the Chairman thanked our guests and members for attending the meeting and reminded them that the next AGM would take place on Wednesday 23rd March 2022 in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.52 pm.