



PETTS WOOD & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 20th MARCH 2019 IN PETTS WOOD MEMORIAL HALL**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr John Powell	Chairman	Mr Phil Birch
Mr Chris Harris	Vice-Chairman	Mr Derek Marrable
Mrs Susan Radford	Treasurer	Mr Rane Ranasinghe
Mrs Janet Guntrip	Secretary	Mrs Andrea Stevens

GUESTS:

Mr Jo Johnson MP	
Mr Angus Culverwell (LBB Asst Director, Traffic & Parking)	
Cllr Simon Fawthrop	Cllr Keith Onslow
Mr Bob Hadley (RA Federation & Crofton RA)	Mr Ted Fenwick (Crofton RA)
Mr Ian Black (Knoll RA)	Mr Brian Wilkin (Knoll RA)
Insp Gary Byfield	Sgt Paul Blewer
PC Taj Mahil	PCSO Colin Bisset
Mrs Liz Johnston (PW Business Association)	Mrs Jenny Hawke (PW Library)
Mrs Kirsten Thomas (PW Library)	Mr Fred Dale (Auditor)
Mrs Marian Smith (Gazette Editor)	Mr Roger Barber (former committee member)

About 70 other Members were present

APOLOGIES:

Mr Gareth Bacon (GLA Member)	Cllr Tony Owen
Mrs Paula Ferguson (PW Business Association)	PC James Baldwin
Mr Sam Pettman (National Trust Ranger)	Mr Chris House (National Trust & committee)
Mrs Deborrah Baker (committee member)	Mrs Joanne Cummins (committee member)
Mrs Elizabeth Strachan (committee member)	Mr Graham Knight-Zhang (prospective committee member)
Mr Ian Smith (PWDRA webmaster)	

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

1 MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 21st MARCH 2018

The 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 Barber proposed that they should be adopted, Mr Marrable 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 and Mr Powell reported that David Boswell, Brian Eaton and Graham Knight-Zhang had joined the committee during the year. He thanked all the Associates, without whom the Association could not function: Mrs Marian Smith, Mrs Chris Levey, Stephen Martin, Chris House, Ian Smith and Colin Earl, and he commended his Report to the meeting. Mrs Smith proposed that the Annual Report should be adopted, Mr Stevens 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 2018 as published in the March Gazette on page 13. She saw no reason to increase the subscription this year and proposed that it should remain at £4 per annum. The postal subscription would also remain at £11.50 for another year, although it would be reviewed next year because of the continual increase in the price of postage. Mr Barber seconded her proposal and it was carried by the meeting. There being no questions Mrs Radford commended the accounts to the meeting; Mr Webb proposed that they should be adopted, Mr Barber seconded the proposal and it was carried by the meeting.

Mr Fred Dale had kindly agreed to continue as Auditor for a further year and Mrs Radford proposed that he should be so elected. Mr Webb seconded the proposal and it was carried by the meeting.

4 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chairman stated that Mr David Boswell and Mr Brian Eaton had been co-opted onto the committee during the year and Mr Graham Knight-Zhang had taken over the role of Membership Secretary from Mr Matt Clark, to whom we were very grateful for all his hard work. All three had been proposed and seconded and the details were published on page 3. Mr Marrable proposed that they should be elected *en bloc*, Mrs Johnston seconded the proposal and it was carried by the meeting. Mr Powell welcomed them on board. The rest of the committee had been elected two years ago for a three-year term.

The Chairman was always pleased to see that there were enough community-minded people in Petts Wood to make the task of filling committee vacancies easier.

5 NOTICES

May Fayre In Mrs Ferguson's absence Mr Powell reported that the May Fayre was once again being organised by Petts Wood Business Association and the event would start on Monday 6th May at 11 o'clock with the May Queen parade and finish at 5pm. He urged members to come along and support a great day out.

6 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

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

Jo Johnson MP Mr Johnson said that he was pleased to see that the Association's committee was thriving and that they were able to balance the budget. There were several local issues which he would like to address. The appearance of a toilet in Station Square, which had been installed by TfL along with others in the borough for the use of the bus drivers, had prompted some comment. The one in Biggin Hill had been put in a prominent position and there had been a successful campaign to get it moved. Mr Johnson had not received many emails about the one in Station Square and he asked the meeting if they were happy with it. PWDR planning representative Mrs Stevens reported that she had contacted TfL to find out the latest and

Bromley had taken legal advice, as the toilet was in a conservation area. TfL were of the opinion that they could erect the toilet under permitted development, but they should have submitted a planning application which they still had not done. Mrs Stevens had suggested two alternative locations for the toilet but they had both been refused by TfL.

Mr Johnson said that planning had been extremely busy, and he had made representations to the Council on several matters and was keeping a watchful eye on two in particular: Knoll Rise and the land at the bottom of Derwent Drive. He was anxious to maintain the character of the area and the Knoll Rise proposal for 40 to 50 flats on a site presently occupied by two or three houses was an over-development.

At last year's AGM Mr Johnson had hoped that there would be definite news on lifts for step-free access at Petts Wood Station and when he last checked he was assured that it was still in the schedule of works due to start in April this year. However, the schedule was for the next five years up to 2024 and he could not get a more accurate timescale for Petts Wood. The proposal of installing gates at the entrance and exit to the bridge was not viable as it was a valued right of way.

As there were no questions for him, Mr Johnson urged members to contact him by email or letter if they had any concerns.

Police Mr Powell invited Inspector Gary Byfield to say a few words. They had known each other since they were PCs together and, as the Inspector was due to retire soon, Mr Powell would like to record our thanks to him and his team for all their hard work. Insp Byfield thanked him and said that, as he lived in the borough, he hoped members would still make themselves known to him once he was retired. This was his third visit to PWDRA's AGM and he wanted to thank members very much for co-operating with the police. They valued the public's support and he was proud of his dedicated team. As Sgt Paul Blewer did most of the legwork, he asked him to speak to the meeting.

Sgt Blewer said that he covered Petts Wood, Farnborough and Chelsfield. He introduced PC Taj Mahil and PCSO Colin Bisset and regretted that PC James Baldwin was unable to attend this evening. He stated that Petts Wood was a low crime area and there had only been a 2% increase in crime in Bromley in the period from March 2018 to March 2019. There had been a 16% decrease in Petts Wood, mainly because of the response team and the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Burglaries were down and the SNT did their best to visit affected houses to offer advice and guidance. In a re-structure Bromley had joined Croydon and Sutton but it had not affected the borough too much. The team could now access three separate radio channels. Although there was a lot of national publicity about violent crime, Petts Wood was not experiencing that much. Through information and intelligence the police were targeting drug dealing which fuels violent crime. Separate arrests had been made in the area in relation to cultivating cannabis and carrying a machete. He then asked if there were any questions.

Mrs Radford, PWDRA Treasurer, said she was glad to hear that the police were responding to burglaries, as a neighbour had told her that nobody had come out to her when she reported a burglary. Sgt Blewer assured her that they made very effort to respond to reports of crime, even though it could not always be an immediate response. Asked by Mrs Waters of Crescent Drive why she never saw a policeman on the beat, Sgt Blewer said that he was surprised, because he could assure her that they patrolled every day. The response team was driving around in the car, but the SNT were on foot. Mrs Cassin of Crofton Lane said that since reading entries on Facebook she had become alarmed at the increase in crime in the area and did not feel as safe as she used to. When she phoned to report an incident, she was asked if she had spoken to the neighbours and whether she had CCTV. She felt that she was being asked to do the policing herself. She said that in New York they had found that having a police car parked in an area acted as a deterrent because it suggested that the police were around. Sgt Blewer pointed out that here the police did not have the resources to plant a car, as every vehicle was needed and in constant use. PC Mahil assured Mrs Cassin that the police looked at the crime figures every week and there was no significant increase in Petts Wood.

Insp Byfield urged members not to believe everything they saw on Facebook; if they wanted to know the truth, contact the police. There had been reports on Facebook in the Biggin Hill area that attempts had been made to abduct children, but not one of the allegations was true. Mrs Radford said that the Association's Facebook page tried to be responsible and check everything that was posted, and she always advised writers to report incidents to the police. Insp Byfield reminded the meeting of the support which Neighbourhood Watch gave and the app "Next Door" which allowed members to look out for their neighbours.

A gentleman mentioned the incident last year when travellers invaded Willett Recreation Ground and he asked why the police had allowed them onto the ground. Sgt Blewer said that there had been an immediate police response to the reports and it had been considered safer to allow them onto the land, rather than have them blocking Crossway. The very next morning they were served notice to quit and had done so by 10am. PC Baldwin had investigated all reports which were made to the police. [At this point in the proceedings Cllrs Fawthrop and Onslow arrived at the meeting. They had both been attending the Mayor of Bromley awards ceremony, at which John Rosenbaum of the Royal British Legion had been recognised for 60 years of service to the Legion. As they had nominated him for the award, it was important that they should attend.] With regard to the travellers' incursion Cllr Fawthrop wanted to add the Council's thanks to the general public for the prompt way they had come out and helped clear up the appalling mess that the travellers had left behind them. The Council had acted quickly and were mindful that measures should be taken to prevent such an incident happening again.

A member questioned whether Crimewatch was worthwhile, in view of the fact that the police asked for the public's assistance in identifying offenders from CCTV images so long after the incident had taken place – up to nine months later. Mr Powell said that CCTV was very beneficial to the police and could help investigations into other crimes. From a personal point of view he had recently had his car stolen from his drive and he recommended to the meeting that members with keyless cars should invest in a Faraday pouch which blocked the signal. He further mentioned that at one time in the US it had been best practice to have street briefings: any police officer who was available would go to a specific location for five or ten minutes so that the public could report a crime or ask for assistance. Sgt Blewer said that Bromley police had street briefings which lasted up to an hour; they advertised them on their website so that people knew where to go. Mr Powell asked out of interest who at the meeting did not have access to the internet and about six hands were raised. He suggested that members should make themselves aware of neighbours who did not have the internet and offer to keep them informed and help if they wanted to report something.

Councillors Cllrs Fawthrop and Onslow were happy to take any questions from members. Mr Stockwell of Homesdale Road asked how many taxpayers in Bromley paid their Council Tax every year and what was done to enforce payment. Cllr Fawthrop said that the total collection rate was 98% and the Council pursued those who did not pay up. Warning letters were sent out first, then an order would be obtained from the court and the bailiffs would be sent in. The Council urged those who were in difficulties to get in touch with them so that a payment schedule could be discussed. Cllr Fawthrop understood that Bromley had one of the best collection rates in London.

Mrs Webb of Greenfield Gardens wished to thank the Council, and Cllr Fawthrop in particular, for their efforts in keeping residents informed of developments in the Thames Water works on Crofton Lane with regard to affecting access, bus routes etc. She also appreciated his involvement in getting a Tree Preservation Order in place very quickly for the woodland behind Heathside. This land had been sold on to an unknown buyer whose intentions for the land were unknown and his actions could help to protect it. Cllr Fawthrop was grateful for the vote of thanks.

Angus Culverwell Mr Culverwell was Assistant Director of Traffic and Parking at the Council and Mr Powell invited him to give a brief presentation. Mr Culverwell said that the team he led dealt with traffic schemes, road safety and parking enforcement. They had been responsible for the parking survey in Petts Wood some years ago which resulted in changes to parking restrictions in the area. However, the changes

did not suit everyone, as restrictions in one road affected the surrounding roads and it was difficult to get a balance. His team was responsible for traffic flow on the roads, making it possible for residents to move around and get to the schools. TfL offered grants of hundreds of thousands of pounds and the priorities for spending that money were road safety and implementing schemes which saved lives. Mr Culverwell then asked if there were any questions.

Mrs Whitley of Lakeswood Road asked how she could get a quick response if somebody parked across her driveway. Mr Culverwell said that Bromley had a Parking Enforcement Request form online which went directly to the control room. You could request a visit by a traffic warden (Civil Enforcement Officer) to enforce a parking restriction at a specific location and they would try to respond the same day. However, the CEO had no authority to remove vehicles causing an obstruction; they should be reported to the police. Mr Culverwell added that you could register your driveway if you were continually blocked in. White lines painted across driveways were not enforceable, but they were helpful in reminding residents not to park across or close to driveways. Mr Holley of Willett Way asked about the limitations of the blue badge scheme and where it allowed you to park. Mr Culverwell said that you should not park if there were any loading restrictions, double yellow lines, on the pavement or anywhere which would cause an obstruction. He pointed out that the Council explained the rules and eligibility when someone applied for a blue badge. Mrs Waters of Crescent Drive asked what the rules were with regard to shop forecourts. Mr Culverwell said that if shopkeepers owned their forecourts they could park there and the Council could not stop them. However, Cllr Fawthrop pointed out that some forecourts were not owned by the shopkeepers, but it was not clear which. Committee member, Mr Birch, said that he had a child at Crofton Infant School and he was struck by how many parents drove their children to school, even though the catchment area for Crofton was very small. There were national campaigns on child obesity and air quality and he was concerned that parents were ignoring the benefits of walking their children to school. Mr Culverwell said that the Council was doing its best to change people's behaviour and they had had some success, but more could be done to change habits. He suggested that members challenged their schools on this subject.

Mr Powell raised the question of enforcement of double yellow lines at the exit from Station Square into Fairway, as cars continually parked there illegally, obstructing the view of motorists exiting the square. It was very dangerous and an accident waiting to happen. The committee had put forward alternative suggestions, like installing a build-out or painting shaded areas to mark the prohibited area, but the Council had dismissed them. Now that the lines had been repainted, it was most important that the regulations should be enforced, but even though the lines were clear drivers were still parking there. Mr Culverwell said that he had arrived early tonight so that he could see the problem for himself. He had seen several people park on the double yellow lines and had asked them why. Some said they had not seen the markings, but most said that they were prepared to take a chance when they were just popping into the convenience store opposite. He had checked the statistics for that section of the road and 10 tickets had been issued. However, if the CEO had been there at the right time, then more could have been issued. Mr Culverwell said that he would talk to Mr Powell to ascertain the best times to catch offenders. With regard to a build-out he agreed that it was a good idea, but there were many places in the borough where they would be helpful, but they were just too expensive. Another suggestion was the use of CCTV to catch offenders, but there were two boroughs which did not use CCTV for this purpose and Bromley was one of them.

A lady member pointed out that it was sometimes very difficult to cross the road at the junction of Willett Way, Tudor Way and Petts Wood Road. Mr Culverwell said that a few years ago the Council had looked into having a mini-roundabout there rather than a T-junction, but with Crossway being at an angle it did not fit properly. As a controlled crossing was not possible there, the suggestion was made that there should instead be a refuge at the bottom of Tudor Way by the church near the junction with Willett Way. Mr Powell thanked Mr Culverwell for attending the meeting and answering so many questions.

Petts Wood Library Mrs Jenny Hawke reported that GLL (Greenwich Leisure Ltd) had taken over the running of Bromley's libraries last year and we were fortunate in Petts Wood to have a very good team

running the library. A lot of new activities were being set up including a hard-of-hearing club and a science club, and there were many other services available like e-books and audio books. A Spine Festival had been organised for young people which was very successful. Mrs Hawke said that there were leaflets available at the back of the hall.

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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 9.15 pm.