



EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

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MINUTES OF THE 29th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT ST. BARNABAS CHURCH HALL, EMMER GREEN ON WEDNESDAY, 10th APRIL, 2013

The meeting was chaired by Mrs Margaret Ormonde. She welcomed everyone for coming on such a rainy evening. The chairman then introduced Chris Butlin of 89th Reading Scouts who was the guest speaker.

1. APOLOGIES

Elaine Cooley, Noreen and Eddy Hooper, David and Marianna Miles, Glenys and George Pritchard, Sally Judge, Vera Bodman, Doris Hiscox, May Smith and Ben Cosh.

2. THE MINUTES OF THE AGM

Minutes of the AGM meeting in May 2012 had been circulated and it was agreed they were an accurate record of the proceedings. They were signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Barry Prior told the meeting that now the waymarks are complete, we are just waiting for agreement regarding the posts and response from Friends of Clayfield Copse. We will provide the timber for the fitting and Reading Borough Council will provide the labour. It is hoped that the waymarks will be in place by the summer. They were on display at the AGM and all were invited to view them.

He then went on to invite anyone interested, to go to an organized visit to Mapledurham House, garden and watermill. It had been arranged for June 13, 2013, at 2pm. The entrance price would be £9.25 per person, paid in advance. Everyone would make their own way, but as with the trip to the Police Museum last year, car share could be arranged as it worked well.

Bill Harper spoke briefly about a proposal to have more email networking, allowing smaller, like-minded groups or sub-committees to discuss issues of their particular interest. These could be then carried forward to the committee for further consideration. In the present day with computers and email, it would cut the time down needed for face to face meetings.

There are still a couple of places available on the committee and any volunteers would be welcome. It was stressed that any volunteers are welcome, on or off the committee. It was felt that sometimes people want to help but do not want to serve on a committee and there are lots of ways to get involved with EGRA.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The chairman gave her report. Copies of her report had already been circulated to all members and they are also available on the Association's website www.egra.co.uk. She spoke about the highly successful Jubilee Party in the Park. She thanked all the helpers.

Membership stands at about 500 households at present. The more members we have the stronger the voice.

We have two new committee members who have volunteered. We are particularly seeking a volunteer as Membership Secretary. Jasmine Waters gallantly stepped in to manage the membership arrangements temporarily, but we need to have someone to take over this important post. The chairman thanked Jasmine.

When the chairman had concluded her report, Barry Prior stood to ask the members present, to show their appreciation for all the work that our chairman Margaret Ormonde does, publicly and behind the scenes. The organisation would be the poorer without her. There was unanimous applause.

5. ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Harper, our treasurer, had circulated the annual update of accounts.

We still hold monies on behalf of Courtnay Drive Blossom Trees. EGRA likes to support and help local initiatives.

He thanked our auditor Janette Joyce.

Adoption of the accounts.

Proposer: John Barclay

Seconder: Diana Hartrup

6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE, OFFICERS AND AUDITOR

The committee members had all agreed to stand for another year and there were two new members, Linda Glithro and Mark Hutchings.

Proposer: Annette Hendry

Seconder: Clive Ormonde

The chairman thanked the committee for their hard work throughout the year and also our auditor Janette Joyce. She then thanked Clive Ormonde for all his work on our website and automation of the database.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Richard Willis asked to address the meeting. He said that the subject that comes up the most locally is the road potholes and general surface condition. It is planned to repair the potholes shortly in Rotherfield Way, Southdown Road, Old Peppard Road, Grove Road and Surley Row. The reserve scheme is for St. Barnabas Road.

Footpaths for consideration are Yarnton Close, The Ridings and Russett Glade.

Views were invited about the proposed scheme to cone off part of Reading Bridge for a cycleway. It is planned to take place between Easter and Whitsun.

Helen Lambert of CADRA then stood to thank EGRA for the continued co-operation shown to their organisation. The support between the two groups was invaluable.

The chairman then invited the members present, to stay for refreshments at the end, with thanks to the ladies who had organised the food and drink. Also thanks to St. Barnabas Church, for the use of the hall for our meeting.

She then introduced Chris Butlin of 89th Reading Scouts who went on to give a fascinating presentation about the Scouting Movement and in particular their premises that have mines beneath. Chris introduced two senior scouts that had come along with him to answer any questions that anyone might have. Their group is in the fortunate position of having a very good site that they own, and with support from various organisations are in a position to plan improvements and to expand their site. The talk and visual show was enjoyed by all and with a warm round of applause at the end

Margaret Ormonde thanked Chris Butlin and his senior scouts for coming and making the presentation so entertaining and interesting.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9.30pm.