

MINUTES OF THE 30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, OF EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION. HELD AT ST. BARNABAS CHURCH HALL, EMMER GREEN, APRIL 10th, 2014

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm with the cutting of the 30th Anniversary celebration cake, followed by refreshments from the Mapledurham recipe book written by the miller's wife, Jane. Wine and soft drinks were also served. The celebration cake was made by a family member of one of the committee and was decorated with the EGRA logo. It was a special time to recognise the 30 years of worthwhile contributions by so many, in support of our community.

The chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. There was a very good attendance. She also welcomed Corry Starling who is the miller at Mapledurham House and was to be our speaker for the evening.

APOLOGIES

Vicki Abel, Liz Lyke, David Childs, Douglas Rae, Helen Lambert (CADRA) and Judith Barratt.

MINUTES OF 2013 AGM

The minutes of the last AGM had been distributed beforehand and were accepted as a true record.

Proposed by Bob Cruikshank

Seconded by Barry Prior

MATTERS ARISING

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The chairman gave her report. The report had already been circulated and details of the report can be accessed on the website www.egra.co.uk

She spoke of the many achievements this last year and thanked everyone involved. She particularly wanted to thank the committee members for their commitment and thanked also those who had stood down for personal reasons, Vanessa Cozens and Jasmine Waters. She welcomed Liz Lyke who had joined the committee and took over as membership secretary from Jasmine Waters, who had moved away. She thanked the many helpers both on and off the committee and also the committee members' partners for their support, not least her husband, Clive who is our website guru and photographer. We are currently working on a reduced committee and would welcome new members both on and off the committee. Thanks also to our auditor Janette Joyce. It is a fact that without all this support, the committee could not function. Margaret went on to say that our aim is to share information, promote relevant meetings and events and to represent the views of our members in a fair and balanced way. We continue to work closely with neighbouring associations such as CADRA.

We have a membership of approximately 500 at present and urge our members to tell their neighbours about the association and volunteers would be very welcome.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Harper, our treasurer had circulated his report and it showed that we are in a healthy financial position. He said that there was a small account held for the residents of Brooklyn Drive, Burnham Rise and Courtenay Drive. They had planted trees at the end of 2012 and the purchase paid for in 2013. The small balance held relates to Burnham Rise and has been retained for a possible future purchase. The report was signed off by Janette Joyce ACA.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The chairman once again thanked retiring members and said that the remaining committee were prepared to stand and were therefore voted for unanimously, en bloc.

Proposed by Eve Brown

Seconded by Jill Verran

The next committee meeting is to be held on May 1st, 2014 and any topics raised will be discussed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The chairman then invited questions from the floor.

Eve Brown raised the subject of the uneven paving outside the precinct. Cllr. Mark Ralph's response was, that this was an expensive matter. The members present were very grateful to Mr Karim Rashid for his efforts in renewing the surface of the car park. It is now a pleasure to drive there after so long avoiding the dangerous potholes. He has promised to repair the loose slabs but no money is currently available for the entire area to be replaced. He promised to chase things up when possible. Cllr. Jane Stanford-Beale spoke about the safety scheme proposal for Rotherfield Way/Surley Row. There had long been concern about the safety of pedestrians crossing over Rotherfield Way, north of the junction with Surley Row. The Conservative councillors had been lobbying for some time to get a scheme that would make the road safer and the good news is, that Council Transport Officers have now designed a draft scheme and await comments from councillors. Residents comments would be welcome.

The chairman invited Linda Glithro to speak about the Wilfred Owen celebrations.

Linda introduced herself as treasurer of the Dunsden Owen Association and explained that Wilfred Owen was lay assistant at All Saints, Dunsden before WW1, from 1911 - 13 and the group have formed to publicise his time and connections with the local area and to promote his poetry through a series of events from now through to 2018. A Wilfred Owen trail, which includes the house in Emmer Green where Owen's parents lived, will go live on November 9th this year and will be available both as a smart phone app and as a leaflet. A vigil concert, featuring A440 choir, will take place at All Saints, late evening on August 4th, the evening Britain declared war. There will be an exhibition at Dunsden Village Hall and a series of events during Remembrance Sunday weekend, 9 - 11 November. A further aim of the association is to make social links with Ors, the village in northern France where Owen died. Trips to and from Ors have already taken place and more are planned for the future. Full details of all activities and events can be found on the association's website, www.owenindunsden.org. Linda closed by telling the meeting about the Heritage Lottery Grant of £22,000 that the Dunsden Association has been awarded to achieve this.

The formal part of the proceedings then completed, the chairman introduced our speaker Corry Starling. He is the miller at Mapledurham along with the support of his wife.

He gave an excellent talk with slides. They had had a dreadful winter with the flooding and had been unable to open to the public until Easter. He spoke in an entertaining, informative, amusing and interesting manner. He was charismatic and clearly passionate about his mill and said that he is completely self-taught. The audience were very attentive and Corry invited questions. He was given a sincere round of applause at the end of his presentation. The chairman thanked him.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9.30pm