

Highams

Residents' Association

Founded in 1955 for the residents of The Highams Estate



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES of the **SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)** of the Association held on **TUESDAY 16TH APRIL 2019** in the Woodford Rugby Club Pavilion, High Road, Woodford Green, IG8 9LB

Present:

Committee members and approximately 25 other members.

Apologies:

Sinead Morgan, Maggie Pyne

The Chairman, David Jennings, opened the meeting at 8pm.

1. Minutes:

The adoption of the minutes of the sixty-third AGM was proposed and carried unanimously. A copy of the Minutes as well as other information on the HRA are available on the HRA website <http://www.highamsra.org.uk/Home/newsletters.html>

2. Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer, Andy Kotas, presented audited accounts up to 31st December 2018. Copies were distributed to the audience for reference. Highlights as follows:

- a) A small increase in Subscriptions and donations year on year (circa £130).
- b) London Borough of Redbridge (LBR) has yet to pay its £10 rent (fee) for access to the Ransom Strip - The Ransom Strip is the narrow strip between The Charter Road and Woodford County High School's boundary. This was discussed in detail in the room as everyone felt it was important to chase LBR for the funds. The funds themselves are not important but the HRA has a Legal Agreement with LBR. In summary, LBR pays a fee for access to the Ransom Strip, but its access is restricted to Emergency Vehicles only.
- c) Main expenses accounted for the Website hosting costs and event fees (AGM, Tea Party).
- d) An Area of Special Character Sign was commissioned in 2018 but has yet to be completed. Work and cost to date £56; the Chairman is unhappy with the draft design and will follow up with changes in the coming months.

3. The Chairman's Report:

The chairman, David Jennings, addressed a number of topics:

- **2 The Charter Road – The application to demolish the existing dwelling and build a block of flats is ongoing.** The case was rejected by the Waltham Forest

Planning Committee and was now being appealed to the Secretary of State. Members were invited to voice their concerns to the Planning Inspectorate accordingly.

- **Conservation Status and Article 4** - The Committee's application for the Estate to receive Conservation Status for the Highams Estate was rejected but there was still interest in pursuing Article 4. Article 4 directions are designations a local authority can introduce to remove permitted development rights. This means you'll need planning permission for developments (or changes of use) that wouldn't normally be required under national planning policy. It should be noted that if approved it would take over 12 months to be officially enforced.
- The area continues to enjoy lower crime levels than other London neighbourhoods but residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.
- **Upcoming Events** - Two upcoming events were announced:
 - a) A Spring Clean has been organised in association with LB of Waltham Forest on Saturday 27th April. All volunteers to meet at 10am outside 7 Nesta Road. Gloves and bags to be provided. A number of volunteers had already come forward and there was a possibility of a local Scout group helping out too.
 - b) **Annual Tea Party** – 12th May, 3pm – 5pm at the Woodford Rugby Club. This is a free, fun, family event and everyone was encouraged to attend. A flyer with details will be distributed soon.

4. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The Chairman welcomed Lena Fox to the Committee and the new Committee Members were proposed:

- Chairman: David Jennings.
- Secretary: Lena Fox
- Treasurer: Andy Kotas
- Membership secretary: Ian Hill
- Planning Advisor: Fiona Merrick
- Trustees Representative: Jill Carter
- Communications: Sinéad Morgan
- General: Malcolm Billingsley, Cliff Dewin

All of the above officers were proposed and seconded and passed unanimously.

It was announced that Fiona will be resigning from her position in the next few months, so we will be seeking a new Planning Advisor. The Committee and all Members expressed their thanks for all the hard work that Fiona and Jerry had invested in the HRA.

5. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts

Mr Ivan Carter of Keynsham Avenue was again proposed as the Independent Examiner of the accounts and his election was seconded.

6. Any Other Business

- One resident raised concerns over the lack of street sweepers in the area. The Chairman will bring this up to the Council.
- There was also a concern over replacement of trees and this too was going to be raised with the Council.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.45pm.
