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Northwood Hills Residents' Association

Minutes of the 78th Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 25th May 2016, 7:30pm

At Harlyn School

PRESENT

A total of 60+ residents and visitors attended the meeting and were warmly welcomed by Tony Lane, the President. The Neighbourhood Watch group were thanked for attending the meeting, providing advice and useful items to use in Crime Prevention.

1) Award Winning Presentation - Cyber Crime

Doug Dewey from the Metropolitan Police introduced the Police Cadets who gave an excellent and very informative talk on Cyber Crime Prevention. They kindly left a number of items for the residents to use as reminders for Crime Prevention and then had to leave promptly to give another presentation at another meeting.

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Joan and Terry Butfield, Anila Hashim and Jonathan Bianco

3) President's Opening Address

Professor Tony Lane, President, thanked the committee and the Road Stewards for all their hard work, especially the Chairman. The Christmas Lights switch-on event, having to be moved inside to Fairfield due to bad weather, had been a particularly taxing time for those involved but he was pleased to note that the donations to charity had still been maintained. The President urged residents to come forward to offer whatever time they could to help spread the load of the volunteer committee members.

4) Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 20th May 2015

Approved.

5) Matters Arising

None.

6) Chairman's Report

The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to all present. He agreed with the President that the last 12 months was extremely busy.

May and October 2015 saw the Clean-up days, focusing on the centre of Northwood Hills in the new NHRA branded Yellow tabards. Two large rubbish bags were collected just from the hedge by the bus stop in Pinner Road near NISA alone. Thanks were extended to Graham Mann who did much of the organizing, and to Cllr Duncan Flynn who liaised with the Councils Cleansing Department to arrange for the rubbish bags to be collected.

September and March saw the production of our bi annual newsletter The Hills Echo, at 60 pages, a better description is a magazine. It really is the envy of other local Residents Associations. Particular thanks go to Alan Lester who not only did the editing and setting but also sold all the advertising space. Thanks too to Maxine Goswell and Trevor Dixon who organized the bagging up and quick distribution of The Echo to our Road Stewards.

Our Road Stewards are very important to the Association - they act as our ears and eyes. To support them in a world where people of all age groups are looking to use additional payment and collection channels, we are now able to accept membership subscriptions by electronic banking. We are watching carefully a proposed experiment by Ruislip Residents Association which is looking to collect 2 yearly subscriptions by Direct Debit. Despite this, Road Stewards are here to stay, indeed, we need many more!

The November Grand Christmas Lights Switch On event, due to bad weather was moved at short notice to Fairfield Church. While we are extremely grateful to Fairfield, the event has now grown to a size that in future years in the event of bad weather we will have to cancel. H&S has to be our number 1 priority. As our President said earlier we raised £300 for charity, but more importantly 60% of the shops and businesses in Joel Street generously donated a prize for the Tombola. Thanks to Jane and Terry Clayfield who work tirelessly to obtain the Prizes. The William Joelle donated the Mulled Cider and Tesco chipped in with 700 Mince Pies and let's not forget the contributions of St John's School who donated the Christmas tree and people such as Steve Rodgers who gives up the whole day to ensure the sound for the event is perfect. It really is a great event which is only possible because numerous people, too many to name, in front of house and behind the scenes, give their time freely.

In January we were approached by Inspector Rob Bryan to take part in one of a number of experiments across Hillingdon to see if we could help make better use of Police time by co-opting the Ward Panel Meetings into our Committee Meetings. We are now two months into a trial and while no decision has been taken early signs are encouraging.

In February we held our Annual Thank You supper at Fairfield. It was pleasing that over 85 people attended this informal evening. The highlight of the evening was the

surprise arrival of a choir who were rehearsing in one of the rooms above the function, who came down stairs and performed 2 unaccompanied songs.

Planning is ongoing throughout the year. Across Hillingdon the Council dealt with 25% more Planning Applications than in 2014 and a similar increase was seen in Northwood Hills Ward. We certainly are not against the principle of people extending private or business premises but this has to be done in such a way that it does not have a detrimental impact on areas of Special Character such as the Hillside (there are other areas of special character) and I am sure none of us want to see Northwood Hills turn into an area of Beds in a Shed.

We had some notable Planning wins this year. We successfully opposed an underground basement development in Tolcarne Drive, we successfully opposed an application to add a floor to the building above the shops between Cartridge World and Nails and Co and also successfully opposed a residential development behind the Car Audio/CarpetStyle shops. Planning is an area we certainly need additional help with, so if you have any skills or interest, please don't go this evening without introducing yourself.

Many of your Committee are also members of other Committees for instance, The Police Ward Panel, The Metropolitan Line User group, Community Voice, Ruislip Lido and Ruislip Woods Management Advisory Groups and many more. And there are others who donate their time freely to support the Eastcote House Gardens and The Long Meadow volunteers. I for one believe the difference those volunteers have made over a number years deserves a lot of merit.

I was hoping that Nick Hurd may have been able to attend tonight to give an update on the efforts we are making on the Northwood & Pinner Hospital Site, I know a lot of you will have signed the petition last December but all I can say at the moment is Nick is about to discuss the issue with The Secretary of State as he shares our view that it is important to preserve this site for health related use. For those who are not aware, the site was purchased by local subscription and all the costs including staff and upkeep were paid for by the Community right up to 1948 when it was merged into the new National Health Service.

We have been working on the Picnic In The Park with members of Northwood Residents Association, under the chairmanship of Leo Mindel since last September. You can see there is a lot happening but I can't stress this strongly enough, we do need other people to volunteer to help us share some of the work load. You can see on the agenda we have a number of specific roles that need to be filled but don't let that stop you if you can only spare say 2 hours a month - we guarantee we will find you something to do that will make a difference. All you need to do is speak to one of us before you leave tonight.

Thank you for listening. It has been great working with the Committee over the last 12 months. Thank you to the team.

7) Hon. Treasurer's Report

FM presented the accounts which were then proposed and accepted by the meeting.

FM was thanked for all her work in managing the accounts throughout the year.

8) Election of Officers

The Chairman was saddened to report the very recent deaths of our 2 Vice Presidents, Erika Kimber and Lishman Easby.

The officers and committee members as below were nominated and seconded by various residents present.

a) Election of President

Position	Current Committee Member	Committee's Nominations
President	Tony Lane	Tony Lane

b) Election of Chairman

Position	Current Committee Member	Committee's Nominations
Chairman	Andrew Riley ACIB	Andrew Riley ACIB

c) Election of Vice Chairman

Position	Current Committee Member	Committee's Nominations
Vice Chairman	Leo Mindel	Leo Mindel

d) Election of Committee (as a whole)

Position	Current Committee Member	Committee's Nominations
Vice Presidents	Erika Kimber, Lishman Easby	
Hon. Secretary	Trevor Dixon	Trevor Dixon
Minutes Secretary	Maxine Goswell	Maxine Goswell
Hon. Treasurer	Fiona Morgan FCCA	Fiona Morgan FCCA
Hon. Auditor	Jane Bearman ACMA	Jane Bearman ACMA
Transport Officer	Herbert Levinger	Herbert Levinger
Planning Officer	Anila Hashim	Vacant
Press Officer	Andrew Riley ACIB	Vacant
Environment Officer/Consultant	Lesley Crowcroft - (Consultant)	Lesley Crowcroft - (Consultant)
Police Ward Panel	N/A	Herbert Levinger
Health Officer	Herbert Levinger and (co-opted) Joan Butfield	Herbert Levinger and Joan Butfield
Quartermaster	Vacant	Vacant
Road Steward Co-ordinator	Vacant	Vacant
Shops & Businesses Liaison	Trevor Dixon	Vacant
Schools Liaison	Vacant	Vacant

Editor of The Hills Echo	Alan Lester	Alan Lester
Advertising Manager	Vacant	Vacant
Web Master	Ray Krystofiak	Ray Krystofiak
Social Media Manager	Vacant	Vacant
Events Committee	Lynne Halse, Christine Bushell, Leo Mindel	Lynne Halse, Leo Mindel, Keith Blunden
Committee Members	Jane Clayfield, Lynn Ives, Lucy Hall, Andrew Retter Graham Mann, Jan Choopani (co-opted)	Jane Clayfield, Andrew Retter, Graham Mann, Jan Choopani, Anila Hashim

9) The Association's Logo

Maxine Goswell introduced the new logo, as agreed by the Committee and explained that it represents the 3 hills of Northwood Hills - Haste Hill, Pinner Hill and the Hogs Back, just as the old logo had, but also incorporates trees and houses in a newer design.

10) Inspector Rob Bryan - Hillingdon Borough Metropolitan Police

Inspector Bryan gave an update on activity within the 9 wards he covers in the North of the Borough. Burglary will always be with us, but residents are encouraged to consider crime prevention seriously, start Neighbourhood Watches and use Smart Water if it is offered. Communication with the police is now improved, a Twitter account is available. Lastly, he urged those owners of high value cars to use a 'crooklock' as well as the electronic locking devices fitted by the manufacturers, as thieves were always finding ways to disable the electronics.

11) Question Time

Prior to question time, Councillor Duncan Flynn explained about the parking stress test which had recently been carried out as a result of the Controlled Parking Zone Petition and Counter petition. Results would be available in a few weeks and these would be posted on the Council Website and forwarded to the NHRA for posting on its website. The NHRA would send out an email to members with the details.

Questions received from the floor were answered by Inspector Rob Bryan and ward councillors Duncan Flynn & John Morgan. Some of these included:

- Double yellow line requested at corner of Briarwood and Pinner Road
- A keep clear advisory box at the roundabout at the top of Joel St

12) President's Closing Remarks

The President thanked all present for attending. Meeting closed at 9.30.

Forthcoming Events - Please Mark Your Diaries

Eastcote House Gardens Picnic - Saturday 4th June 11am-4pm

Music & Picnic in the Park - HM Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration, Sunday 12th June on Northwood Recreational Ground 2 pm to 6pm. There will be

entertainment taking us on an musical extravaganza

Northwood Hills Clean Up Day - Saturday 8th October (tbc) Come at help us keep Northwood Hills Clean and Tidy. Meet at Northwood Hills Station at 10:30.

Grand Christmas Lights Switch On Event - Saturday 19th November.