

Copthorne Residents' Society

**Annual General Meeting
Saturday 3rd February 2024 7.30 p.m.
All Saints' Church Hall**

Minutes (Draft)

1 Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 The Chair (Joe Watts) welcomed all to the AGM
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Monod (#65 CR), Pike (#16 CR), Matthews (#5U) Collins (#61CR) Larkworthy (#15CR) and Simpson (#61CR)
- 1.3 On behalf of the committee condolences were expressed for the sad deaths of Helen Harris (#35) and John Rhodes (#71a) CR.
- 1.4 A welcome, as always, to any new residents of the road.
- 1.5 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th January 2023 and copies were available to all at this evening's meeting. Thanks to Hasmita Bheda for the e mail circulation prior to the meeting. There being no corrections, they were proposed for approval by Rob Williams and Seconded by Gordon Ross and approved by all those present.
- 1.6 The agenda was to follow the format below and there were no raised any items for any other business.
 - Minutes of AGM 2023
 - Executive committee report and matters arising from Chair Joe Watts
 - Financial report from our Treasurer Fred Cleary to include
 - a. Finances 2023 and b. Subscriptions for 2024-5
 - Options for the Society
 - Social Events
 - Neighbourhood Watch – Update from Richard Saunders
 - Executive Committee Election – retirements (3) by rotation and (re) – elections and other nominations to join
 - Photo Quiz
 - Climate change- what does it mean for Copthorne Road- a short discussion to be introduced by Andrew Gallagher

2 Minutes of AGM 2023

- 2.1 Copies of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th January 2023 were available to all at this evening's meeting. Thanks to Hasmita Bheda for the e mail circulation prior to the meeting. There being no corrections, they were proposed for approval by Rob Williams and Seconded by Gordon Ross and approved by all those present.

3. Executive Committee Report and matters arising including

- 3.1 The Chair presented the committee report which had been made available to all houses with the notice of this evening's meeting by e-mail.
- 3.2 Joe introduced the current members of the Executive committee (E C) and their roles: Joe Watts (Chair); Fred Cleary (Treasurer); Sally Williams (Secretary); Linda Coles (website); Jim Forder (road matters); Gordon Ross (wine evenings) Hasmita Bheda (IT & open gardens), Kirsti Eraneva Dibb (open gardens), Jas Bassan and Mike & Melisa Collins.
- 3.3 The committee had met 6 times this last year.
- 3.4 The new lines had been repainted in August with Thanks to Jim Forder for organising the work.
- 3.4 There had been some trees which had fallen into the road, thanks were given to those neighbours who helped clear the road. It is important to note that individuals are responsible for the trees on their own property and should seek to ensure they are maintained in good order. This is not a Society responsibility.
- 3.5 A reminder that there is now a Considerate Contractors document on the website to help anyone involved in building work to remain good neighbours.
- 3.6 The committee will continue to pursue the agreed policy of upholding covenants should such matters arise.
- 3.7 During the year there had been the Coronation Street party and Wine and Cheese evening and open gardens.

The chair requested that subscriptions should be paid electronically and that would be much appreciated.

4. Financial Report from Fred Cleary including

4.1 Finances for 2023

- 4.1.1 The Treasurer (Fred Cleary) had prepared and presented the report which was circulated in the meeting. The subscription was £75.
On average 86 households paid.
- 4.1.2 There is a surplus of just under £2160 on the year. Expenses included: PI insurance for the private street, drain cleaning and renewal of road markings including the double yellow lines onto the green which had made turning into the road somewhat safer. Funds on Hand were £53,603
- 4.1.3 There was a discussion about looking for low risk items in which to invest the fund to reduce the erosion by inflation.

4.2 Setting of Subscriptions for 2023

- 4.2.1 Fred Cleary explained that the projections circulated at the meeting made predictions going forward to a resurfacing date of 2035. A figure of £200K was predicted for next resurfacing.
- 4.2.2 Greg Hill suggested disaggregation of the road repairing obligations from the society membership and suggested that this may result in more direct payment of lump sums for the work as required by the covenants. Together with face to face contact.

- 4.2.3 Graham Dibb suggested legal advice should be sought on whether invoicing was possible.
- 4.2.4 The committee proposed the subscription for 2024 be kept at £75 but after a vote it was approved by a vote of 14 to 6 with 1 abstention to raise the subscription to **£85**
- 4.2.5 The Treasurer was thanked for his report.
(Post minute note) The chair requested that subscriptions should be paid electronically and that would be much appreciated.

5. The Trustees

- 5.1 The society began the year with three Trustees: John Rhodes, Andrew Gallagher and Mark Clare. The committee is grateful for their continued support. In November we were very sad to learn of the death of John Rhodes. John was a lovely, gentle man who gave a lot of time and very wise advice to the Society over the years. We miss him very much and offer our condolences and very best wishes to John's wife Ann.
- 5.2 Joe indicated that Ideally, we will look to recruit two new trustees in 2024. But John's death has raised some questions as to the future constitution of the Society. If anyone would be interested in this role, please contact the chair for information.

6. Options for the Society

- 6.1 Joe Watts explained that the Society last revised the rule of membership in 2020. This was an item for consideration not a proposal for this meeting. As a Society we may need to consider whether a society with a trustee structure is the most appropriate structure for the future.
Joe explained that many similar bodies are moving away from a trustee structure – partially due to the perceived risks of personal liability that might arise, despite the important legal and 3rd party liability insurance that we hold and the other mitigations we have in place by maintaining a good quality and well signed road. Alternative models **may** include being a Limited Liability Company or a Community Interest Company
Community Benefit Society
- 6.2 Andrew Gallagher as a current trustee said he was content with the structure.
- 6.3 Joe proposed that we investigate the options during the year and asked if there was any expertise in the road on these matters to please get in touch. With the Executive Committee.

7. Social Events

- 7.1 The Coronation street party, open gardens and wine evening were successful.
- 7.2 There are currently no plans for events in 2024. The meeting was asked if there was an appetite for these events and it was agreed that with the make up of the road more children-friendly events would be appreciated. The open gardens events were also appreciated.

8. Neighbourhood Watch

- 8.1 The committee are very grateful for Richard Saunders continued support. He reported that we are fortunate to live in a relatively safe area. There are 14500 households signed up to the neighbourhood watch scheme. In December 2023 there had been 200 crimes reported in the area, but these span lots of different types. Most are associated with M and S and Waitrose, the BP garage with failures to pay for fuel. The tube stations have crime associated with them too. A stop and

search in October found 4 weapons. There were 2 burglaries last year one in Windmill Drive.

Generally, the advice is to watch out for anti-social behaviour in the footpaths and alleyways, microchip dogs in case of theft, watch out for scams online.

9. Executive Committee

9.1 At the end of this year, and in accordance with the Rules of the Society, 3 members (Linda, Hasmita and Kirsti) will stand down and intend to stand for re-election. Melisa Collins is also standing down (and we thank her for her past support. Andrew Gallagher proposed the re-election of Kirsti, Hasmita and Linda, which was seconded by Richard Saunders. This was approved unanimously.

9.2 Joe Watts requested that if there were any other volunteers to please come forward, especially new residents.

10. Photo Quiz

10.1 Thanks to photographer Jim Forder and Linda Coles for printing images of Croxley Green.

11. Climate Change

11.1 Andrew Gallagher gave a thought-provoking talk about the effect of Climate change on Copthorne Road.

12. Any other business

12.1 There being no other business, Joe closed the meeting with thanks to the Trustees, the Committee and to all the members without whom there wouldn't be a society.

12.2 Date of next AGM to be agreed, a suggestion for a midweek to see if more members would be available was made by Greg Hill.