

HOLCOMBE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 31st March 2022

1. Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed people to the AGM, including a number of new members and the Mayor of Dawlish. He noted that Jasmine Dawkins had sadly died earlier in the week – she was a former Chair of the Association and was also prominent in the Gardening Club.

2. Apologies.

Twenty-two members gave their apologies for not being able to attend.

3. Chairman's report.

Dave Beavis said that this would be his last report as under the Constitution, a new Chair was required every three years. The last two years had been difficult for everyone but he was pleased that the Association was able to hold its first meeting since the pandemic and hoped for better times ahead. He was also able to report that the Association was in good shape both in terms of membership and finances. “Normal” activities had resumed and various projects that would benefit the village and the area more generally were coming to fruition e.g. SWWRP, better broadband. He wished his successor well and thanked the Committee for its support during his tenure.

4. Presentation of accounts.

Copies of the accounts were available which showed a deficit of around £300 for 2021. This was not surprising given that we were not able to collect subs from people paying cash last year. The main expenditure was a new case for the defibrillator which was jointly paid for by the Village Hall. Following the cream tea held last summer, a donation of £350 was made to two charities (AIMS and Children’s Hospice SW). The bank balance stood at around £3.3k at the year end and was now in excess of £4k following receipt of this year’s subs (including those members who kindly paid for last year as well).

5. Appointment of financial examiner.

Noel Fray was re-elected as our financial examiner.

6. Election of committee for the coming year.

A small presentation was made to John Bromley who is standing down from the Committee – he has been on the Committee for 15 years including a stint as Chair. Two new members had put their names forward for election, Bernard Wilson and Jo Clay. All other members of the existing committee members were also willing to continue (Andy Watson, John Evans, Alan Partridge, Dave Dawson, Dave Beavis, Earl Connolly, Peter Wilson, Alex Castell and Colin Eversett). These people were elected en bloc.

7. AOB, Questions and comments by members.

Queens Platinum Jubilee – a bring and share lunch would be held in the Village on Saturday 4 June, involving the Village Hall and St George's Church. An outline of the event had been included in the April Newsletter and further details would be set out nearer the time. Everyone was encouraged to attend.

Better Broadband – for those in the Village who do not enjoy decent broadband speeds, it now appears that a number of different options will be available shortly. These have been set out in the most recent edition of the Newsletter. It was noted that whilst many people were looking forward to improved services, others were concerned about the disruption and the impact of additional infrastructure e.g. new telegraph poles and wires.

Ukraine – The Chair of the Village Hall Committee was liaising with a person in Dawlish who was co-ordinating the areas efforts to support Ukrainian refugees. It was possible that storage facilities could be offered at the hall to house larger items that may be required for people taking in families e.g. beds, mattresses.

Beach Access – A member reported that he had been in discussion with Network Rail on two issues. First, new hand rails for the steps leading down from the sea wall to the beach as the current ones were too short. And second, a ramp access for people with disabilities from the bottom of Smugglers Lane to the beach (under the bridge). It was likely the first issue would be addressed because of health and safety issues and the feasibility of the second was being assessed. The member was commended for his efforts.

Smugglers Lane – A member raised concern about the water pipe at the bottom of Smugglers Lane where the stream goes under the road and on to the beach. She noted that there was no grill / grate on the pipe which could be dangerous if children were playing in the area. It was agreed that the Association would look into this and contact the relevant authority (probably South West Water).

Membership – In response to a question, the Membership Secretary reported that we had 376 members which included 24 new members (6 from St George's Lane).

New Village Hall Play Area – This was still under consideration by the Village Hall Committee. There were health and safety and safeguarding issues that had to be resolved.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed

Date