

Sanderstead Residents Association

Minutes of the 90th AGM at All Saints Hall on Thursday 28th April 2016

1. Welcome.

The Chairman Dennis King welcomed over 60 members of the SRA to the AGM. He commented on the happy conjunction of our 90th Anniversary with the Queens 90th birthday celebrations, which would be celebrated at the end of the evening.

2. Apologies received.

Cllr J Perry, Sylvia Moyes, Stanley Lowry, Ann and Michael Turner.

3. Minutes of the last AGM of the 14th May 2015

The minutes, which had been circulated were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

4. Secretary's Report.

The Secretary's report, which had been circulated was presented by Mike Leach. He commented specifically on the downgrading of Croham Hurst and Sanderstead Plantation and also the existing status of West Hill. These were most unwelcome and in the case of West Hill had already encouraged proposals for new development.

The pressure from the local council for housing, especially affordable housing, was putting pressure on development, often inappropriate, in our green and pleasant local environment.

A number of major planning developments were discussed..

These included Kens Auto and the Lidl development – both at Hamsey Green.

Also Norman Avenue, 105 – 107 Purley Downs Road, McCarthy and Stone in Addington Road. Onslow Gardens and 56 West Hill.

The council were investigating a revised operation at the Library which would include the use of volunteers. Members were encouraged to participate in the questionnaire.

Positively, the new Notice Boards were in operation and extensive canvassing had produced over 50 new members in the last year. The quality of the Sanderstead News was at an all-time high with many more pages devoted to Youth Activities. Grants were made to Neighbourhood Care, Neighbourhood Watch, Selsdon Little League and Hamsey Green Scout Group in 2016, giving a total of over £20,000 in the last few years to the young, old and Friends of our open spaces.

Mike Leach concluded by thanking the Councillors, the Chairman and Committee members for their energetic support in 2016.

5. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer John Kempself presented the accounts which had been previously circulated. The finances were stable with advertising revenue covering our two editions of the SRA News. Interest on our deposit accounts is currently only 1% but admin costs are steady. A cost for the new Notice Boards was identified.

We now have over 900 members with the circulation of the SRA News also to Library, Station etc giving wide exposure.

The surplus for the year was circa £44k.

Thanks were expressed to our Honorary Auditor Indrani Balanchandran. Presentation of the accounts was approved by the meeting.

6. Poem for the Queen.

Joy Gadsby introduced the competition designed to salute the Queen's 90th Birthday.

The winner, Glenda Dodoo, then read out her poem which was enthusiastically received. She was then presented with her winners award by Chris Philp M.P.

7. Chris Philp MP

Chris Philp made a presentation on this first year as our MP. He outlined his work at the House of Commons concentrating on Business matters, the Minimum Wage and Housing and Planning. He supported plans for increased housing but this should not be on the Green Belt.

He outlined the poor service on Southern Railway with only 82% punctuality and overcrowding etc. He would lobby for substantial improvements or would press for the loss of the Franchise. Engineering was needed to improve capacity in the East Croydon area but this would be expensive.

After extensive lobbying the Minor Injury Unit at Purley Hospital, currently only open in the morning, would be open all day from April 2017 with doctors referrals to X Ray being available.

The proposal of a 17 storey skyscraper in Purley was totally out of keeping with the local environment and would be vigorously opposed.

Finally he endorsed the SRA view that our area should continue to be a green and peaceful area to live, with family accommodation and values to the fore.

8. Web Site.

Our Webmaster Corrie Hibberd presented an update on our new website. It now included a Library Link and a form for subscriptions. We are obtaining approximately 50 hits per week. Information being posted is mainly news and events.

There are also pages for the Directory of Societies, Advertisers and a Police News Page.

9. Steve O'Connell (GLA member for Croydon and Sutton)

Steve gave details of the forthcoming Mayoral election, which includes voting for GLA members and a proportional vote for additional seats by political parties.

Main issues in London were policing, transport and planning, with emphasis on preserving green belt areas. Police numbers are to be held at current levels, but this entailed the disposal of some police stations many of these surplus to requirements.

10. Hear Me Speak.

Cliff Quartly reported that this years competition is to be held at Hamsey Green Primary School on the 9th June. In response to questioning , Cliff outlined the background to the competition and the benefits to the children and their respective schools.

11.Presentation of Awards.

The Chairman then made presentations to the following:-

Mark Lord , who the SRA supported for his attendance at the Scout World Jamboree in Japan last summer, gave an account of his trip and the interesting differences in culture.

Chelsey Willis – Manager Selsdon Little League Football Team.

Mark and Chelsey received £25 book tokens for their articles in the Sanderstead News Youth Section.

Malcolm Saunders – the central grant for Neighbourhood Watch is ceasing in September requiring substantial funds to continue to operate.£500.

Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care – looking after the needs of disabled people in our community.£500.

2nd Hamsey Green Scout Group. This group under their charismatic leader –Janice Simpson – is growing strongly with a new Scout section being introduced.

£100. Towards the cost of this summers' Cubs /Scout Camp.

12.Election of Officers.

There being no new nominations the Chairman requested a show of hands to re-elect the existing committee. This was endorsed by the members.

13.Sanderstead Festival.

Cllr Lynne Hale gave a preview of the Sanderstead Festival taking place on Gruffy and in the All Saints Hall on the 18th June 2016. This was instigated by a grant to local councillors for local events, backed by the SRA and All Saints church. It was to be an Arts, Music and Drama Festival with events throughout the afternoon from 2 -6pm. In the halls there would be a series of performances, jazz, dance, choirs, Hindu dances ,theatre etc. There would also be exhibitions by Selsdon Camera Club, Wood turning on the Gruffy and an Open Day at Sanderstead Cricket Ground. Pruscillas would organise relevant catering. All events would be free.

The Festival would conclude with a Swing Band Concert evening performance with prepaid tickets.

The Festival would be heavily promoted locally in the coming weeks.

The Chairman then concluded the AGM and invited all present to toast the Society on its 90th Anniversary.