

ABOYNE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM for 2014 held at 8pm on Thursday 27th March 2014 at Aboyne Lodge Nursery School.

1. Welcome by the Chairperson

Thanked everyone for coming and spoke about the importance of the ARA. Introduced County Councillor Chris White and Councillor for the ward Michael Green.

2. Apologies for absence.

Jackie Bell, Victoria Cox, Julia Duschenes, Roy Bellamy, Jan and Barry Cropper, Simon Grover. Alec Campbell will be joining later.

MC thanked and introduced committee members and thanked Bar Meze for the generous contribution of the wine and support for the ARA.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 15th February 2013

No matters arising. Minutes agreed and seconded by Jack Pia and Peter Hawker.

4. Councillor Chris White

Gave an overview of the role of a County councillor. He represents St Peters and Clarence Ward. The county council is responsible for Highways, libraries and fire engines, and education amongst other things.

Highways are a big issue at the moment. CW has reviewed the state of some of local roads with a senior county councillor. It has been agreed that Britton Avenue should be fully resurfaced but unfortunately not until 2015/16.

5. Michael Green – Ward Councillor for the Liberal Democrats.

He has been working on planning issues and also working with the Parking Department regarding issues over late evening and Sunday parking restrictions. Both MG and CW are pressuring to get this issue to the top of the list. The councillor's presentations were followed by a lively question and answer session. Thanks were given to them both and they then left the meeting.

6. Chairperson's Report.

Spotted Bull Pub – It's become a big issue as there have over extended without permission. They have been issued with an enforcement notice. ARA will keep up the pressure and work with APRA on this.

Drovers Way – There is no affordable housing in any of the new developments within our area and no parking available. The ARA believes this is over-development. It creates strain on the whole of our infrastructure and there is a lack of a plan in St Albans. There has not been a proper plan since 1994. We have a voice and need to use it. The ARA exists to promote well-being in our area and we need a well engaged residents association working to ensure our views are listened to.

Roads and Parking - We need to lobby on the 7 day parking issue to protect residents parking.

Moving forward – Article 4 Directive – we would like to see this picked up and considered by SADC, we need good quality developments.

7) Treasure's Report – Cynthia Ireson.

Copies of the accounts are available for people to see and CI thanked the previous committee for handing over the accounts in good order.

Membership subscriptions will be held at £3 per household, and will be collected by the Street Reps. We are planning to develop a website for the ARA and this will require funding, so some of our resources will be used for such purposes.

Accounts were put forward and signed off by Nigel Gale.

MC thanked CI and Nigel Gale for all their work on the accounts and CI for leading on the organisation of the Street Reps.

8) ARA Constitution

A new updated constitution has been drawn up from the old one and with the help of NORA as a guideline to simplify and to clarify.

The boundaries have been re-drawn to make a more sensible area – this simplifies our boundaries and makes the area clearly defined.

There is no change in the structure of the committee or the general aims of the ARA. The role of the Street Reps has been clarified.

The New constitution including Boundary changes were proposed and agreed by Marjorie Byers and seconded by Jack Pia.

9) Election of Officers

Nominated for the following:

Chair: Mary Conneely

Proposer: Fiona Couper

Seconded: Andrew Dawes

Vice Chair: Andrew Dawes

Proposer: Sue Noon

Seconded: Cynthia Ireson

Treasurer: Cynthia Ireson

Proposer: Brian Benson

Seconded: Mary Conneely

Secretary: Sue Noon

Proposer: Fiona Couper

Seconded: Andrew Dawes

All the officers were duly elected.

The Vice Chair and Secretary both stated that they are happy to stand presently but would like replacements to be found within the next 6-9 months.

MC thanked all committee members and officers.

10) Appointment of Auditor

Nigel Gale appointed – Agreed by all.

11) **AOB**

Alec Campbell – District Councillor introduced himself.

The following were issues were raised:

- Is Spencer Street included in the parking investigations that will cover Zone A and B.
- Concern about the potential additional cost to residents if residential parking is extended to cover Sundays and has there been a consultation on this issue?
- There were questions raised about the value of the 'Fix My Street' website.
- Cynthia Ireson – has been lobbying the NCP about the trees in the Gombards car park – they are due to be pruned in early April.

Meeting Closed at 9.20pm with refreshments available.

No of Households represented - 23

30 people attended the meeting.