



# OWGRA

Osterley & Wyke Green Residents' Association

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Tuesday 24 May 2016, Wycombe House

Present: Basil Mann (Chairman), Kevin Gohil (Vice-Chairman), Mariam Sajjad (Secretary),  
Ian Todd (Treasurer), Colin Bell (Planning Officer).  
Guest: Tony Louki (Ward Councillor)

It is estimated that there were about 50 residents present.

### 1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman welcomed those attending the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillors Sheila O'Reilly and Peter Carey.

### 2. **Approval of Minutes of last AGM held on Tuesday 19 May 2015**

The minutes were approved (but the new committee is not in possession of them).

### 3. **Chairman's Report**

Basil Mann gave a brief introduction of the history of OWGRA and listed some of its achievements, successfully stopping part of Osterley Park being developed into a housing estate (1980s), saving Osterley Library, controlling timing and level of floodlighting on external sports facilities, and Tesco closing at 10 pm (to give residents some peace and quiet); providing funding assistance to Keep Osterley Green (KOG). He reported continued concern about the bad state of the pavements, the growth in traffic (which would escalate with the opening of two schools off Syon Lane). The committee had tried to do its best with limited resources (not enough people on the committee and lack of street reps). While collection of street refuse was excellent as was street lighting he encouraged residents to report problems directly to the authorities and not leave it to OWGRA. He said he and the committee would be standing down, that OWGRA needed new blood and more people to help with its work. He thanked the outgoing committee for its work.

David Pavett proposed a vote of thanks to those who had kept OWGRA going through its highs and lows.

### 4. **Treasurer's Report**

Ian Todd presented the accounts and explained why the accounts had not been audited (late receipt of accounts from Friends of Jersey Gardens for which Colin Hume apologised).

The main expenditure was on supporting KOG, hire of the Mulberry Centre for a concert organised by Friends of Jersey Gardens, printing and delivery of newsletters, website; there were some comments from residents that some of the expenditure seemed high eg for the website and newsletters (especially as the distribution of newsletters was patchy and unreliable).

Membership fees had been suspended for a number of years due to the healthy state of OWGRA finances (and difficulty in recruiting street reps who could collect subs), but this was questioned as to whether it was in line with the OWGRA Constitution.

There was discussion about the confusion as to whether subscriptions that had been paid were for OWGRA or the Osterley Neighbourhood Forum (ONF).  
The accounts were approved.

#### 5. **Financial Prudence**

The following motion was approved: "In order to sustain the Association's financial stability, no single campaign may be funded by more than £3.000 without approval by a Special General Meeting of the whole membership."

#### 6. **Update on Osterley Neighbourhood Forum (ONF)**

Mike Doran presented an update on the ONF:

- Neighbourhood Forums (NFs) came out of The Localism Act 2011 to put more power in the hands of local residents and businesses, to challenge undesirable local development plans, to promote appropriate development (leading to improvements in local amenities and the environment), and to draw up development plans in line with the needs and wishes of local residents and businesses.
- OWGRA had been working on setting up the ONF since 2013.
- an application to define the area for the ONF had been submitted to the Council and a decision was due in July 2016, which would be followed by the setting up of the ONF and the proposal and adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan.
- there was little support from local businesses for the ONF.

There then followed a very long discussion as to whether the ONF was or wasn't part of OWGRA, how many members there were (21, and who were they), what and how many voting rights businesses were entitled to, was there a danger that it could become a lobby group; there was no conclusion, and these matters remained unresolved.

#### 7. **Election of OWGRA Committee 2016/17**

The following new Committee was nominated and elected unopposed.

Chairman: Brij Rathor; Vice-Chairman: Gerry Stevens; Secretary: Barbara Stryjak; Treasurer: Ian Speed; Membership Secretary: Vanita Patel; Webmaster: David Pavett; Communications Officer: George Andraos; Planning Officer: Colin Bell; Committee Member: Cecilia Hodgson.

The new Chairman made a few remarks about the new committee's plans for the future: to keep a close eye on all developments planned for the area and to inform and involve residents (including via a new informative website and more regular newsletters).

#### 8. **AOB**

Colin Hume mentioned the Osterley & Spring Grove Ward Panel which worked with the police on local crime issues, and encouraged residents to raise relevant issues via him.

Councillor Louki paid tribute to all who had worked hard for OWGRA since its formation in trying to fight off inappropriate developments, sometimes successfully, stated that we needed to cherish our facilities, needed local residents to get involved. should look on the Local Plan not as a threat but as an opportunity to influence and protect the area, and if an ONF was formed then 20% of S106 funds would be at its disposal. He stated that we should be proud of our numerous sports facilities and encourage their use, that the area needed us and wished OWGRA good luck.

**[It should be noted that the Secretary at the time did not write these minutes and did not hand over any documentation to the new Committee (including list of members, minutes of meetings, list of residents attending the AGM); these minutes are based on a recording of the meeting.]**

Prepared by: Barbara Stryjak/21.3.2017