



**THORPE WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE AGM  
HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2021  
AT THE RUTHERWYKE ROOM**

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** Due to the restrictions during the COVID pandemic there was no AGM in 2020 so the minutes of the 2019 AGM were proposed to be accepted and seconded by MA and AB respectively and signed-off by the Chairman.

**Association Officers Reports:**

**Chairman's Report**

- The Chairman confirmed that during the recent COVID pandemic all Committee meetings were held via Video Link. Noted this made the task of minute taking easier as a record existed and could be referenced to confirm the accuracy of the minutes.
- During the past year Cllr MF (SCC) for Thorpe retired and his place was taken over by Cllr J Hulley. The Committee also have had a video meeting with the local MP Dr Ben Spencer, to deal with flooding and the River Thames Scheme, during when it was confirmed that the Government had released the first £60m for this scheme.
- TWRA continues to scrutinise all Planning Applications, in particular those in Flood Zone 3B, as we object to as a matter of policy. We have also made representation on larger developments, including the Muse Development on Thorpe Lea Road and the gravel extraction application at Whitehall Farm.
- On the plus side, the new Judo Dojo on Thorpe Green is almost finished and will be a welcome facility in the area, The facility will include a cafe and toilets.
- The Chairman also wanted to take this opportunity of mentioning that for the first time in the history of the Association Independent Councillors from Thorpe Ward are fulfilling the borough roles of both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

At this point the Chairman opened the floor for any questions: -

- There was a question about funds being available to repair damage to the road surface of the B388 Thorpe Lea Road from lorries carrying gravel. This would be dealt with by the SCC Councillor Mr J Hulley in his verbal report.
- The question of speeding through the village was also brought up and again Cllr Hulley would deal with that question in his verbal report.
- Cllr LG added that the Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum wanted to have "Gates" at the entrance to the village often seen in other villages requesting motorist to slow down. Also, on the point of flooding down Village and Green Roads after heavy rain, she reminded the meeting that there was only one drain down this road, and this had been in years well before The Gower & Fleetway and many other new developments were built.
- It was also raised by a member that it appears that we suffer more from fly tipping and overgrown hedges compared with other areas. It was mentioned that it was the responsibility of residents to report problems direct to RBC. The Acting Secretary also mentioned the information on the TWRA web site about some of these issues and what to do about them.

## **Acting Secretary's Report**

The was distributed to the meeting and after allowing a few moments to read and digest. No questions were raised.

## **Treasurer's Report**

- This also was distributed at the meeting and time allowed for reading. There were no questions. The cost of hiring the Rutherwyke Rooms was noted by the Treasurer that room costs had gone from £9.50 - £16.00 which was a large increase and this matter had been raised to several of the PCC with no response so far. The Committee were advised that there was another alternative venue – the Community Hall - and we should check their prices.
- Cllr EG wanted to take this opportunity of thanking both the Treasurer and his wife for all the hard work they do at the War Memorial and the planter at the end of Norlands Lane. It was also nice to see how many people use on the new benches at the War Memorial.
- The Treasurer then mentioned it was proposed that the number of lamp post poppies be increased to cover every lamp post from Half Acre Farm down to the B388 Roundabout near the M25, plus the top of Coldharbour Lane and Church Approach. This will mean nearly 80 poppies in total will be required and steps are underway to obtain more poppies to enable this to happen

## **Election of the Committee**

The names of those committee members willing to stand were read out and were proposed by CJ and seconded by MA. As there was no objection to those proposed for election to Committee.

## **Report by Cllr Jonathan Hulley (SCC)**

- Cllr JH wanted to take this opportunity of thanking the Committee for all the work they do on behalf of the community. He intends to support the TWRA wherever possible. He also wanted to thank them for the £500 given by TWRA to the Runnymede Foodbank appeal.
- He also wanted to congratulate the members of the Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum and in particular Cllr Gill & Cllr Gillham for getting the TNF plan “Made”.
- He has arranged for a **speed survey to be conducted down Rosemary Lane** and will attempt to get another survey undertaken on Green Road, although Cllr Hulley did point out when a similar survey was done down Stroude Road most of those caught speeding were residents of the road. However, SCC is quite keen to see more 20mph schemes as they are not only good for safety but also the environment.
- **SCC site visit:** He visited the area with Miss Carolyn MacKenzie Director of Environmental Services SCC, to highlight some of the issues in this part of Surrey, including speeding, footpaths, overgrown vegetation and lack of road markings
- Turning to **Whitehall Farm**, although it is not in the Thorpe Ward the outfall of the traffic from this site most certainly will affect the Ward. He congratulated the Local Councillors on their successful attempt to upgrade the RBC objection to a “Strong rejection”

## **Local Councillors Reports**

### **Cllr EG**

- Wanted to take this opportunity of thanking Cllr LG for all the hard work undertaken by the “steering committee” of the **TNF** and in getting the plan over the line with an 83% approval rating.

- It was worth noting that according to the consultant employed by the TNF this was the most complicated plan he had ever been involved with and it was the first plan in Runnymede and the first out of 2600 made plans to have a Section 136 in it, which allows alteration of the Green Belt by the Neighbourhood Forum.

### **Cllr LG**

- **Eden Health**, who are developing the old CEMEX site, hope to have some units up for sale by Christmas 2021, although it was mentioned by one attendee that there appeared to have been little work on site during the last 2 months.
- Re **Whitehall Farm**, the Surrey Mineral Plan is to be reviewed “root and branch”. This would affect this application as well as consider the implications upon the Surrey Mineral Plan of changes in Government legislation since the plan was made.
- The applicant for the **Coltscroft** site (land at back of Rosemary Lane) are appealing a second time and it is felt that the village was in a stronger position than last time as the TNF plan is now “Made”
- **Muse development:** RBC have instructed all four developers that they must work together as the RBC Planners are not happy with the Air Quality, footpath provision and affordable housing allocation. They have been asked by RBC to work together to produce an Environmental Impact Assessment.
- The **development at Coldharbour Lane and Ten Acre Lane** will provide 40 houses but for the community a 42-space car park, extended cemetery, sports field and eleven hectare landscaped park. Cllr Gill mentioned that as part of her Mayoral Year she hoped to have planted 100 White Cherry Blossom Trees in one area of the Park.
- Cllr LG then went on to explain how the new **Judo Dojo** had managed to reuse materials and white goods from other sources. It was also mentioned that unlike several surrounding boroughs, RBC had managed to continue with the Green Bin collections where other areas had stopped this completely until at least next April.

### **Any Other Business**

- It was mentioned that in the 2019 AGM it was reported that Community Policing was to be reintroduced, but there had been no signs so far and there have been instances of minor problems with bins being kicked over.
- Attendees were advised that there is a new Neighbourhood Policing Team and if residents spot anti-social behaviour they should report it immediately.
- Finally, the meeting was reminded of the Macmillan Coffee Morning being held in The Gower on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 11am to be opened by Cllr Elaine Gill, Mayor of Runnymede.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 9.20pm.