



BELMONT & SOUTH CHEAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of 49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on

Wednesday 21st October 2020 held over Zoom videoconferencing due to Covid19 pandemic.

Present at the meeting were 93 attendees, including 9 members of the BSCRA Executive Committee. Councillors David Hicks & Jane Pascoe were present along with invited guests – Daniel Elkeles, Chief Executive, and Trevor Fitzgerald, Director of Estates, Epsom & St Helier NHS Trust.

Introduction and welcome by the Chair – Mr. Peter Matthey

PM welcomed everyone to this the 49th AGM of the Association taking place during the Covid19 Pandemic. PM congratulated attendees on accessing the meeting via Zoom videoconferencing and explained he would mute attendees and asked that any questions to be posed be channelled through the “chat” facility. PM outlined the Agenda for the meeting.

Annual Report by the Chair

PM reported that this AGM marked his 14th year as Chair of the Belmont and South Cheam Residents' Association and trusted that most members were aware of the wide range of activities the Association has been involved with over the last year from the information circulated in the paper Newsletters and the electronic bulletins.

2020 had been an “interesting” year dominated by Covid19 pandemic. The Association has been of assistance to the Council and NHS by keeping in touch with members via email, eBulletins, Facebook and Whatsapp. There are now 25 Whatsapp Groups providing communication around the area. The Association has sought to ascertain who needs help and found volunteers via Road Stewards and neighbours. Loneliness has been an issue and the Belmont Seniors Group that had started in mid 2019 and had met in the Conservative Club continues online. Members have been encouraged to use local traders where possible. Information about scams and how to avoid them has been distributed.

The Neighbourhood Plan progresses and now sits with the Head of Planning, London Borough of Sutton for review prior to publication. When approved the Plan will impact planning approvals across the area and detail a variety of projects to be undertaken to improve the area.

The Association has continued to take a great interest in the London Cancer Hub, not least in respect of transport, traffic and parking issues. The Council 's application to demolish some unique properties on the former Sutton Hospital site has been withdrawn following the intervention by the Association.

A barrage of unwanted planning applications has been fought and issues concerning the ever-greater number and size of mobile telephone masts, now painted light grey, have been raised.

Crime has reduced during the pandemic – certainly in respect of burglaries. Car crime continues not least the theft of catalytic converters. Advice has been given in respect of measures to prevent this. Victims of crime, however small, should report the matter to the Police, if only online. Such reports enable the Police to have a fuller picture of where crimes occur.

The Association has dealt with many other issues including:

- Parking
- Street Cleaning
- Speeding and
- Tree planting

In addition to sending out information by email, the Association's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BSCRA.UK) is up and running and provides rapid information to our members, plus giving them the ability to add their own comments.

Casualties of the Covid19 pandemic have been the Belmont Festival, the full Remembrance Sunday Parade and the Christmas Lights switch on event.

PM thanked the Association's Road Stewards for their hard work during the year. Road Stewards are a vital part of the Association's work. There are some vacancies. Membership now stands at around 2,300.

Thanks were also given to the Officers and to the Executive Committee whose meetings have been held over Zoom. Heather Shaw has now stepped down from the Committee after 34 years' service. Special thanks were given to her for her commitment to the Association for all of these years.

2 new committee members await election

- Arran Sutherland – Cotswold Road
- Sesi Katakam – York Road

Thanks, too, to Ward Councillors Hicks and Pascoe and to the members for their ongoing support.

Finally, PM thanked his wife, Helen, for her patience and endurance of the time he spent on Association business.

Treasurer's Report (Paul Arnold)

The Association continues to have a healthy financial position

By 31 March 2020 there were close to 2000 paid up members for 2019/20 based on payments received for that year. With subscription arrears, donations and interest total income was £2127, £199 lower than the previous year due to the impact of Covid19. It is worth noting that for 2018-19 with arrears paid more recently, membership for 2018-19 increased by 99 from 2193 to 2292. However, as all will appreciate the unique challenges of Covid19 meant that the planned Newsletter in March was not issued and also stopped the collection of subscriptions. Despite this BSCRA made a surplus in the year of £958. This was helped by only publishing one Newsletter and a decrease in meeting costs. Due to Covid19 the Committee agreed earlier in the year not to ask Road Stewards to deliver a large printed Newsletter or collect subscriptions. This would decrease income and is reflected in how the Association operates. A more online approach has been adopted supported by the recent printed flyer giving notice of the AGM. This was delivered to all residents and not just existing members.

With Committee Meetings and tonight's AGM also moving online, substantial savings have been made and with total net assets of over £10,000 the Association is financially well placed to operate for many more years. With this in mind and the uncertainty over when it will be possible to ask members to collect subscriptions again it has been agreed not to collect any subscriptions due for the financial year 1 April 2020 to 31 Mar 2021. Members can think of this as a payment holiday. Any subscriptions already received for this year will be rolled forward to a future year. The Association remains open to suggestions on how best to spend the money that has been built up over the years. Any ideas should be communicated to the Chairman, the Treasurer or any member of the Committee. PA thanked Hernan Lozano for his tremendous hard work with the Road Stewards and for all the work he does covering many of the vacant road steward patches personally. PA also thanked:

1. Road Stewards for collecting money, email addresses and delivering Newsletters and AGM notices, and;
2. Alison Griffiths for being the Independent Examiner

PA explained that the Association is putting forward a motion to change the financial year under section 13b of our rules from 31st March prior to the AGM to 31st December prior to the AGM. The motion is as defined in the notice of the AGM. This change is to align with calendar years to keep this simpler for current and future road stewards and is intended be effective from 1 Jan 2022. The 9 months from 1 April 2021 to 31 December 2021 will be a further payment holiday. Any subscriptions already received for this year will be rolled forward to a future year. PA advised that the implications of all of this are that

1. From 2022 independently examined accounts will be published well in advance of the October AGM, and;
2. Little to no income for the 21 month period 1 April 2020 to 31 Dec 2021 is expected. Any subscriptions received for this time will be rolled forward to future years

PA therefore proposed the Motion to Alter the Association's Rules

Purpose:

To alter the Association's Rules to change the BSCRA financial year to align with calendar years

Motion:

That Rule 13b of the Association's Rules to be amended to state that the notice convening the Association's Annual General Meeting shall be accompanied by:

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(b) Accounts for the year ended the 31st December prior to the Meeting

The currently Rules state that the accounts shall be for the year ended 31st March

The Motion was carried unanimously.

ELECTIONS

PM reported that the current holders of the positions of Chair, General Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, namely himself, Tony Butler, Paul Arnold and Hernan Lozano had agreed to stand for the coming year. There are no other nominations. They will be elected individually. The Executive Committee members will be elected as a block.

Election of Officers

PM handed back to the Treasurer for the election of the Chair.

Prior to nominating PM as Chair, the Treasurer emphasised with thanks all the hard work put in by PM on behalf of the Association. In view of current circumstances all Officers have already been Proposed and Seconded by members of the Executive Committee. The current 4 officers were unanimously elected for the coming year.

Election of Executive Committee

The committee members were to be elected as a block. As reported above, all the committee have agreed to stand again for election except for Heather Shaw. The members who are standing for election to the Committee for 2020-21 are: -

Margaret Bentley
Catherine Clarke
Jon Jackson
David Riley
Phil Vennard

Sesi Katakam
Lyonel Bell
Paul Lincoln
Arran Sutherland

The committee members were unanimously elected en bloc for the coming year.

Election of Accounts Examiner

Mrs. Alison Griffiths is willing to continue in the role of Accounts Examiner.

Mrs. Alison Griffiths was unanimously elected as Accounts Examiner

This brought the formal motions and procedures to a close.

MEMBERS' FORUM

Guest Speakers

Daniel Elkeles, Chief Executive Epsom & St Helier NHS Trust

PM welcomed DE to the meeting. DE last presented to the Association in 2019 and is pressing ahead with the creation of a new acute hospital on the old Sutton Hospital site as well as improvements to Epsom and St Helier Hospitals.

DE explained that the programme is to build one of the first of 6 new hospitals promised by the government at a cost of £500m and to continue to invest in St Helier and Epsom hospitals. The new hospital will be sited at the former Sutton Hospital site. The new hospital will have 1066 beds and as a result of needs highlighted by Covid19 65-75% will be in single rooms. There is a great deal to do regarding travel and access plans, the desire to make the facility Carbon Neutral, implement a new Patient Record system and consolidate three existing kidney services into one. The design of the hospital is likely to be curved (like a football stadium), in two reflective parts and to go from 2/3 storeys next to the Maggie's Centre up to 7 storeys. The current timetable suggests being onsite by February 2022 with a Q2 2025 opening. Investment into St Helier and Epsom hospitals will be completed by 2027.

DE slides attached.

PM sought questions from attendees

Q. Where will the building actually placed on site?

A. Frontage on Cotswold Road, now using some RMH land.

Q. What about car parking?

A. The previously proposed underground car park with 3,000 spaces is no longer affordable. A multi-storey car park will be required but smaller than originally envisaged. ParknRide need to be explored and the roundabout on the Brighton Road needs to be addressed. Footfall will not be great as stays will be shorter. The use of some part of the local allotments is being considered. A multi-stage approach is being adopted.

DE was joined by Trevor Fitzgerald, Estates Director.

TF explained that he was working closely with the RMH and ICR to find solutions to access and parking issues. There is a real need to decongest the local roads.

Q. Will Headley Downs be retained as a convalescent facility?.

A. This is not part of the new hospital configuration, but discussions are ongoing with the NHS and owner to continue use of the site for a further period.

Q. Will there be walk-in facilities at the new hospital?

A. Yes.

Q. Will the financials work – will there not be extra costs because of duplication?

A. Yes, the financials work as great savings in staff costs will be made due to the consolidation of some services on one site. See Business Case.

Q. Are there plans to use allotment land? How will noise be managed?

A. This is work in progress. Discussions being held with local council re travel plans and any impact on the allotments. Noise controls are part of the planning application process. There will be a Construction Logistics programme.

Q. Can the proposed Henderson Hospital site GP Practice be accommodated on the Sutton Hospital site?

A. The practice is keen to continue to plan to use the Henderson site.

Q. Can there be a direct link with Belmont Station?

A. Network Rail seem keen to progress such an idea and twin tracks to Banstead Station where a ParknRide might be sited.

Q. Will the Malvern Centre still be available for blood tests?

A. The Malvern Centre needs to be relocated during the construction stage – probably to Sutton Town Centre and then relocated again when the hospital is finished.

Q. Will proper provision be made for parking?

A. This is a very important issue and much effort is going in to find the right solution.

It is necessary to charge staff for parking and encourage use of public transport but RMH have issued some permits for staff to park on local roads. Staff can currently park at Sutton Hospital but there are only 20 spaces. DE is looking to move the non-emergency transport services off site.

PM thanked DE and TF for their presence and valuable input. Clearly more discussions will be required.

PM closed the meeting by thanking members for attending and expressing the hope that they found the AGM interesting and useful. It is to be hoped that we can meet as usual in 2021.

The meeting closed at 9:36pm

Provisional date for 2021 AGM – Wednesday 20th October, 2021