

# PONDWELL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting at Urban Saints Westbrook  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 10.30am

Chair: Barbara Spencer  
Secretary: Barbara Spencer  
Treasurer: Roger Merry

Present: 26 members of the Association

1. **Apologies:** Ron and Olive Flegg and Vicky and Derek Clements.
2. **Chair's welcome:** Barbara thanked everybody for their support by attending the meeting and paid special thanks to Jo Baynham and his team for providing the refreshments and allowing us to use their facilities during the year for our Committee meetings. As it was Remembrance Day Barbara said, in accordance with tradition, a two minutes silence will be held at 11 o'clock.

Before the meeting started Jo Baynham gave a brief history of Westbrook, formerly a large Victorian residence in 26 acres of parkland, which was purchased in 1947 by The Crusaders Union in memory of the Crusaders who lost their lives during the Second World War and officially opened on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1948. Today a book of remembrance lists the names of those who lost their lives and a plaque on the wall in the entrance hall explains to visitors why the Centre exists.

3. **The minutes of last year's AGM** – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 – were agreed as an accurate and true record. They were proposed by Maurice Payne and seconded by Daphne Isard.

Barbara explained we will carry on the procedure of attaching a copy of the minutes to our Newsletter at the end of January to those who attended the meeting, as well as those who have sent their apologies. A copy will also be available on the parish website once it has been agreed by the Committee. She went on to ask if any members wished to leave their email address with her this would save on time and printing costs.

## 4. **Matters Arising:**

Barbara reported that Julie Farmer had resigned as Treasurer as she had now set up her own business with the cattery in Bullen Road.

Barbara had invited Conrad Gauntlett of the Wishing Well to attend our meeting and give an update on its progress. Unfortunately he was somewhat delayed but when he did join the meeting he said the Wishing Well should be open for Christmas. It will be a pub which eventually will serve food but the kitchen will be the last feature to be installed. Barbara asked if it would be possible at a later date to arrange a coffee morning, to which Conrad confirmed it would. Work had been hindered because there was not the necessary manpower or services on the island to fit the stills and so mainland firms with much longer time frames were used. Several incidents of commercial waste being dumped on the land also added to the delay.

Maurice Payne asked about the 25 eco pods to be built as there had been some doubt as to whether they would be brick or wood built, making them a permanent fixture. Conrad confirmed they would be completely environmentally friendly in wood, allowing them to be lived in as long as the purchaser owned the house.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Roger had distributed a statement of account for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 and apologised for the lack of detail. This was due to the delay by HSBC, Newport to finalise the amendments to the mandate as a result in the change of Treasurer. He had not yet received backdated statements showing the closing balances for both the Current and Deposit accounts. He then reported there had been very little movement throughout the year which included income of £79 from subscriptions, plus 15p interest and an expenditure of £50 as a donation to Urban Saints Westbrook for the use of their facilities for our meetings during the year. This made a total of £653.71. Roger will attach a completely updated statement to the minutes and Newsletter in the new year for those in attendance at the AGM.
6. **Election of Officers:** Barbara stated the Committee of Joyce Morgan Huws, Linda Merry, Ken Beale, Richard Wright and Barry Farmer are happy to continue to support the Association. She said she would continue to be Chairman and Secretary if agreed. Barbara asked if anyone else would like to take on either of these roles, but there were no volunteers. The Committee were re-elected en masse, proposed by Debbie Kirkcaldy and seconded by Bernard Penney. Roger had only been co-opted as a member and was therefore proposed by Richard Wright and seconded by Joyce Morgan Huws to be our new Treasurer. Barbara said the Association was always looking for new members to join the Committee, so if anyone was interested or knew of anyone that might be, to let one of the Committee members know.
7. **AOB:** Barbara said she was hoping to arrange a lunch at the Appley Manor, probably sometime in February once all the Christmas and New Year celebrations have finished.

Bryn Abbs asked about the footpath from the side of the Wishing Well through to Seaview which had been blocked off by a locked gate by the land owner. Conrad said he was in agreement with it being re-opened but his hands were tied. John Hague of the Ramblers' Association was collecting evidence that there was sufficient support for him to challenge this closure and it is understood he is willing to go to court if the land owner did not comply. It has to be proved that the footpath had been in use for at least twenty years and will be used sufficiently. Barbara will contact Mr. Hague for an update and give our support.

8. **Chair's concluding remarks:**

Barbara reported that she had emailed CycleWight on two occasions as there had been concerns about cyclists riding on the pavement when competing in the various events held, especially down Gregory Avenue. They said they would report our comments to the various organisers.

Barbara asked if anyone else had noticed how few squirrels are seen in our area now. She had contacted Helen Butler earlier in the year because there was some speculation it could be leprosy but she thought it was more likely to be a red tailed hawk that had been seen in our area and the increasing number of buzzards on the island. Barbara asked drivers to be careful especially on Calthorpe Road where there are some squirrels.

To conclude, Barbara mentioned forthcoming events leading up to Christmas. These were:-

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November: A cheese and wine evening at 7.30pm at the Northbank Hotel.
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December: Lights of Love in St. Peter's Church, including mulled wine and mince pies.
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December: Father Christmas and mince pies at Vic's Stores from 10 o'clock to midday. Also, at 7pm for 7.30pm Westbrook's carol service.
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December: Carols around the Christmas tree in St. Peter's church at 7pm with mulled wine and mince pies.

Barbara closed the meeting at 11.45am by wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.