

PONDWELL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting at Appley Manor Hotel
Saturday 23rd November 2019

Chairperson: Barbara Spencer
Secretary: Barbara Spencer
Acting Treasurer: Barbara Spencer

Present: 24 members of the Association.

1. **Apologies:** Conrad Gauntlett, Sue Sellick, Ron and Olive Flegg.
2. **Chair's welcome:** Barbara thanked everyone for their support by attending the meeting and thanked Cllr. Vilma Barraclough, Chairperson of our Parish Council, for her introduction and brief appearance as she was going on holiday later that day. Barbara thanked the staff at Appley Manor for making us so welcome and providing the refreshments. She also thanked Roger Sharman for his help with the raffle and distributing the AGM notice. Special thanks were also paid to Joyce Morgan Huws for her help throughout the year, in particular for hosting several of our meetings.
3. **Minutes of last year's AGM** – 8th December 2018 - were agreed as an accurate and true record. They were proposed by Derek Clements and seconded by John Kirkaldy.

A copy of the minutes will be attached to the 2020 Newsletter to those who attended the meeting. A copy will be available on the parish website once they have been agreed by the Committee.

4. **Matters arising:** Barbara said the flower troughs by the bus stop had flowered extremely well throughout the summer and are continuing to do so thanks to Joyce and Richard Wright who have kept a watchful eye on them. Maintenance of the plants will be a lot easier now there is a water butt at the back of the bus shelter.

Barbara said the Association had done as much as they could in putting pressure on the IOWC to enforce the owner of Bramley House, Bullen Road to clear the land within a specified timeframe. The Council's legal department will be drafting an Enforcement Notice to be passed to their Planning Services for their comments/approval. This case has been listed as a priority.

Last year whilst collecting the subscriptions, several residents had said they would be willing to pay a little extra towards our Christmas Tree Fund. Barbara said the extra sum of £171 had been collected and she thanked those present who had made a contribution for their generosity. Barbara had asked the Parish Council to make a donation but nothing was authorised. However, Cllr. Barraclough had told Richard and Barbara that they were prepared to pay for any extra lights we might need. The tree had come from Cllr. Barry's neighbour which Richard had been able to dig up and replant in a large pot and transported to the Bullen Cross site. It is hoped this will survive and continue growing thereby solving the problem each year of producing a tree for the area. There was a charge of £80 for expenses involved.

5. **Treasurer's report:** Barbara stated Roger Merry, the Treasurer, had resigned promptly in September due to other commitments. Since then Barbara had taken on this role and, with the help of a previous Treasurer, Bernard Penney, she had produced an up-to-date statement of the accounts and circulated to those present. This showed a debit of £31.50 for the water butt; and credits of £1.31 interest, £59 subscriptions and £171 tree donations, making a total of £1,406.05. Barbara then announced that she can no longer take on this responsibility, firstly because the bank will not accept this situation and secondly, it is not right for one person to be in charge of all three positions. She said she is only prepared to give one more year to the Association unless the problem is resolved. There were no volunteers at the meeting so she will make an appeal in the next Newsletter at the end of January.
6. **Election of Officers and Committee:** Barbara said the Committee of Joyce Morgan Huws, Jane France and Richard Wright were happy to continue. Jane France had been elected onto the Committee earlier in the year. The Committee were re-elected en masse being proposed by Helga Lees and seconded by Derek Clements. Barbara thanked Cllr. Barry for his support and advice throughout the year by keeping us up-to-date with what is going on locally. He was not an elected member due to his other responsibilities and comes to our meetings whenever he can.
7. **Any Other Business:** Barbara stated that although the Bullen Cross bus shelter had been patched up earlier in the year, Island Roads had recently arranged for a contractor to do a more thorough job in replacing and painting the badly worn panels. Barbara thanked Joyce for making the shelter nice and cosy by providing cushions and magazines.

Twice this year Barbara had to ask Island Roads to cut back the brambles overhanging the footpath along Pondwell Hill, which they did but, as we know, it is an ongoing problem which needs to be monitored regularly. Barbara said that earlier in the year we asked the Parish Council if they could take back control of the maintenance of this particular area, which they used to do regularly and more thoroughly, but Island Roads had said they will continue to maintain this and the grass surrounds.

Barbara reported that she had an email from John Hague of the Ramblers' Association regarding the footpath at the side of the Wishing Well. Together with the IOWC Rights of Way, he had been in discussion with the owner of Seaview Holiday Park who argue that the evidence presented to them was insufficient as a claim and stated there had been signage indicating there was no path. The owner made an indication that a different route through the property may be acceptable. Messrs. Hague and Clarke agreed this be followed up as an agreement by the holiday park to dedicate a route which would avoid a lengthy public enquiry process which has the possibility of failure before an independent inspector. The possible route would be away from the chalets and exit onto Duver Road. Darrel Clarke is in discussion with the owners and will keep our Association informed as the matter progresses.

As several residents in Pondwell Close had asked Barbara when this road will be resurfaced she emailed Island Roads on two occasions. The reply came in a stereotyped letter saying that there are currently no scheduled resurfacing dates for Pondwell Close. They explained the Highway Improvement Programme being a long term, 25 year contract to improve and maintain the island's highway network. While the most

intensive period of improvement work is in the first seven years there is an ongoing requirement to keep roads and pavements up to the standards required by the contract until 2038. Barbara went on to say she had read they had already spent this year's budget but was not surprised as it would seem a huge sum had been spent on the vast number of traffic lights installed around the island.

Jane France had commented at one of our meetings how dangerous the bend is on Bullen Road near Park Farm. Cllr. Barry had contacted Island Roads who have agreed to install chevrons, but as this was not a priority, they could not say when this will be done.

Barbara gave a lengthy discussion about the proposed plans by Captiva Homes for a new development, namely West Acre, to build 465 quality homes, new community facilities and a landscaped public open space between the Bullen Road and Appley Road. She commented that this is the creation of a village on the outskirts of Ryde. As an official planning application had not yet been submitted, Barbara asked people to keep a keen eye on this to make their objection.

Tim Isard remarked on the number of properties in the area being let or used as holiday homes. He mentioned in particular number 5 Gregory Close which had been sold "subject to contract" for the last two years and the garden was covered in brambles and generally overgrown. Barbara will email Marvins, the estate agents, for the property.

Barbara reported that the Nettlestone and Seaview Men in Sheds had restored and painted the village signs for Seaview and Nettlestone. The sign for Pondwell will be renovated in due course.

8. **Chair's concluding remarks:** Barbara said 20 members had attended the lunch at Appley Manor in February and she will attempt to arrange another one late February/early March.

Barbara announced the following forthcoming events before Christmas.

- Friday 6th December at 7pm - Mountbatten Lights of Love, St. Peter's Church, Seaview
- Friday 20th December at 3pm to 4.30pm - Father Christmas and mince pies at Vic Stores, Londis. The change of time and day for this event was changed due to its popularity with the school children last year.
- Monday 23rd December at 6pm - Carols round the tree with mulled wine and mince pies.

Barbara closed the meeting by wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.