

THE COUNTIES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7 JULY 2014

Committee Members Present:

Helen Zammett	Chairman	HZ
Mark Bentley	Treasurer	MB
Janet Berger	Secretary	JB
Gill Bramham	Membership Secretary	GB
Ron Berger		RB
Steve De'Ath		SD
Naomi Passman		NP

Also present: PCSO Alan Winston, Beryl Thornton (Carlton Terrace Association) and Geoff Horsnell (Wanstead Society).

1. **Welcome and Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed residents, PCSO Alan Winston, Beryl Thornton, Geoff Horsnell and introduced members of the Committee.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Sheila Bain and Malcolm Dowers.

3. **Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting**

Minutes of the AGM held on 8 July 2013 were AGREED.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

MB presented the financial summary for 2013/2014 to the meeting (*copy attached*). MB said that basically there is £2,655 in the bank which is similar to last year. Regular discussions take place regarding the surplus but it has been decided to retain it for campaigns.

5. **Membership Secretary's Report**

GB presented the membership report to the meeting (*copy attached*). GB reported that we maintain a consistent membership of 28% in the CRA area and asked members present to please renew their membership.

6. **Election of Committee Members**

As per the terms of the Constitution, GB resigned from the Committee. There being no other nominations, it was AGREED that GB be re-elected on to the Committee.

7. **Policing on the Counties Estate**

HZ introduced PCSO Alan Winston who spoke on the following:

- Wanstead Police Station – the site was sold for £2,200,000. The proposal is to build two new houses and convert the original building retaining the facade.

- Neighbourhood Policing Team – Wanstead Ward has one PCSO and one PC left on the ward. It is a big area. The new sergeant is David Lipyeat.
- Reporting crime – call 101. When there is a burglary, the police inform five neighbours either side and opposite the house.
- Wanstead House contact point - this is funded by the Council and it is not sure whether the funding will continue. The service is not well used.
- Wanstead Directory – Alan will be reporting in the Wanstead Directory.
- Ward Panel – the panel still exists and sets promises. The current promises are speeding, anti-social behaviour and places of worship.
- Work Day on Wanstead Flats – there will be a work day on 27 September from 10am to 1pm clearing pathways.

8. Questions to PCSO Alan Winston

- (a) A resident said that driving in the area had not improved with the double yellow lines on the corners of the junction of The Avenue and Leicester Road. HZ said that this is a council issue and the matter of commuter parking has always been difficult at Area 1 meetings. Cars drive fast. A yellow line down one side of The Avenue was suggested but the commuters would move to another location. Informal discussion with councillors was suggested with options to be viewed with caution. On parking on a dropdown, Alan said that parking on a dropdown that obstructs entry to the highway is an offence but the reverse is not. A speed limit of 20 mph in the area was suggested. Also better signage at the end of Colvin Gardens is required.
- (b) Crime in the area – Alan reported that of the crime in the area, 10% was in the CRA area, 20% in the middle of the ward and 70% in the Aldersbrook area.
- (c) Vans patrolling the area – Alan said that Operation Ferris is tackling vans collecting scrap metal. A licence is needed to collect scrap metal and he asked residents to take the registration number of a suspicious van and inform the police, they will then check on the vehicle.

HZ thanked Alan for coming to the meeting.

9. Report on Last Year's Activities

HZ reported on the following:

- Wanstead Hospital – a planned closure of Heronwood and Galleon rehabilitation wards was prevented when it was pointed out to councillors that the correct procedures had not been followed. Another plan to close 14 beds also was opposed. There is now a Community Treatment Team giving intensive rehabilitation in homes which has been successful. Redbridge is under provided with rehab beds. There should be 154 but there are only 104. Any proposals to close beds at Wanstead Hospital will be opposed.

- Nutter Lane Recreation Field – the £5,000 for Community Arts for Arts from Telford for the Chepstow development must be spent on the Nutter Recreation Field. The Council decided to install one bench, trees and plants. The trees and plants will be planted as a family activity later in the year. HZ asked Alan if a bench would be a problem at night. He replied that a bench would be more of a benefit than a problem. If there are issues, the PCs will patrol.
- No Cold Calling Zone – signs are on lampposts and residents have stickers. Callers are a nuisance, there is a question of security and callers need to be discouraged but there is no law supporting No Cold Calling Zones. Residents need to say no and contact Consumer Direct.
- Planning – there are no large developments in the area at present. We are paying particular attention to corner plots, as their open leafy character is important for the conservation area and we are particularly against small developments squeezed in on them. We distribute letters giving details of planning applications to the 30 houses in the immediate area. It is important for residents to know of the proposals as the council only send letters to the two immediate neighbours. Details of planning applications are at the library or on Redbridge i. Any resident can oppose planning applications.
- The CRA also takes an interest in developments on the High Street: the Evergreen Field (flats and shops); Jolliffes (shopping mall and flats) and 145B-151 High Street (flats behind the parade of shops).
- Tradesmen List – members have access to the recommended tradesmen's list.
- Website – the website gives a useful history of the area.
- Planning Guide – gives planning information not advice.
- Representatives – representatives from the following roads would be welcome to join our committee Preston Drive, Reydon Avenue and Rutland Road.

10. Questions from Residents

- (a) Will the new Council affect the CRA's relationship with Redbrige? Geoff Horsnell said that the Council have a new document on development in Redbridge. Councillor Neil Zammett reported that the replacement of Area Committees was under discussion. The main reason being costs. The route through councillors is most effective.
- (b) New swimming pool - plans for a new swimming pool were promised in the Labour manifesto. Where will it be? Councillor Neil Zammett said that the location of the pool was undecided because of land availability but it is unlikely to be in the west of the borough.
- (c) Playground – improvements to the playground on Christchurch Green were promised in the Labour Manifesto. When will this be done? HZ said that the matter will be raised at an informal meeting to be arranged with the councillors.

11. Close

HZ thanked residents for coming to the Annual General Meeting of the Counties Residents' Association.

The Counties Residents Association / NHW

Financial Summary commentary 2013 / 2014

I'm pleased to present my fifth annual financial summary for the CRA/NHW.

In summary, we end the year with £2,504 in the bank, whereas we started the year with around £2,481.

This year, we received no grant money. So, our income was solely down to subscriptions and donations. This amounted to £593, slightly lower than the £641 the year before, due to slightly lower donations.

Our expenses were slightly higher this year at £570.23, so we have a slight annual surplus of £24.

So, in summary, your Association remains in good shape financially. We require the funds to print and distribute newsletters, to run the website, and to maintain a small buffer for unforeseen campaigns that may be necessary. We think our campaign record has been broadly successful over the years. We definitely need your continued financial support.

At the back of the room, we have membership forms for the new year, and if you feel able to, we also encourage donations and completion of standing order forms which help us to reduce ongoing administration time and costs.

Thank you for your continued and much needed support.

Mark Bentley
Hon Treasurer
7 July 2014

Counties Residents Association – Financial Summary 2013/14

£	2013/14	2012/13
Income		
Membership income and donations	593.00	641.10
Total income	593.00	641.10
Expenditure		
Printing / website	520.23	414.02
AGM costs	50.00	50.00
Total expenditure	570.23	464.02
Surplus / (deficit)	23.73	177.08
Balance carried down	2,481.67	2,304.59
Balance carried forward	2,504.44	2,481.67