

Eastcote Park Estate Association

Minutes of the 62nd Annual General Meeting

The 62nd AGM of the EPEA was held on Wednesday 17th May 2000. The meeting was chaired by Greg Tanner (Chairman) and 33 residents were present.

1. Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that the local Crime Prevention Officer was sadly unable to attend the meeting as his mother had died.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from John & Hazel Brown, Jenny Buckmaster, Terase Casillas, Gerry Edwards, Linda MacDougall and Gwen Western.

3. Minutes of the 1999 AGM

The minutes were approved and adopted by the meeting.

4. Matters arising

Trees The Council has agreed that parts of the Estate, particularly Rodney Gardens, would benefit from tree planting and has produced a schedule of suggested sites. The Council however has no funds available for this.

It was proposed that the Association should offer £250 to Hillingdon Council to buy 6 small trees to be planted in sites selected by the Council. This proposal was carried unanimously.

5. Chairman's report

The EPEA was founded over 63 years ago to protect the environment of the Estate. Social activities have always played an important part in holding the Association together and providing a sense of community. The chairman thanked all those who participated in such events.

Thanks were also given to Mr Fitzgerald for cutting the grass around the Estate sign and to all who have planted and weeded this area especially Margaret Bacon & Mike Platts.

Mike Platts was also thanked for his work on the 'medlar bypass' in the park which was completed last summer. Unfortunately the branch of this ancient tree which was 'by passed' is now dead and may need to be removed in order to save the tree!

Social events The Millennium Dinner was a success with 80-85 residents attending. Other regular events were also successful. The Picnic in the Park and the Road Stewards Evening were enjoyable if less well attended than in previous years. The Children's Disco and the Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday

were well attended and great fun was had by all the children involved. Carol Singing had a new and improved repertoire this year. Congratulations were given to the winners of the Front Garden Competition . 14 Rodney Gardens.

6. Social events (for the year 2000)

Judging of the Front Garden Competition will take place between May and July and will be done as usual by Gerry and Chris Edwards who are qualified horticultural judges. The Picnic in the Park is planned for 16th July, weather permitting. Volunteers for organising games etc. will be very welcome.

The Autumn Event is scheduled for Saturday 28th October. No details are available as yet but suggestions for a theme for the evening would be welcome! No date has been set for Carol Singing this year but a few extra voices would be appreciated! Details of all these events will be included in next newsletter.

7. Adoption of accounts for the year ended 31st December 1999

Peter Dymock presented the accounts and reported that the finances of the Association are healthy. The 1999 welfare collection was donated to the Michael Sobell Hospice.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by P. Cutts and seconded by B. Riley. The meeting was unanimous in its agreement.

It was decided to leave the Committee to decide which charity should receive this years welfare collection.

Bill Gage reported that the two students involved in the video of the Estate obtained their Masters Degrees on the basis of this project.

8. Conservation Panel Report

Mike Platts presented the report and there were several questions from the floor.

- Was the existing house on the Wild Part to be demolished to make way for the new house?
Answer .Yes.

- Can residents be notified of forthcoming meetings where representations are to be made on behalf of the Estate? Greg Tanner agreed to do this where appropriate.

- Is use made of the Coach House? Answer _Yes. It was reported that it has been used for playing snooker for about 30 years, is in use on most evenings and attracts many of the older residents. The snooker players do a lot to help maintain and protect the building and without them it would be in much poorer condition. Even so it would need major alterations to make it suitable for a more formal use.

- Can better use be made of the park for the benefit of children on the Estate? Answer _It is necessary to improve the safety of the park before considering developments for children.

- Vandalism in the park and the Coach House is a problem. The best solution seems to be to press for wardens to patrol the park.

- The public toilets which have been closed for years are in a deplorable condition.
- There was a proposal that the Association should press for a gate to be erected on the entrance road leading to the car park in order to prevent cars entering the park.

This was agreed by the meeting.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

Mike Platts presented the report and reported that Jenny Buckmaster was ill. The meeting extended its best wishes for her speedy recovery.

The Police consider EPEA's Neighbourhood Watch to be active and well run and therefore concentrate on other areas which they see as more of a problem. There was a call from the floor for greater vigilance. It was suggested that we should tell our neighbours if we are going to be out and agree to watch over each other's houses.

There was a question from the floor concerning notification of 'incidents'. Mike Platts informed the meeting that notification should go to all homes on the Estate but that occasionally the system fell down due to illness or other problems.

Various problems concerning vandalism and rowdy behaviour in the park were reported and **Greg Tanner agreed to 'seek out and meet with those responsible for the park' in order to ascertain their intentions for the park and encourage better use of the park and the coach house as assets to the Estate.**

10. Election of Auditors

Audrey Harrington and Arthur Wilson agreed to continue as auditors. The Chairman thanked them for their work in past years.

11. Election of the Committee

Two long standing members of the Committee **Peter Dymock** (Treasurer) and **John Rose** had decided to retire from the Committee. The Chairman thanked them for all the work they had done over the years and presented each of them with a bottle of wine and a 'certificate' as a token of the Association's appreciation and thanks. The remainder of the existing Committee all stood for re-election and were proposed en bloc by John Rose. The meeting agreed unanimously.

There were no nominations or volunteers to fill the two vacancies on the Committee. Terasé Casillas was elected as Treasurer to replace Peter Dymock.

Gillian Hughes was elected as Secretary to replace Mike Platts who was retiring as Secretary due to other commitments but is remaining on the Committee.

Greg Tanner was re-elected as Chairman.

12. Any Other Business

The following issues were raised by the Chairman:

- Thanks were given to all Road Stewards for their work throughout the year.
- Now that summer is approaching children are again playing on the various islands of the Estate and as always there are concerns about safety. Parents are urged to ensure that children behave sensibly and drivers are urged to drive with extra care.
- Parking in general on the Estate appears to have improved over the last year but Pamela Gardens still presents special problems.
- Bonfires. Residents are requested to be considerate to their neighbours.
- The Park. There had been some trouble on the night of Friday 12th May involving young people thought to attend a local school. There was rowdiness and drinking in the Walled Garden and bottles and stones were thrown into gardens and against the rear walls of the bungalows in St Lawrence Drive which back on to the park.

It was agreed that a letter of complaint should be sent to the school concerned and that both the Council and the Police should be asked what action could be taken.

Pat Cutts was grateful that the post box had been painted but wondered if something could be done about the extra box mounted beside it. She also pointed out that the 'finger post' required painting.

John Rose said that the extra box referred above was due to be replaced.

As no further items were forthcoming the Chairman closed the meeting and invited those present to stay for refreshments.

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