



**MERTON PARK WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Heritage Quiz Sarah Gould LBM**  
**JULY 2019**  
**AGM MINUTES**

**1: Welcome from Hubert Child, Chairman and Apologies for absence.**

**Present:** Councillors Edward Foley, Peter Southgate, & Dickie Wilkinson, Hubert Child, Bryan Anderson, Chris Stutt, Pauline Southgate, Stephen Mercer, Ian Garbett, Desé Child, Ingrid Holtz, Jolanta Novak, Pippa Foskett, Graham Clark

**Apologies:** Mary Anderson Doris Dean Fred Rayner

**2: Minutes of last meeting/matters arising**

The minutes of July 2018 AGM were agreed and signed as were the June 2019 meeting Minutes.

**3: Chairman's Report**

Welcome everyone to our 29<sup>th</sup> AGM. The Minutes of the AGM held last July are available and have been circulated to the Committee.

As Chairman, I want to say a lot of Thank You's to all the people who make the Association run so smoothly and make it so successful.

First: Thanks to our three Councillors: for the huge amount of time they spend at Council and Scrutiny Meetings on our behalf and on all the specific issues that come up at our monthly meetings and of course with direct approaches from individual residents Things have been getting more difficult. Central Government's not so gradual withdrawal of financial support from local Councils has meant that when our Councillors try to get things done, officers often plead lack of money or lack of staff.

Our Councillors find they having to get insistent, albeit responsible too of course. To our Three Councillors a special Thank You in difficult times.

Secondly: Thank You to the committee for the backup and continuity they provide. Many of them have been on the committee for many years, several from when MPWRA began. Sadly, two committee members say they have to stand down. One is Philippa Foskett who has been on the committee for many years. She says she will still be around to help when she can, including at election time. The other is Patrick MacNamara who I'm afraid is moving away. He has been a wise head on young shoulders on a number of discussions and also did a prodigious round of delivering Forum at each issue. So, a big thank you to Philippa and Patrick and of course all those continuing on the committee

Thirdly: A special thank you needs to go to Dickie Wilkinson. In addition to his Councillor's duties he runs the website and puts each edition of Forum together for us To an extra hard-working Dickie - Thank You

To Margaret Garrett, her family, and her team for distributing Forum to every door in the Ward – very important, as this gets our news and views to people who don't necessarily come to meetings or receive email alerts.

So, to Margaret and all the deliverers – Thank You.

To the quiet operator behind the scenes – Pauline Southgate. As well as being membership secretary and all that entails, Pauline keeps our computer records that enable us to contact the wider membership, produce stationery for events including AGMs, and of course at election time.

Thank You Pauline.

I must mention the support I get from Desé, and all the work she does – among other things producing and circulating the posters which tell the public about forthcoming meetings, preparing agendas and of course refreshments at meetings at half-time. Thank You Desé.

Last but not least to everyone who takes time to come to these meetings. It is of course the audience participation here that informs our Councillors of the issues that concern you. Thank You and please give yourselves a clap.

I have one rather alarming thing to report on the membership front. At this time last year, the membership total was 489 households. As at now it is down to 464, a drop of 25 member households. This is largely due to the number of subscription renewals being down, particularly annual subscriptions. Inevitably there will be people who move away, and sadly there have been some deaths, but I guess the main reason is that people inadvertently don't get around to paying their subs. If there is anyone who has yet to pay, do please have a word with Pauline Southgate later.

We have a recruitment drive planned and clearly, we must activate that. If anyone would like to help with that do, please have a word with me or Bryan or the Councillors later.

#### **4: Treasurers Report**

I am sorry to not be able to be with you all tonight.

I am pleased to provide a brief update on the 2018 Financial Year for the Merton Park Ward Residents Association.

To start with I would like to thank Mark Hackforth-Jones for carrying out the audit this year. Mark has indicated his willingness to continue for next year.

Membership renewals are a bit down for the year compared to last. The renewals being paid direct into the Association bank account is working well and thank you to Pauline Southgate for organising that system. Also, the 100 club, which is our prize draw, continues to bring in a steady income, and we have a draw tonight. Thank you, Graham, for all your help on running that.

The largest expenditure item in 2018 was our successful election. The election costing the association £1,871.

The Association continues to have healthy reserves of £8,941 as at 31/12/2018. So, we leave this 2018 election year in good financial shape

A full copy of the accounts is available from me and for all to see on the website of the Electoral Commission. Should you have any questions please ask Hubert and he can pass them on to me.

**And with that I would like to seek approval of the accounts from the meeting**

Thank you everyone for your support.

Fred Rayner

#### **5: Election of Officers & Committee**

So, turning to AGM procedures, Hubert Child handed the Chair over to Bryan Anderson and Hubert Child duly re-elected as Chairman

Now to election of officers and committee:

First Bryan Anderson offers himself for re-election as Vice Chairman (duly proposed/seconded). HC hugely values Bryan's watchful eye seeing that nothing gets overlooked at meetings and making sure that HC hasn't forgotten anything. He is also very good at coming up with the right questions at the right moment both to our speakers and our Councillors. So, Thank You Bryan and show of hands - vote  
Then Chris Stutt offers herself for re-election as Secretary. (duly proposed/seconded). Chris of course does a prodigious amount of record keeping and admin as well as the minutes. Chris has been away on occasional travels with husband Ian recently and we must also thank Eve Hicks and Pauline Lightfoot, who have stood in as minute-takers. So, thank you to Chris, Eve and Pauline.

Show of hands to re-elect Chris as Secretary

Fred Rayner offers himself for re-election as Treasurer. (duly proposed/seconded).

Unfortunately, Fred can't be with us tonight

As well as writing the cheques and producing accounts, hard work as that is, Fred has to follow strict reporting procedures with the Electoral commission, who treat us as a full political party. So, thanks to Fred for his expertise in keeping us both solvent and legal.

Show of hands – voted in

And now to the committee:

Standing for re-election to the Committee:

Greg Bryant  
Graham Clark  
Ian Garbett  
Ingrid Holtz  
Stephen Mercer  
David Merriman  
Jolanta Nowak  
Pauline Southgate

All candidates have been duly proposed and seconded Show of hands - vote

I also have two volunteers to join the Committee. One is Pauline Lightfoot who has been a regular at monthly meetings for some time and recently stood in twice as our minute taker.

The other is Kryisia Williams who used to be one of our Councillors. She can't be with us tonight as she is away on holiday but volunteered by email.

There has not been time to get them formally proposed and seconded so it falls to the Committee members to co-opt Kryisia and Pauline. So, Committee only, a show of hands please to co-opt Pauline and Kryisia.

## **6: Changes to the Constitution**

Hubert Child read out amendments to Constitution:

From:

“Nominations for candidates (who must be residents of Merton Park Ward) to become Association sponsored council representatives must be forwarded in writing to reach the Secretary not earlier than six months prior to the expiration of the sitting borough councillors' term of office.”

To:

“Nominations for candidates to become Association sponsored council representatives must be forwarded in writing to reach the Secretary not earlier than six months prior to the expiration of the sitting borough councillors’ term of office. Candidates must live or work in Merton Park Ward and are required to demonstrate their commitment to the Ward.”

So, the proposal amounts to allowing people who work in the Ward to stand as Independent Residents candidates as well as people who live in the Ward.

The background to this is that as the years have gone by, as another election approaches, we have been left anxious for some time as to whether we would have three volunteers. We always have managed three residents, but we feel that, to be safe, we need to widen the field. Without the change, we might land up fielding less than three candidates when there was a third available if we had included the Ward’s work force in the field of eligibility. A worker volunteer to be candidate would be someone known to us, as they would otherwise not know to volunteer.

PS spoke – having been involved in 4 elections, he has seen quite a lot of change and being a Councillor requires a lot of commitment.

**Q** Work in the Ward – how is this defined?

**A** Domicile of the business – address of the offices – discretion if needed

**Q** How do we measure commitment if not a resident so cannot be a member of the Residents Association?

**A** Elected by the Residents association Committee. If we have a choice of only 2 residents for Councillors or 2 residents and a committed person, we would like the latter option.

Councillors represent everyone in the Ward including those who are not members of the Association.

**Q** How to measure commitment?

**A** Involved in activities, projects so can judge long term commitment

**Q** Subjective element with commitment was live/not live in area so a clear choice

**A** 2000 employees in Crown House so need more than just working here.

**Q** Add ‘used to live in Ward’?

**A** No too tight a restriction

**Q** Some good people who work & are committed would be excluded if ‘have to live in Ward’?

**A** Cost of housing means only highly paid can live here. Rents are high too! People who best fit the profile.

**Q** Trust Committee to pick people. Can change back if worried by choice

**A** Would have 3 residents over 3 workers in area

**Q** Know people who are committed

**A** Committee makes selection from volunteers – never had more than 3 per election

Vote of amendment mostly for

2 against

2 abstain so carried and will keep under review. Will always

consult on changes.

## **7: Speaker Sarah Gould London Borough of Merton 25th Anniversary Heritage Quiz**

SG led us through a very informative and interesting Quiz about the London Borough of Merton

## **8: 100 Club Report & Draw**

At the AGM last year GC reported that membership of the 100 Club had grown in 2018 and GC hoped that the increase could be maintained in 2019

GC was delighted with the response and was pleased to report that membership has increased by 10 so there are 70 names in the draw this evening which is the best for many years.

It only costs £12 for the year (no increase since the start of MPWRA) and covers the draws held in March July and November. Three prizes are given at each draw £20 for 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, £30 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and £50 for 1<sup>st</sup>.

The only qualification to enter the draw is that you must be a member of the Residents Association. It's great fun to hear your name announced as having won a prize.

3<sup>rd</sup> prize £20 85 Jillian Ashton

2<sup>nd</sup> prize £30 30 Dese Child

1<sup>st</sup> prize £50 73 Anthony & Mary Harman

## **9: Councillors' Reports**

### **Cllr. Edward Foley**

**Deputy Mayor duties** – EF seeing lots more of the Borough and very interesting e.g. Mitcham Carnival and Heritage Centre above the Library in Morden. Windrush display and event there. Care Home open day in Village & Mitcham.

Attended Citizenship ceremony.

Art Exhibition, Girls Brigade events. Knife crime prevention event and Armed Forces Day & lots of Fairs.

No news on the **crossing for Park School**. Paving slabs done in Merton Park Parade today.

**People sleeping in John Innes Recreation ground** and increase in anti-social behaviour & drug dealing. Police are aware and know the individuals. Graffiti will be removed soon

Path through school has been shut a couple of times. Tennis courts not used so much.

**Cllr. Dickie Wilkinson**

**Green manifesto** -there have been a number of e mails in favour. Council to declare climate change emergency but residents and businesses produce most of the emissions not Council.

**Heathrow consultation** on expansion (30 days)- details of website and exhibition on 17<sup>th</sup> August at the Church next to Centre Court

**Thames link giving £80,000 to each station** South Merton, Wimbledon Chase and Morden for improvements for accessibility.

**Boundary review** (2002 last one) now will balance out electorate with very small changes.

Letters to TfL – about **opening the toilets in Morden.**

**Q** Council & TfL toilets – less cleaning of stations?

**A** Letter to TfL from Councillors & will get a response before going to Council.

**Cllr. Peter Southgate**

**Morden Leisure Centre** will now take cash!

**Damage to pavements** – take photos before & after so developers cannot deny responsibility for damage

**Charging for use of tennis courts** – IDVerde will charge but some free courts in Joseph Hood Rec.

**Closure of footpath through Rutlish school** – need more e mails about it.

**Q** Will footpath be closed permanently?

**A** Sodexo want to keep it closed – they are the facility managers

**Q** Gates closed today – they said it was a problem for the Governors/Council.

**A** School has not developed a relationship with the community – we will reflect this.

**Please keep street trees watered this summer.**

**6.0 Questions, Updates and Any other business None**

**Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 8pm at Poplar Road School**  
**Scams and how to avoid them.**

See [www.mertonpark.org.uk](http://www.mertonpark.org.uk) for Merton Park News and to sign up for e-mail alerts.