



Silvery Sands

Residents Association

AGM Minutes 2023

Date: Thursday 23rd March 2023 @ 20.00 to 21.00hrs

Location: St Peter's Church Hall

Committee Attendees:

Chairperson David Musters 87 Thames Side

Secretary Merrill April 90 Thames Side

Treasurer Anitha Subramanian 84b Thames Side

Webmaster & Comms Philip Bergquist 9 Riverside Close

Neighbourhood Watch Chris Turk 82 Thames Side

Committee Member Karen Roake 32 Riverside Close

Committee Member Christine Davies 1 Riverside Close

Committee Apologies

Neighbourhood Watch James Tindall 97 Thames Side

Resident's Attendees

Tick list attached of those Residents who attended.

Apologies were received from Dorothy and Doug, Rani and Beuta, Geoff Richardson, Vic and Linda Masterson, Jill and John How and Emma (97 T/S)

1/ Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last AGM held on **14th March 2022** were proposed by Michele Gibson, Seconded by Merrill April and accepted.

2/ Chairman's Report -

Parties

Thanks were given to Emma for organising the street party.

The summer party raised £105 after costs and thanks were given for the quiz and to all who gave raffle prizes.

For this year it was decided:-

1. Saturday is preferred to Sunday.
2. Early evening around 4:00pm is preferred to midday or late evening.
3. Live band is preferred.
4. Saturday June 24th was selected for the party this year.

Road Maintenance

The pot holes on Thames Side were filled with 45 bags of cold tar. This has largely held up well with a number of new holes appearing due to the bad weather in January. This seems to be the best way to mend the tarmac roads. The intention will be to fill the new holes with



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cold tar as soon as the weather permits. It was agreed that this mode of repair continue until Thames Side can be resurfaced properly.

The worst potholes on Thames Side are outside #94. These have mainly been caused by the escape of gravel from #94. The intention was to leave this area until the driveway is fixed. However, it may have to be done sooner. No timescale confirmed.

The SSRA intends to fix areas of roadway where the frontagers on both sides have paid subs.

Soakaways

A drain cover on Thames Side was replaced from plastic to cast iron. However, heavy lorries have broken that one so a heavy duty cover will be required.

The soakaway silt catchers and inlet pipes were cleaned out in 2022. However, this has not gone far enough. Hence, the soakaways themselves will need to be dug out to increase capacity to better deal with heavy rainfalls. The objective is to do this in 2023 preferably with a work party in order to reduce costs.

3/ Neighbourhood Watch Report

Chris Turk gave a report on the excellent work being carried out by the Neighbourhood Watch team including:-

1. Working very hard with the EA to get the rogue boat outside 84TS to be removed.
2. Thwarting an attempted break in at 68 TS.
3. Looking out for catapult kids which are normally seen in the school holidays.
4. Bike was stolen and recovered.
5. A land rover was stolen from Wheatsheaf lane.
6. A windscreen was smashed on Thames Side.

There was a discussion about CCTV cameras to help in the fight against crime. The meeting agreed the committee could investigate options and spend up to £400 on this.

The Chairman and Rob Howard thanked the Neighbourhood Watch team for their hard work. The Chairman also thanked Michele Gibson for the work sorting the bins on Silvery Sands.

Chris Turk is the admin for the suspicious activity WhatsApp and can add new members.

4/ Treasurer's Report

Anitha Subramanian reported on the current state of SSRA Finances.

Status of Subs for April 2022 to April 2023 Balance £28,633.42 Income to date £ 8,145.57 Expenses in the period £722.30 Net Income £7423.27

Thanks was given to Phil for keeping the web hosting costs so low.

Anitha reported that it could take approximately 3 years for SSRA to collect Subs to the total of £60k required to resurface Thames Side. However it was acknowledged that it could be longer owing to inflation and other factors.



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Anitha also mentioned that it was a struggle to chase Subs from Residents who do not pay immediately, particularly as not all email addresses are logged in the SSRA contact list and there are some long standing residents who do not have access to the internet. Therefore, requests for Subs need to be made door to door. At the date of the meeting there were 10 non-payers carried over from 2021 and 21 households which had not paid so far for 2022. This means the SSRA is owed £3420 for 2021 and 2022.

Rob Howard highlighted that it was important to get the 21 to pay, otherwise we will fall short. The Chairman said he thought we could get it down to 10.

Since the AGM, the Chairman and Treasurer have worked tirelessly to collect the overdue subs. As of 22/05/23 the non-payers have reduced to 12 with an expectation that this will further reduce to 9 households. There are 5 adamant non-payers and 2 claiming poverty. No one has not paid due to the increase of the fee.

Collecting subs is the most time consuming activity for the committee. It would be far better if more attention could be paid to maintaining the roads and providing other services.

Alternative ways to pay Subs

Anitha announced a new easier way to pay by monthly direct debit using GoCardless. Details are on the web site.

5/ Constitution

David Musters proposed some changes to the wording of the constitution in order to explain why the SSRA came about and the importance of paying the subs to protect the integrity of the Estates roads and not treat them merely as a voluntary option.

Significantly all residents/property owners share the joint legal responsibility to maintain our roads up to the centre line and are hence considered members of the SSRA. It is expected that all members should pay the road maintenance fee.

If the roads were allowed to regress, there is a risk that the roads will have to be adopted by the council. This will require street lighting, road surface, drainage widening etc which will cost tens of thousands per household.

The changes to the SSRA Constitution were voted on and accepted. Currently there is no legal way to enforce payment of the road maintenance fee.

6/ Election of Committee Members – All Committee members have expressed their agreement to stand again. There were no other nominations put forward.

The proposal was accepted. Proposed by Michele Gibson. Seconded by Haydn Tanner. A vote of thanks was given to the committee for serving.

7/ WhatsApp etiquette

Merrill April stressed that the WhatsApp Groups 'WhatsApp chat' and 'Suspicious activity' were voluntary and no one should feel any pressure to join them. Important information from



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the committee would always be put on the website and in newsletters for all. Recently there had been some intemperate and upsetting comments on some of the chats and this should be avoided. It was important to treat everyone with the utmost respect and with equal regard, even if their views are different from your own.

8/ SSRA Maintenance Fee for 2023 – The committee suggested that there was a need to increase the Subs as inflation is running at 10% and we need to raise funds faster than inflation or we will be chasing a never ending moving target. The more we pay the sooner Thames Side can be resurfaced. Hence, the less it will cost and the less we will pay in the long run.

The proposal was to raise the Subs from £120 per annum to £130. A vote took place. 14 voted to raise the Subs to £130 pa. 7 voted against. The majority agreement was to raise the subs to £130 per annum.

9/ Public Path to the River

There was discussion concerning the path at the end of Wheatsheaf Lane between numbers 71 and 72 Thames Side. Discussion ensued around whether it was the responsibility of SSRA to resurface it. Michele Gibson thought that the path might be owned by Surrey County Council. It is not. The path is actually the end of Wheatsheaf lane. Thus it is the responsibility of #71 and 72 to maintain the centre line. However, as it is a road it falls under the SSRA to maintain the road and 71 and 72 to maintain the verges. SSRA agreed to see what could be done to improve the surface and reduce the puddles.