

AGM Minutes 2024

Date: 14th March 2024 19:30

Location: St Peter's Church Small Hall

Agenda

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurers Report
6. Neighbourhood Watch Report
7. Cameras
8. Summer Party 2024
9. Committee Election
10. Maintenance fee for 2024
11. AOB

1. Welcome & Apologies

Sixteen households attended the meeting 1 from WL, 7 from RC and 8 from TS.

Committee attendees: David Musters, Phil Bergquist, Anitha Subramanian, Karen Roake and Christine Davies.

Apologies:

David Rowley, Linda and Vic Masterson, Paul Dodd, Chris Turk, James Tindall and Merrill April.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were proposed by Helen Street and seconded by Geoff Richardson.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

The SSRA was formed to save the residents the cost of having Wheatsheaf Lane adopted due to the council refusing to deliver services. Since then it has maintained all our roads:-

- 1). Resurfacing of Wheatsheaf Lane, Riverside Close and Thames Side.
- 2). Provision of soak aways on Riverside Close.
- 3). Filling pot holes.

Wheatsheaf Lane is still in good order following the resurface 3 years ago. Riverside Close is still holding up well so far. Thames Side has come to the end of it's life and desperately needs resurfacing. Each year it breaks up and new pot holes appear not helped by construction traffic.

A local residents association based in Staines

The work parties carried out this year include:-

1. Filled pot holes on Thames Side and Riverside Close.
2. Partly tared the end of Wheatsheaf Lane down to the river to save muddy feet in winter.
This will need a further £300 to complete the job.
3. Replaced a stolen drain grid from outside 29 Riverside Close.
4. Replaced the broken iron grid in front of 85 Thames Side with a 25 ton unit.
5. Resealed the sunken drain grid outside 17 Riverside Close.
6. Inspected the soak aways between 27 and 29 Riverside Close. They were not silted up and are operating perfectly. Hence, there is nothing more we can do with the existing infrastructure to improve drainage on Riverside Close.
7. Trimmed the bushes on Wheatsheaf Lane including to the river. Verge maintenance is really the responsibility of the residents.
8. Cleared the pedestrian paths around the white posts at the entrance.

A special thanks to the few who have done so much for so many. Particularly to:-

- Martin Davies, who helped with so many of these work parties and without his help some would not have been possible.
- Brian Hobday for his work on pot holing.
- Phil Bergquist for the loan of the wacker plate compactor.

I know that our roads are not perfect and we do have a few puddles. However, with the exception of Riverside Close we do not have any drainage and rely on draining into the verges. Having said that the puddles on our roads are no worse than the local council roads which do have drainage. As more people replace soft verges and front gardens for hard standing the pressure on drainage will increase.

Flooding

Our hearts and support go out to James and Emma (97TS) who were flooded this year. It is thankfully ten years since the last flood. I have to say I am disappointed with the Environment Agency who refused to remove the fallen tree restricting the flow on Silvery Sands last November. I started on it in January but was overtaken by the rising water. Hence, the job was only half done. Consequently, the river has silted up all along the side of the meadow. This certainly will have contributed to the flooding in our area.

The EA has Silvery Sands designated for nature. Hence, they do not clear fallen trees in the river in this area. Consequently, the river silts up and the combined blockage causes increased water levels. The River Thames Scheme intended to alleviate flooding in our area will only increase flow by say 20% which is equal to the flow we can loose due to fallen trees on Silvery Sands. Hence, if we do not clear the trees ourselves, we will be no better off and can expect more flooding as we saw in 2014. The EA will only be back to dredge this section of river retrospectively following a major flood.

River Thames Scheme

Surrey council and the Environment Agency intend to make improvements to the tow path to create cycle lanes. This will mean increasing the tow path three fold, a surfaced paths across the meadow and refurbishing of the end of Wheatsheaf Lane between 71 and 72 Thames Side.

Committee

I would like to thank all the members of the committee particularly Anitha the treasurer who has to work all year round to collect the fees. The fees for 2024 will be due April 1st. It will make her life easier if we can get everything done in April.

The roads are not perfect and neither is the committee. If you can do better please step forward.

Planned Works for 2024

The following works will be organised for 2024:-

1. Pot hole filling on Thames Side and Riverside Close.
2. Refurbishment of the white posts which has been outstanding for five years.
3. Annual maintenance of the soak aways on Riverside Close.
4. Trials of CCTV to reduce anti-social behaviour and assist the neighbourhood watch.
5. Further tarmacking of the end of Wheatsheaf Lane between 71 and 72 Thames Side.
Probably leave for the River Thames Scheme.

Pot holing was planned for the weekend of March 23rd. However, the committee has decided that this year it will be done with contractors who scheduled for March 28th. Unfortunately the weather had a different idea and hence it is now rescheduled for Late April. Apologies for the delay.

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5. Treasurers Report

Year 01/04/23 to 31/03/24			Year 01/04/22 to 31/03/23	
	Starting Balance	£ 28,993.42		£ 21,189.87
Income	Road Maintenance Fees	£ 12,214.77		£ 8,124.72
	Summer Party	£ 344.86		£ 97.00
	Statutory Declarations	£ 40.00		£ 40.00
	Easy Fund Raising	£ 67.72		£ 18.87
	Sub-total	£ 12,667.35		£ 8,280.59
Expense	AGM Hall Hire	-£ 44.00		£ -
	Web	-£ 53.81		-£ 51.94
	Road Maintenance	-£ 731.70		-£ 425.09
	Other		GoCardless Test	-£ 0.01
	Sub-total	-£ 829.51		-£ 477.04
Savings	Moved to Savings	£ 40,000.00		
	Ending Balance	10.03.2023 £ 831.26		£ 28,993.42
	Households Paid to Date	75		75
	Households Expected to Pay	2		1
	Households Refusing to Pay	7		8

Collecting maintenance fees is by far the most time consuming activity for the committee and trumps all other tasks put together.

It is difficult to understand those few people who think it is OK to purchase a property on a privately maintained road, enjoy the benefits of our community and then expect to freeloader off their neighbours by forcing them to pay their share. A couple of households even quote disagreements with their neighbours as a reason not to pay their road maintenance fee. Clearly there is no connection.

This year we would like to get all the fees in by the end of April so we can focus on other things like the summer party. Please support the team by paying on time.

6. Neighbourhood Watch Report

We have had the following issues this year:

- Last year 1 Land Rover was stolen, 1 wheel.
- There was a diesel leak on the road
- There is a dog leaving its mess on the estate with an antisocial owner who isn't picking it up
- If anyone wants local information there is a link on the SSRA website

7. Cameras

Last year it was decided to purchase some CCTV cameras to discourage anti-social behaviour. This is still pending as we will have to erect our own posts.

8. Summer Party

The summer party is aimed at bringing the community together, good music and a good time. It is also great value for money. At £15 per adult and £7.50 for children where else can you get:-

1. A live band.
2. Burger and sausages (meat or veg) cooked by our own chef James Tindall.
3. Bottomless salad bar prepared by our ladies.
4. Free beer courtesy of the Thames Brewery.
5. Ice cream.
6. Seconds.
7. A quiz.
8. Good weather.

The event was held in the early afternoon to take advantage of the warm weather and was enjoyed by all that took part. We sold 45 tickets and expect this year to be sold out early.

I would like to thank all those that took part and made the event a success. In particular the Thames Brewery, our chef James, ticket sales by Christine and Karen, the quiz prepared by Andy Duncan and Bora Musters.

Timing was discussed for next year and it was agreed that mid to late afternoon would be good to catch the warmth of the day.

The date for the year will be **Saturday June 22nd 2024**.

9. Committee Election

There were no new volunteers to stand on the committee. Fortunately, the current committee agreed to stand again and were duly re-elected. Proposed by Helen Street and seconded by Bob Douglas.

10. Maintenance fee for 2024

The committee proposed just an inflation increase of £5 making the fee £135. This was unanimously accepted.

A comment from the floor did raise the issue of why more is not done to collect from the few that disdain to contribute their share. The committee is always open to suggestions on this one.

11. AOB

No issues raised.