



Minutes of the meeting of the Warblington and Denvilles Residents' Association Special General Meeting (SGM) held at Warblington School, Friday 15th September 2023.

Present: Andrew Norton (in the chair), Murray Boaz, Ian Brown, Sarah Fletcher, Teresa Flowers, Emma Howard, Steve Leighton. Total attendees 27.

Apologies for absence: Chris Warren (Committee), Des Welborne, Alison Pinn & Dave Buckner, Brian and Joan Potts, Dave Dowland, Keith Watson, Ann Buckley, Derek Terry.

1. Welcome:

- 1.1. Andrew Norton welcomed all to the SGM and thanked everyone for attending.
- 1.2. Andrew introduced himself as acting Chairman, and Murray Boaz as Treasurer.

2. Introduction to the SGM:

- 2.1. The WDRA was formed in 1988 to challenge the Government over increased noise levels from the new A27.
- 2.2. The Association was responsible with others, for gaining financial compensation for local residents.
- 2.3. The Association subsequently aimed to represent the interests of local residents with Havant Borough Council, Hampshire County Council and the Government.
- 2.4. The WDRA footprint extended from School Lane, the Waterloo line and the Billy trail, St Thomas a Becket church, the A27 in the southeast, Eastleigh Road and the houses north of Bartons Road and east of the railway line. Historically it also included some houses in Selangor Avenue, Emsworth.
- 2.5. The WDRA philosophy has always been to represent all members, meaning sometimes considering conflicting views and trying to seek the optimum outcome for the area.
- 2.6. Main issues in recent years have included planning and new housing developments.
- 2.7. The WDRA was a founding member of the Havant Borough Residents Alliance.
- 2.8. We have engaged with the Council where possible to mitigate new development – including us lobbying with previous Councillor Tim Pike for the Stride Centre.
- 2.9. We have responded on behalf of residents to Council consultations and provided comments on planning applications to try to improve outcomes for residents.
- 2.10. It has been a huge commitment and workload and we have never had sufficient skills or finance to present a serious challenge to issues.
- 2.11. We have tried to keep our members abreast of key events and encourage a friendly community.

- 2.12. We have organised events such as the Big Lunch and parties to celebrate national events but recent efforts have been curtailed by COVID.
- 2.13. Our thanks is given to Teresa Flowers who has been running successful coffee mornings to provide a weekly meeting place for those who would appreciate the chance to gather with others or who feel lonely. These coffee mornings will continue while finances permit.
- 2.14. We hope our Councillors will be able to support the coffee mornings through their grants.
- 2.15. We are most thankful for the hard work your area representatives have carried out on behalf of members, delivering newsletters, collecting subscriptions, and providing feedback.
- 2.16. We would also like to thank the ad hoc helpers – their assistance has been invaluable when used.
- 2.17. All on the committee are volunteers and we thank them for all they have contributed to the association. Also a vote of thanks to the wives, husbands and partners of the committee members who have supported and contributed quietly in the background.

3. WDRA Accounts

- 3.1. Full accounts for 2022 was distributed via email to members with hard copies available at the meeting if desired.
- 3.2. Income from subscriptions £1,035 – a reduction of £30 from the previous year.
- 3.3. 84% of subscriptions paid by standing order, reducing the workload for the committee and area reps.
- 3.4. Interest increased to £28.
- 3.5. £550 community grant awarded before COVID has continued to be carried forward.
- 3.6. Expenditure reduced.
- 3.7. Assets £7,135 – an increase of £765 from 2021.
- 3.8. Subs have remained at £3 per year since 2010.
- 3.9. 2023 accounts which will be completed either at year end, or if the association ceases, include subs of £1,008.
- 3.10. If the association ceases, any subscriptions which have been paid in advance for future years will be refunded.
- 3.11. A grant has already been given to Teresa's coffee mornings and a further £1,750 grant has been awarded by the committee. This includes the £550 community grant.
- 3.12. Approx. £6,500 available to be distributed according to votes.
- 3.13. Final balance sheet will be available on the WDRA website.

4. Vote for dissolution of the WDRA

- 4.1. The decision to close the Association was not taken lightly and will be a sad moment.
- 4.2. Committee members have fallen to a level where it was impossible to sustain momentum.
- 4.3. From a request for new committee members last year, only two remain and existing committee members are finding it difficult to attend meetings.
- 4.4. Andrew and Murray formally resigned from the committee, effective from 30th November 2023, after 12 and 15 years on the committee respectively.
- 4.5. With no-one willing to take on the running of the Association, it will unfortunately be dissolved.

4.6. Andrew requested if anyone would like to take over the WDRA as chair, to be voted in along with at least two other persons to form a committee. A committee would need a treasurer, secretary, membership secretary and webmaster. No-one forthcoming.

4.7. A vote is now needed as the association is for all members and a majority must be reached.

4.8. Vote for the dissolution of the WDRA – 27 for, 0 against, 0 abstain. The WDRA will therefore formally be dissolved.

5. Vote for the distribution of funds to good causes:

5.1. All standing orders will be cancelled and the bank account closed.

5.2. It is appropriate for the funds held by the association to be distributed to causes which benefit our members and a vote is now needed – members present can vote for more than one cause if desired.

5.3. Distribution of the funds will be calculated after the meeting.

5.4. Votes as follows:

- i The Stride Centre 18
- ii The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre 20
- iii St Thomas a Becket Church, Warblington 11
- iv Warblington School 6
- v The Scouts and Guides Association (running from the Stride Centre) 14
- vi St Faiths Church accessible toilet fund 18
- vii Further funds for Teresa's coffee mornings 12

6. WDRA Arrangements:

6.1. The WDRA noticeboard next to Warblington level crossing will be taken over by Warblington school.

6.2. Electronic files and membership records will be held on electronic media and stored for three years.

6.3. Financial records will be held on electronic media and stored for seven years.

6.4. Copies of the WDRA newsletters will be offered to the archives at the Spring Arts and Heritage centre.

6.5. WDRA website and emails will lapse in February 2024.

7. Questions:

7.1. Question: What needs to happen to all the historic paperwork held by a previous WDRA secretary?

- i Answer: Will need to go through it and clear out where necessary before storing on electronic media.

7.2. Question: Speaking for the majority here, this is a sad outcome. The WDRA has been a good voice for the area.

- i Traffic issues are the responsibility of Hampshire County Council.
- ii Report anything to the Havant Borough Council website – 4 times as many potholes than last year.
- iii Andrew is still trying to pursue road repairs owing to the building of the new developments.
- iv Conflicting views mean it has become hard to represent everyone.

7.3. Question: As a Councillor in the local area, the WDRA has been one of the best in the borough. Will be sad to see the association go, on behalf of everyone – thank you.

7.4. Final thanks was given for attending. The meeting closed at 8.06pm.