

LEE & LINCOMBE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Mr. Eric Couling (01271) 871545 ericleedevon@gmail.com

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. David Biggerstaff (0271) 866109 dgbiggerstaff@outlook.com

Hon. Secretary: Mr. Paul Scarrott (01271) 864723 pes-2@outlook.com

MINUTES OF THE LEE & LINCOMBE RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION A.G.M. Held on 14th MAY 2019 in LEE MEMORIAL HALL.

- 1). The Chairman (Eric Couling) welcomed everybody to the 53rd Annual General Meeting and cordially invited everyone to refreshments afterwards.
- 2). Apologies were received from Alan and Margaret Bannister, Elizabeth and Bob Gilliat, Martin and Jane Johncock, Pat and Tony Seymour, and Enid Bowman. The apology from Andrew Aisles also expressed a vote of thanks for the work of the committee.
- 3). The Minutes of the 2018 A.G.M. were summarised for the members and had been available for checking on the LLRA website for the previous 12 months. There were no matters arising and minutes from 2018 were accepted by all those who had been present.
- 4). The Chairman's Report was read out by Eric Couling. A copy is on file. In particular, the Chair thanked Ilfracombe Town Council for their funding and support for the public toilets, and for Barry Jewell who cleans (and provides wonderful hanging baskets), that make such a difference to the experience of visitors to the bay. He described the efforts that members and the committee had made in securing a unanimous council decision to reject the latest Acorn Blue planning application for the hotel site (63167). He emphasised the telling and moving comments of one of speakers at the council planning meeting – Martha Scarrott – in her stating that Lee and Lincombe were not dying villages, as demonstrated by the presence and residence of all generations and thirteen thriving clubs, events and associations. Pat Coates was warmly congratulated on her appointment as a Ilfracombe Town councillor. The report was proposed by Marion Thom and seconded by Martha Scarrott.
- 5). The Treasurer's Report was read out by Paul Thom. A copy is on file. Paul Thom presented the signed accounts describing a total balance of £2820. The outgoings including a new defibrillator battery, increased hall hire costs as a result of more meetings (in consequence of Hotel application) and a deposit for the hiring of Richard Buxton Solicitors to support the objection to the proposed Hotel planning application. Member subscriptions have increased to £290 this year (59 households), our best for a while. The overall deficit this year had been £614. A further balance of £1300 has been paid to the solicitors, which will leave about £1500 in the funds. He advised that any further legal costs should be met by raising funds and not taken from the remaining balance. Eleanor Scarrott proposed the report be adopted, and this was seconded by Carolyn Weekes and carried. The treasurer indicated that he would be retiring this year after 16 years in the post. He placed his gratitude to Elizabeth Gilliat on record for her

always deputising for him when he was unavailable. Paul's significant and steadfast contribution was recognised by all with three hoorahs.

- 6). The Secretary's report was read out by Paul Scarrott. A copy is on file. The secretary confirmed that he had complied with his duties to keep and post accurate records of the committee's dealings. He reminded the audience of the aims of the association, and the purpose of the AGM. He described the activity of the committee over the last 12 months that included: maintenance and checking of the defibrillator; increased opening times of the public toilets to include the Christmas holidays this year; lobbying of councillors to enable speed controls through Lincombe to the bay; village maintenance including the undermined road in the front of the sea wall and broken street lights; septic tank issues; and finally the spread of Japanese knotweed on the hotel grounds. He expressed his gratitude to Ian Stuart and Gina-Luisa Hilborne for their assistance in circulating information on the Fuchsia List, and once again for Gina recognising the support she conscientiously and professionally provides to the association by administering to its IT requirements and website. He described the outcome of the hotel planning application and described the future requirements for supplementary planning guidance. Specific thanks were given to individuals who had gone the extra mile in securing the rejection of the hotel planning application. The report was proposed by Pat Coates and seconded by Owen Rolfe.
- 7). With regards to the control of Japanese Knotweed in the villages the authorised and accredited team are continuing their sterling work with Enid Bowman now in charge of the team ably assisted by Brian Russell. Enid has been in contact with the Environment Agency and has secured a two-year supply of the authorised herbicides. There is fresh growth this year, particularly in the Borough Valley and around the hotel grounds. The most effective time for treatment is in autumn to prevent regrowth but treatment will also be carried out at the discretion of the team to control outbreaks during the spring and summer. The association will continue to liaise with the council enforcement officer regarding the owner's commitment to begin treatment at the hotel site by June. All insurance and other costs are fully up to date. Lawrence Wright queried whether knotweed treatment could extend outside the villages towards the farms. The secretary undertook to refer the matter to Enid Bowman.
- 8). The Treasurer presented the Planning Applications for 2018/19, a copy of which is on file. There had been no objections by the committee to most applications, with all but the hotel application having been approved where a decision had been made. Ian Stuart emphasised that he felt the requirement for a supplementary planning guidance for the hotel site was key and very helpful. Ian also reminded the audience of an advert that had been placed in the Lee and Link'em News in 2007 by the owners of the hotel describing a bright future with a restored and refurbished building – a point of irony accepted by all. There was a brief discussion and consensus to ensure all planning notifications affecting the villages were notified to the association, and where possible the association should influence a move to more permanent housing when derelict sites are brought back into use.
- 9). The level of subscription was discussed. Paul Thom proposed they remain at £5, which was seconded by Matt Dearden and carried.
- 10). Changes to the constitution of the association were proposed and described on behalf of the committee by Paul Thom. Any changes to the constitution would require a vote in favour by at least 75% of the members present. The Constitution was last

amended at the Annual General Meeting in 2008, but these were only minor changes. The last major change was made back in 2001 – 18 years ago. Paul explained that the aim was to make the Constitution more inclusive and flexible – in other words, fit for purpose for today. The changes are:

- a) Enabling the membership to be widened to anyone providing they support the aims of the Association and they pay the annual subscription (Rule 3a);
- b) Committee members to be residents living in Lee and Lincombe as defined by the Ecclesiastical Parish, a technical change to allow members who live on the south side of the stream. This also extended to members to have lived in the ecclesiastical parish within the last five years to allow the committee to retain the skills and knowledge of members that may no longer live within the aforesaid area (Rule 4c);
- c) Committee members' residential qualification has been reduced from two years to one year. Their membership qualification has been changed to have paid their annual subscription instead of being a member for at least one year (Rule 4g);
- d) Using the Association's website as an additional means of informing members (Rules 5a, 9 & 10);
- e) Three new Rules which have been missing from the current Constitution have been added:
 - i) the co-option of additional members to the Committee has been clarified. (Rule 4h);
 - ii) the location of Association meetings, which can now be by email for urgent matters (Rule 6b);
 - iii) the winding-up and closure of the Association should this ever be necessary with the distribution of remaining funds amongst other village associations and clubs (Rule 12);
- f) There are several minor changes made including chairperson instead of chairman, clarifying the qualifications of a co-opted member to fill a casual vacancy on the Committee and a copy of the Constitution is available to members on the website.

There was a consensus that the proposals were reasonable. A unanimous vote of 20 members supported the changes.

- 11). The nominations for the committee and the election of said members and honorary officers was then considered. Firstly however, tribute was paid to retiring and outgoing members who had made a significant contribution over many years. The chair presented floral gifts to Paul and Marion Thom, Mavis Rogers, Elizabeth Gilliat, and Trevor Greaves. Elizabeth (not present) had been a committee member since 1967 and had served as chairlady for many years. The attendee list from the inaugural meeting was read out in her honour.

The following were duly confirmed as committee members for 2019: ***Eric Couling, Cllr Pat Coates, Matt Dearden, Kieran Fisher, Owen Rolfe, Carolyn Weekes and Martha Scarrott. David Biggerstaff was thanked by the chair for accepting the role of honorary treasurer, with Paul Scarrott continuing as honorary secretary.***

- 12). Any other Business. Ian Stuart proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the community for the work carried out by the committee in 2018/19, which was carried by all.
- 13). There being no other Business the Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. and refreshments were served.

Paul Scarrott

Secretary LLRA