

# ***Banstead Village Residents' Association***

## **Minutes of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 Held at Banstead Preparatory School, Sutton Lane, Banstead**

### **1. Welcome by the Chairman**

The chairman (David Talbot) welcomed all members, councillors and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr David Munro, to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association and thanked the Banstead Preparatory School for allowing us the use of their hall and facilities.

### **2. Guest Speaker Mr David Munro Police and Crime Commissioner**

The chairman introduced Mr David Munro, the PCC for Surrey and thanked him for stepping in at short notice in place of Nigel Ellis from Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.

Mr Munro explained that his role covered the whole of Surrey (around one million inhabitants) and included the setting of the Police and Crime objectives for the area along with the budget (over £235 million). He added that the role of the 41 PCCs across the country was to hold the individual police forces to account for their actions. For the current financial year, an increase of 10% was agreed for the police budget in Council Tax. They had sought the opinion of residents and of the just under 6,000 responses received, 75% were in favour of the increase. This has resulted in saving 25 positions together with the creation of a further 79 roles, although not all these roles were for additional officers. Mr Munro also spoke about the increased use of technology by the force resulting in officers being able to spend more time tackling crime than on administrative duties.

He outlined the priorities of the PCC's Police and Crime plan (tackling crime and keeping people safe, building confident communities, supporting victims, preventing harm, making every pound count and a force fit for the future) and the areas of offences Surrey Police are most concerned with (antisocial behaviour, burglary, child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, drug / alcohol offences, fraud, modern slavery and unauthorised encampments).

Mr Munro then took questions from residents including:

- The use of top end vehicles by the police and the possibility of saving money by using lower value vehicles. Mr Munro explained that some high-performance vehicles were required to catch criminals but lower specification cars were used by administration staff and also the force now had 32 electric cars to further reduce cost.
- The use of Banstead Police station (which is used as a temporary base, but is not open to the general public). Mr Munro added that with the move of Police headquarters to Guildford this will also mean that Reigate Police station will also be closed.
- The downgrading of some types of crime such as some motor vehicle thefts. Mr Munro spoke further on the use of PCSOs to gather intelligence and the reporting of things, such as telephone scams and the need to report them by calling 101. This helps build intelligence.

Following questions, the chairman thanked Mr Munro for his presentation and asked how the community could help. Mr Munro's response was for the general public to support the Police in doing their jobs.

### **3. Minutes of the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting 2018**

These were presented, no objections were raised. Their acceptance was proposed by Ben Martin, seconded by Richard Heath and duly accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising - There were no matters arising.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

The chairman noted that it had been a year of many changes:

- To our own committee, with some people standing down and others joining. The chairman thanked the members of the committee:
  - Planning – led by Catalina Vassallo-Bonner with Ben Martin and new recruit Melanie Ramsey.
  - Treasurer, transport and infrastructure – David Gradidge
  - Others – Brian Ransom, Cliff Glenfield, Richard Heath and new recruit Barbara Birch.
  - The chairman also gave thanks to past members of the committee Marion and John Hayns and Kerry Gardner.
  - He added that the association was always keen for new members.
- To our constitution - changes have been proposed to the constitution: mainly to clarify membership for businesses, appointment of all officers at the AGM, moving the AGM to June, to allow more time for the accounts to be agreed by the independent examiner (our year end being in March) and changing the wording of 'auditor' to 'independent examiner'. The meeting went on to discuss the election of the Executive committee - paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 of the constitution. It was suggested by the members that individual appointments to the Executive were presented to the AGM for approval. Subject to the above revisions the Constitution was proposed for agreement by Mike Sawyer, seconded by Cliff Glanfield and accepted by a show of hands.
- To our boundary - The Chairman also made reference to the boundary changes and the recent local elections.
- To the council's funding - Council funding will be reduced and this will have an impact on the village. We and other voluntary organisations will work together to try to mitigate some of the problems caused.
- To our buildings – Our old sorting office being converted to a nursery school, the old Priory school closed and proposed to be a retirement home, a new nursing home on the Brighton Road, our railway station being upgraded, possible developments of the old allotments in Wellesford Close and redevelopment our Community Hall and the Horseshoe.

Projects for the next year include further work on Winkworth Road and the new village sign – which should be ready by the autumn. The Association has also put together a petition to be sent to SCC regarding "Lake Victoria". The cause of the problem has been identified as a fractured pipe. SCC has allocated the problem as being of medium priority it is hoped the

petition will help to move this up the list of priorities. The chairman reiterated the need for more signatures and asked members to sign it.

Other matters, the association had a stall at the May Fayre and would also be present at the village day in July.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

David Gradidge presented the Treasurer's report. Membership was down slightly, one reason may be that properties were being purchased in the village for letting, although there maybe other reasons. A small contribution had been made towards the replacement of the Christmas lights. Additional one off costs included the BVRA wheelbarrow.

Cash on the balance sheet has increased but this included £3750 set aside for the Village sign.

Questions were raised regarding the on-line payment system. Further efforts will be made in rolling this out to other roads and will put an item in the newsheet. It was agreed that the use of the road stewards whether to collect subscriptions or deliver the newsheet was important as a point of contact with residents. A further question was raised over an increase in subscriptions to provide a fighting fund for the future. The chairman said this would be looked at but subscription had only recently been increased.

The proposal to accept the accounts was made by Cliff Glanfield and seconded by Mike Sawyer and unanimously accepted in voting by members present.

## **6. Election of Officers**

**Election of Hon. Secretary** - Catalina Vassallo-Bonner, **Hon. Treasurer** David Gradidge and **Independent Examiner** – Cliff Howden were proposed by Ben Martin, Seconded by Cliff Glanfield and unanimously accepted in voting by members present.

## **7. Questions to Councillors**

The Chairman welcomed our local Councillors who took the floor and answered members' questions.

Councillor Humphries said that he was happy that the Banstead Business Guild was 'up and running' and noted an awards evening on 6<sup>th</sup> June. He looked to make further improvements to the High Street and was fighting any increases in housing policies as he felt that the levels were sufficient as long as the building was sensibly planned.

Ken Gulati said that SCC was short of money due to the Government having reduced their support which was now at zero – 2019/20 is a 'crunch' year. Surrey County Council had taken the decision to transform its organisation in order to deliver the same service at lower costs. This would include for example, using fewer buildings and providing some services remotely.

Councillor Nadean Moses said that she was happy to be elected and vowed to help sort out the 'Lake Victoria' issue in the High Street.

Questions included:

- What is the policy of cutting down trees and leaving an ugly stump..? Councillor Gulati responded that SCC only had sufficient funds to ensure that dangerous trees were cut down and the stump was left for safety reasons. This prompted a further question about whether BVRA could increase the annual subscriptions to cover the cost of grinding out the stumps. Councillor Gulati welcomed the suggestion. Councillor Humphreys suggested that part of the CIL fund could perhaps be used for this purpose, if that was what the residents wanted. The Chairman asked that residents email BVRA with any suggestions for spending the CIL fund – the address is 'Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com'.
- What was being done about the fly-tipping in the Horseshoe..? Councillor Humphreys added that CCTV was being installed to address the issue.
- Councillor Gulati added to the discussion on Lake Victoria asking residents to please sign the petition. The work required to resolve the issue would be carried out by SCC "wet spots unit" this had been assessed as a medium priority and could take a further 18 months to resolve. Mr Gulati felt that the petition could give the "wet spots unit" a greater urgency to resolve the issue.
- Are there any updates to the developments to the car park / community centre? Councillor Humphreys responded that there were no current developments and he appreciated that it was a well used facility. The current lease runs to 2023.
- How can the Community Association plan to continue their business..? Councillor Humphreys said that he would investigate.
- Will the car parking be reduced when the Horseshoe is redeveloped? Councillor Humphreys responded that the car parking in the High Street needs to be maintained.

## **8. AOB**

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the residents and the Councillors for attending and the evening concluded at 9:40 PM.