



Banstead Village Residents Association

***66th Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 22nd May 2013
Held in the Church Institute, Banstead***

1. *Welcome by chairman*

Roger Collins introduced himself and welcomed all those present. He thanked those who were in attendance, and was pleased that our new Surrey County Councillor, Ken Gulati, was able to be present with our Ward Councillor Dr Lynne Hack. Our other Ward Councillors, Eddy Humphreys and Sam Walsh could not attend. Roger Collins was also delighted to welcome Mrs Angela Fraser DL, our previous County Councillor

2. *Minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting:*

The minutes of the May 2012 Annual General Meeting were presented in summary form and duly accepted as a true record.

3. *Police Liaison*

Sgt Karen Coyne and PC Leah Mort were in attendance and informed the meeting on the current policing issues, including:

- Several forced entry into properties
- Continuing vehicle thefts, of and from cars that have largely been left unsecured by their owners.
- Cold calling on householders by people looking to buy gold and jewellery continues in the area and householders should display stickers (which were available at the back of the hall) to show they were not interested.
- Occasional burglaries and shoplifting continues, but is under control with the Shopwatch system.

There were no questions to the police from those present, and the chairman thanked Sgt Coyle and PC Mort for attending.

4. *Presentation by Trevor Leggo Chief executive of the Surrey and Sussex Federation of Parish councils*

The Chairman introduced Mr Trevor Leggo who had been invited to describe the pros and cons of a Village Council as well as the processes which would have to be undertaken to set one up. Mr Leggo gave an informative slideshow presentation, explained in detail the various steps that would have to be undertaken to set up a Village Council and the need for Council support and initial financial assistance (this can be acquired from BVRA if anyone requires a copy). One of Mr Leggo's committee, Cllr Richard Oliver, who is also Chairman and Town Mayor of Horley, added some interesting practical insights into the function of a Town or Village Council followed by a lively question and answer session and the association members present, when asked, voted in favour of the BVRA Committee continuing to pursue the possibility of a Village council under the guidance of Richard Heath and his sub-committee. The

chairman thanked Mr Leggo for his interesting and informative talk and for giving us his time.

5. *Chairman's Report*

Roger Collins presented his report for the year. "On the assumption that you have read our recent NewsSheet, although some of you may not yet have had it delivered, you will know that several old issues keep rolling along. The Borough Council has just been through the Examination in Public (EIP) of its revised Core Strategy, which will provide the framework for the Local Plan and thus for all future planning matters. It will be some weeks before the Planning Inspector pronounces his verdict on this document and we will let you know the result in due course. Meanwhile we should remind you that at the heart of the Core Strategy are the council's plans for new housing and commercial development, which in turn interacts with the question of the Green Belt. Our position has been presented at the EIP, where we stressed the need to limit development to a level that does not require release of Green Belt land. We have had sight of a letter from the Prime Minister to our MP, Crispin Blunt, in which he states clearly that the presumption in favour of planning developments does not, in his words, 'trump preservation of the green belt'. Nevertheless we fear that the Council will be forced to use some areas of the Green Belt to meet its housing targets. Do question us in the Open Forum later this evening if you need further elaboration on this crucial matter. It is worth saying that a Village Council would have a greater influence on planning development than BVRA can achieve.

The NHS is another matter close to our hearts. You may have found last year's presentation by Dr Claire Fuller on the new structure for the provision of health services difficult to grasp as it is a complex matter; what she described, with the groups of GP practices in control of commissioning both primary and secondary treatment, is now in force. It is early days and we will have to wait and see how it works. My own view is that patients will hardly see any difference in their day-to-day health provision. Meanwhile, the issue of what services will be supplied by Epsom Hospital has blown up and we also await the decisions of the Better Services Better Value team; it will be around 5 years before their recommendations are implemented, or not, as the case may be, but they will affect us all. Crispin Blunt is concerned and active on this matter and is looking to find a way of rehousing the Longcroft Clinic in more appropriate facilities. Again, we must wait and see but do read our NewsSheet on this complex issue.

Finally, after 25 years as our county councillor, and for some years before that as a borough councillor, we have to say goodbye to Angela Fraser who has just retired. We owe Angela a big vote of thanks for her many years of service and assistance to the village and would like to present here with small token of our gratitude."

Sally Hull presented her with a bouquet of flowers, and Mrs Fraser thanked the committee and residents, with whom she had enjoyed so many years of working together.

Roger Collins then moved on to the domestic matters relating to the accounts and Committee elections..

6. *Presentation of audited Accounts:*

The Chairman asked David Gradidge as Hon Treasurer to present the audited annual accounts; these covered the period up to the end of March 2013 and a copy is attached to these minutes. In a nutshell, although we had had an in year deficit of £1,229, this was due to unusual expenditure (mainly support for the ‘banners’ on the lamp posts) and we are solvent; we have reserves of around £8,000 against normal annual expenditure of some £4,000, which our current annual sub of £2 per household will cover. There is no need to increase the sub.

Acceptance of these accounts was proposed by Sylvias Cartwright and seconded by Nina Sawyer; the meeting gave its unanimous agreement.

7. *Election of Officers and Committee:*

The Chairman confirmed that we are required to confirm the election of an Hon. Secretary and an Hon. Treasurer. He said that we are lucky to have such good people in post as Catalina Vassallo-Bonner and David Gradidge respectively and both are prepared to stand again this year. They were proposed by Mike Sawyer and seconded by Sally Hull and agreed by the meeting.

It is our normal practice to elect the remaining members of the Executive Committee en bloc and if the meeting agrees the Chairman proposed to do so again. We have had no resignations during the year and the committee has given the Association sterling support throughout the year; the chairman thanked them for their time and efforts - it has been good to work with them.

The members of the Committee are: Shirley Conacher, John Conacher, Tony Ford, Richard Heath, Sally Hull, Graeme Ward and Ron Phillips; in addition the committee includes Mike Sawyer and Roger Collins who are currently Chairman and Vice Chairman. The election of these committee members was proposed by Ken Gulati, seconded by Sue Collins and agreed by the meeting. The next meeting of this Committee on Tuesday 28th May will elect the Chairman and the vice-Chairman for the coming year, in accordance with our constitution..

The committee wished to thank Christopher Jenkins for auditing this year’s accounts and for agreeing to act as Auditor in the coming year. His appointment was proposed by Mike Sawyer, seconded by Richard Heath and agreed by the meeting.

8. *Open Forum:*

The Chairman then welcomed our Reigate and Banstead Borough councillor, Cllr Dr Lynne Hack and Surrey County Councillor Mr Ken Gulati. Mr Gulati congratulated Dr Hack on becoming the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead for the current year. A debate followed, on such issues as:

- The Core Strategy with its main concern of the Green Belt review
- Recycling Bins

- Problems with the county's potholes.
- A plan is in place to place contracts with neighbouring councils to utilise resources more efficiently.
- Lack of a promised dropped kerb in Bonsor Close
- Request that Woodmansterne Lane be resurfaced
- Residents of Garden Close seeking double yellow lines as the current system renders the road too narrow to allow public service vehicles to get through

9. *AOB*

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.55 hours.