

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of St Stephen's Residents Association, held at 7.30pm on 8th November 2016 in St Stephen's Church Hall

## Welcome

Jennifer Holland welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Councillors, representatives of the Market Way and St Michael's Road Area Residents Associations, Suzanne Ridley and two Community Champions from the University of Kent.

## Apologies

Kate Curl, Harry and Sheila Cragg, Jake and Philippa Davies, Chris Palmer, Jenny Robson, Sally Waters

## Minutes of last AGM

Approved

## Matters Arising

Nil

## Chairman's Report

1. Jennifer Holland thanked our councillors, Terry Westgate and Graham Gibbens, for their support of the RA. She also thanked Graham for the grants from his Member Grant Fund which contributed towards the purchase of the new benches on Manwood Green and St Stephen's Field and to the improvements to the central green area in Tyler Close.
2. The wall behind the bench in St Stephen's Field has been repointed.
3. Litter – 11 bags of litter were collected as part of the Clean for the Queen initiative, and more for It's Your Neighbourhood. A litter collecting scheme is planned for the future.
4. A grass verge and footway parking ban was granted in June 2016 for St Stephen's Green and Manwood Avenue. Signs are to be erected soon.
5. Jennifer Holland thanked Felicity Tasker for organising the Jumble Trail. 33 houses participated and although profits were not large, this was very successful on the social front.
6. Jennifer Holland thanked Pauline Walters for the email updates which she sends regularly to residents.
7. More bulbs have been planted around the area, and a new cherry tree has been planted on Manwood Green. The RA will also be funding a new tree at the entrance to St Stephen's Court.
8. Jennifer Holland asked residents for ideas for environmental improvements which could be funded by the RA.
9. Tyler Close and Manwood Green were entered into It's Your Neighbourhood, which is part of Britain in Bloom. The assessor has offered suggestions for future developments including planting shrubs behind the bench on Manwood Green. This will be done early next year.
10. Sue Langdown has represented the RA on the Serco site stakeholders' group and the Student Impact Review. Jennifer Holland has attended consultation meetings about the University of Kent Masterplan.
11. CCC has voluntarily designated Kingsmead Field as a town green. Funding has been granted for improvements.
12. Jennifer Holland thanked Felicity Tasker for her work on the RA Facebook page.
13. Jennifer Holland thanked Ian Hancock for his work on the RA website and presented him with a gift.
14. An Open Gardens and another Jumble Trail are possible events for next year.
15. Residents were invited to sign up to be involved in 3 activities: litter picking groups, an Events Sub-committee and a Gardening Interest Group. The gardening group is planned to start in Spring 17 with activities such as a sunflower growing competition and a plant swap and sale.

## Treasurer's Report (Terry Patten)

There was £1900 in the account at the beginning of the year and £1900 at the end!

Subs were collected from 220 households. The Jumble Trail raised £250. £700 was contributed towards the 2 new benches and the tree for St Stephen's Court cost £200.

Terry proposed that subs for the coming year should remain at £3 per household. They will be collected in April.

## Neighbourhood Watch (Tony Whiting)

Tony receives information from Kent Police via email. Information relevant to residents in St Stephen's is then circulated via Pauline Walters' emails. To prevent burglary, Tony suggested leaving lights and radios on. Household valuables can be marked. Scams and frauds are the most likely crimes to affect residents. Banks are becoming less tolerant of customers responding to fraudulent emails. Tony suggested updating firewalls and not clicking on links in emails. Residents are asked to look out for their elderly neighbours.

## Street Reps/Communications (Pauline Walters)

Pauline Walters thanked the Street Reps for their support.

Pauline has sent out 130 emails this year, on a variety of subjects, to 181 recipients.

The Tradesmen's List remains available to residents.

Pauline is considering starting a list of equipment available to borrow.

There have been 2 successful scams in The Crescent, involving callers to the door. Residents are advised to be vigilant.

## **Election of Officers**

Terry Westgate thanked last year's committee for their contribution, and particularly Jennifer Holland for her hard work as Chairman. There were no new volunteers to stand for election.

The following officers were re-elected for the year 2016-17:

Chairman: Jennifer Holland Secretary: Chris Molony  
Treasurer: Terry Patten NW: Tony Whiting  
Committee: Sue Langdown, Sue Pratt, Felicity Tasker, Pauline Walters, Ron Walters.  
Sue Langdown will continue to represent the RA on various committees.

## **AOB/Questions and Answers**

1. A resident asked if it is possible to plant in the verges on Moorfields. Graham Gibbens explained that this is illegal. There are utilities under the verges and massive insurance would be required. A grass verge parking ban was achieved for St Stephen's Green. Now is the time of year to apply for further bans, if required.
2. A resident asked what action is being taken to enforce the verge parking ban. Terry Westgate will chase up the Enforcement Officers and supply a phone number which can be used to report problems to the council. Information to be included in the next newsletter.
3. Cars are still parking on the double yellow lines in Manwood Avenue, near Archbishops School. Again, Enforcement can be informed. Kentfire.org could be campaigned, as routes need to be kept clear for emergency access.
4. Students are being better behaved and quieter.
5. The phone box on St Stephen's Green is due to be repainted this year.
6. Vegetation overhanging onto the pavement constitutes trespass. This can be reported on the KCC website, or email Graham Gibbens who will pass it on. Information to be included in the next newsletter.
7. A resident asked about the young African men who play football on Beverley Meadow. Graham Gibbens said that there are houses of asylum seekers in the Canterbury District.
8. A resident asked if there is any progress on replacing the bins in Beverley Meadow with covered bins. Seagulls scatter the rubbish around. Terry Westgate reported that the bins in the city centre have been replaced with lidded ones, but these are very expensive and CCC is short of funds. He will investigate costs. A bin is also needed near the new seat in St Stephen's Field.

## **Speaker: Graham Gibbens**

Graham is the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health at KCC. He controls a huge budget and is working on Vanguard, which is a national pilot scheme looking at providing care closer to home and keeping people out of hospital. Via his Member Grant, Graham has provided funding for local community projects eg. Sturry Road Early Years Project healthy eating programmes, benches at Tyler Close, Manwood Green and St Stephen's Field, picnic benches at Kingsmead Field, digital equipment for Porchlight and support for the Prince of Wales Youth Club. Graham has backed smoke-free play areas at 5 locations and is planning a project for smoke-free school gates. He is also involved in planning for a Community Support Coordinator for Northgate and St Stephen's to signpost vulnerable and isolated people to appropriate services. This will be supported by the diocese.

## **Speaker: Terry Westgate**

Terry is the Litter Liaison Councillor for Canterbury. He leads by example and gets involved in litter picks and cleaning of graffiti locally.

A Litter Action Guide has been produced by local people and is available on the CCC website. This contains contact information and guidance on dealing with issues around litter.

The Riding Gate and St George's underpasses are being deep cleaned and anti-graffiti paint applied to allow easy removal of graffiti.

Terry is involved with BID in the city centre, and with student bodies to tackle issues around litter.

Terry has purchased 50 litter hoops which are available to groups.

## **Speaker: Suzanne Ridley**

Suzanne is the Community Liaison Officer for UKC. She has 3 areas of responsibility:

1. Identifying and promoting volunteering opportunities
2. Key projects eg. Street Marshalls
3. Community complaints and feedback.

On receipt of a complaint Suzanne needs to identify the student residents. For a first incident, a strongly worded letter is sent, and this is usually successful in resolving the problem. Following a second complaint the students are referred to their college master. If penitent, they are warned; if the incident is serious, or if the students are not taking the complaint seriously, then they will be sanctioned. If the students dispute the complaint then the complainant must approach the city council with the problem. Transitory noise in the street cannot be dealt with unless the students can be identified.

When they arrive at the Uni, students are given advice about being good neighbours.

3 students work in the St Michael's Road area as Student Community Champions. They liaise with students and residents around bins, parties etc, including those students who have received letters. They are also involved in promoting volunteering and collecting food for food banks and for Catching Lives. The scheme may be rolled out to other areas next year.

The meeting finished with 'wine and nibbles'.