

**NUTBOURNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**Venue            The Barn, Long Platt, The Street.**

**Committee Members :-**

Brian White ( Chairman )    Andrew Moffat (NHW)    Carole Martin (Secretary)

**RESIDENTS :-**

Mike & Betty Sherwood	Barry Davies
Roger Curtis	Nadine Guest
Chris & Jeanette Brickell	Frank & Erica Riddle
Gil & Rod Wilson	Ruth Simmonds
Bridget Gladwin	Sarah Browne
Andrea Lawson	Lynne White
Philip & Ruth Migdale	Jilly Marcuson
Elizabeth Beesley	
Robin Martin	

**Guests**

Ian & Sarah Hare

**Apologies**

Andrew Dobson	Jim & Gill Shaw
John & Pam Wellard	Bob Allison
Trevor & Audrey Rose	Roger & Susan Burroughs

**1) Welcome**

The Chairman (BW) welcomed members and residents and thanked Jilly Marcuson for the use of her Barn. He introduced Ian Hare (IH) who had kindly agreed to attend the meeting to talk about Aircraft noise and potential developments at Gatwick.

**2) Minutes of last meeting (27<sup>th</sup> October 2014)**

The minutes of this meeting were agreed as a true record.

**3) Chairman's Report presented by BW (attached)**

Main points not arising elsewhere on the agenda -:

- a) Thanks were expressed to Tristan and Rebecca for the continued use of The Rising Sun as a meeting place for the NRA.
- b) The final version of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Report issued by Horsham District Council currently does not consider land at Carpe Diem developable
- c) Thanks were expressed to Diane Smith for all her hard work over the last few years acting as secretary to the NRA.
- d) Gratitude was also expressed to Mike Sherwood (MS) and Frank Riddle (FR) for their efforts with data entry of the responses to the Pulborough Neighbourhood Development Plan questionnaire.

- e) Sincere condolences were offered to the families of Jim Noble, Lorraine Osbourne and Mick Smithers who sadly passed away in 2014.
- f) BW ended his report by saying that he felt 2014 had been a rather controversial and confrontational year and hoped 2015 would be more constructive.

#### **4) Treasurer's Report presented by BW in absence of Bob Allison (BA) (attached)**

Main points -:

- a) The surplus as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014 was £312.45 compared with £247.01 in 2013.
- b) BW reminded the meeting that voluntary donations for the current year could be paid at the end of the meeting -- £5 per person or £10 per household is usual.

#### **5) Neighbourhood Watch Report presented by AM**

Main points -:

- a) There are now about 70 people in the Nutbourne area covered by the scheme who receive regular emails on local criminal incidents ,fictitious traders etc.
- b) Residents were reminded to be sensible, vigilant and careful and in particular to keep garden sheds locked.
- c) AM is also the Chairman of the Horsham District NW and meets regularly with the police and the District Commander.
- d) Residents were informed that some insurance companies offer a 15% discount to bona fide members of NW groups.

#### **6) Election of new officers**

BW reported that David Seaton had resigned from the Cttee. due to business commitments. BW, AM and BA were pleased to continue as members of the Cttee and were duly re-elected.

Carole Martin (CM) was appointed as secretary and Jilly Marcuson kindly agreed to act as an alternate secretary as part of a 'secretariat'.

#### **7) Matters Arising**

##### **7.1 Air traffic noise**

Ian Hare (IH) introduced the topic by informing the meeting that a number of people in the area had become aware of an increase in aircraft noise in recent months especially early in the morning.

He explained that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) at Gatwick had undertaken an experiment over the summer of 2014 concentrating the flight paths i.e. changing from the usual dispersed flight paths fanning out over the area to a narrower band concentrated over N Horsham, Wisborough Green and Billingshurst. There had been little consultation with PPC regarding this.

The increased aircraft noise was generally felt to have started late summer 2014 when the experiment was supposed to have ended . Hence MS raised the point that it may well have been the reversion to the original flightpaths which prompted an apparent increase in noise and that the experimental flightpaths had 'protected' Nutbourne. IH is of the opinion however that the experiment may have been extended but in spite of contacting the CAA regarding this and a number of other questions he has not had a response .

The second issue raised by IH was the proposal for a 2<sup>nd</sup> runway at Gatwick and residents were much more concerned about this . The potential impact on infrastructure in the Sussex area could be substantial, and he argued that this could be around 300000 more homes built, an additional 200000 flights per year, an additional 60+ million passengers per year, 100000 more road journeys daily and 90000 more rail journeys daily.

IH is now working closely with other protest groups in the area and has formed a local Action Group, PAGNE (Pulborough Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions). People were given the opportunity to endorse and support PAGNE's activities. MS advised caution about supporting the group without all the facts.

Finally the meeting was told that WSCC had a debate on the 2<sup>nd</sup> runway issue last week and having supported it in the past had now voted to withdraw their support pending further consultation with Gatwick. Horsham DC also voted against a 2<sup>nd</sup> runway and notably 2 of the PPC councillors abstained.

## 7.2 Nutbourne Footpaths Study update

FR and BW have recently walked and inspected many of Nutbourne's public footpaths and stiles. FR presented his findings and recommendations to the meeting.

The main points were as follows -:

- a) There is some illegal and potentially hazardous barbed wire which needs to be addressed.
- b) 3 particular walks in the more immediate area of the village could benefit from replacement of some of the more difficult stiles with 'swing' gates to allow older people in particular to enjoy these walks. FW illustrated these on a map he had prepared.
- c) Gates and stiles are supplied free of charge from WSCC but there would be a cost to install them and of course land owners would need to agree.

There was general support for more 'swing' gates although it was felt important to keep the majority of stiles as they were considered more traditional.

Andrea Lawson (AL) and Bridget Gladwin (BG) were a little concerned about 'swing' gates especially in fields with cattle. BG mentioned that the Y shaped stiles used by the National Trust (known as 'squeeze' stiles) might be worth considering.

**ACTION FR**

## 7.3 Nutbourne Common ongoing works

This is referred to in detail in the Chairman's Report and the way forward was generally supported by the meeting.

In summary, the heather heathland project is considered a success by the South Downs National Park Authority – Wealdon Heath Area, though it is recognised that regular maintenance will be required for some time. Ray Qusted, as a member of the Pulborough Recreation and Open Spaces Cttee. , has agreed that bracken spraying should be restricted to the clearing only and that the Council will be less zealous in pruning and clearing trees and broken branches. Indeed it is hoped that a few additional, appropriate trees may be planted.

FR reminded the meeting of the history of the heathland project and the compromises reached with PPC in 2006.

## 7.4 Speedwatch update

BW introduced this item by saying that many residents had been concerned about speeding vehicles for some time and Robin Martin (RM) had agreed to have a fresh look at the issue.

RM stated that his research was reasonably far advanced and that he hopes to report to the next meeting of the NRA . In essence he felt that the emphasis should be on the fact that the roads around the village are shared by cars, cyclists, walkers, horses, farm vehicles etc. and there are potentially a number of recognised approaches to highlight this. Certainly things can be done to improve awareness/signage in line with Regulations.

FR informed the meeting that he had recently undertaken some speed checking using a stopwatch and found that, in reality, in his view, speeding was not a major problem.

A wide ranging discussion ensued and certainly a number of residents do find speeding vehicles a problem but it is as much to do with ' due care and attention 'as it is to speeding per se.

Erica Riddle (ER) was keen to ensure that signage was kept to a minimum and not to 'urbanise' the village.

Finally it was agreed that residents should be encouraged to note speeding vehicles and inform BW and/or the company concerned. As a result action could be taken when appropriate ,particularly in the case of repeated offenders such as delivery vans.

**ACTION RM, All**

### 7.5 Pulborough Neighbourhood Plan update

BW attended a workshop on this but was still unclear regarding conclusions and next steps. AL told the meeting that planning policies were currently being drafted and nothing specific could be reported at the moment. BW will keep the NRA informed when further information available.

**ACTION : BW**

### 7.6 Social Events for 2015

BW emphasised that the NRA was keen to support social events in the village and gave a brief history of the emergence of the Social Cttee. which has been in place since 1996/7.

Two of the members of the current cttee. , Ruth Simmonds (RS) and Sarah Browne (SB) attended the meeting.

RS gave some examples of annual events run by the Cttee. such as the Easter Egg hunt, 9k Cycle event, Autumn Foraging and Carols at the Rising Sun (N.B. £311 was raised at this event Christmas 2014).

Every 2 years a big event is planned and BW suggested that perhaps the Open Gardens Day held in 2012 could be repeated in 2015. This was supported by the meeting and SB thought it might enhance the event if it could be combined with a vineyard tour.

Bob Allison (BA) has already indicated that he and Jane would be happy to host drinks and nibbles, sponsored by the NRA, at Mill House at the end of the tour.

It was agreed to hold an Open Gardens Day in the summer, possibly June, and Ruth Simmond's email is highlighted below so that anyone prepared to open their garden to the public can contact Ruth. Volunteers are also sought to help with organisation, tea and cakes etc.

Ruth Simmond's email -: [ruthsimmonds@me.com](mailto:ruthsimmonds@me.com) Tel No. (01798 812089)

**ACTION Social Cttee**

### 8) AOB

1) Mike Sherwood raised the issue of the gypsy caravans having heard a rumour that 5 additional caravans had been approved for the site. BW said that this was probably mis-information as agreement had been reached with HDC/PPC some time ago on the number of caravans permitted.

2) Ruth Migdale spoke about her and other residents' concerns regarding potholes particularly in Stream Lane and in spite of repeated reporting to WSCC nothing much has been done.

For information **the reporting telephone no. is (01243 642105)** and in spite of lack of action ,people should continue to report as if WSCC has been alerted to a particular pothole often enough and still not repaired it, action taken against them for damage is more likely to succeed.

BW agreed to write to WSCC on behalf of the NRA requesting that urgent attention is given to all potholes in the locality and additionally to request that the section of Stream Lane from the junction with Gay Street to the junction with The Haven be resurfaced entirely.

**ACTION: BW**

3) AM raised the question of the precept for 2015 and asked AL if she knew what the increase was likely to be. AL replied that she wasn't sure if it was confirmed as yet but suggested contacting Sarah Norman ( secretary PPC) for information.

*( Post the meeting PPC Clerk advised that the Precept was agreed at the Full Council meeting held on 22nd January 2015 and confirmed that Members resolved to a 1% increase in the per house charge, equating to a 72 pence per annum increase for a Band D property. )*

4) AM thanked the Chairman for the huge amount of work and effort he had put in to the NRA over the last year and also thanked Jilly Marcuson once more for the use of her Barn.

**9) Date of next Meeting -- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 The Barn, Long Platt, The Street**