

STOKE d'ABERNON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
AGM held on 14th October 2010

Ian Nelson, chairman opened the meeting at 20:10.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jan Fuller, James Vickers and Roger Whittaker, Brenda Way, Jenny Vickers, Sue Prentice and Brian Colbridge.

The meeting started with the re-election of the committee: Ian Nelson, Glenys Layzell, Brenda & Arthur Way, David & Mary Lewis, Maureen Christmas, Lorna West, Warwick Hutchinson, Dave Phillips, Sue Prentice, Matthew Ogilvie-Cree, Jill Howley & Becky Moorman, Dawn Levesconte, Jenny Vickers, Michele & Cliff Simmonds, Ian Smith and two new members of the committee Ann Davidson and Peter Orr-Ewing. Proposed by John Stevens and seconded by Ann Mager.

Jenny Vickers is to stand down as treasurer but will continue as the Road Representative for Station Road and Dave Phillips has agreed to become the new treasurer. This move was proposed by Rosemary Vickers and seconded by Brian Hopley.

Policing:

PCSO Chris McCormach was the first to speak and he told those present that the crime figures for Stoke D'Abernon from June to September were - 4 burglaries, 11 thefts (5 from motor vehicles), criminal damage 18, 5 assaults & 2 drug incidents. From 1st November Cobham Police Station will be open Tuesday - Friday 10-12 am .

There is still a parking issue in Winston Drive but enforcement officers will see if they can rectify the situation. Vehicles in Tilt Road were damaged on one weekend in August. 50% of the households were interviewed about the damage and the police have emphasised that they should be notified of any suspicious behaviour.

There is an open meeting at the British Legion Hall in Cobham at 7 pm. on 18th November when changes to the Surrey Police will be discussed.

A resident asked PCSO Chris McCormach if bicycles were still being stolen from the station. Efforts have been made to put a stop to the thefts and it is imperative that bicycles have a good lock on them when left and also make sure that they are properly marked as this does help considerably with recovery. The police are very willing to mark bicycles free of charge. The next Police Panel Meeting is December 8th in the Village Hall.

Accounts: Approval of Accounts for the year to 30th September proposed by Alfred Pratt and seconded by John Pincham.

Summary:	General reserves:	£1,044
	Christmas Lights fund:	£1,512
	Total in the bank:	£2,556
	Deficit in year:	£29

Nigel Stevens was thanked for auditing the books and has agreed to continue on as auditor. Proposed by Peter Orr-Ewing and seconded by Ian Smith.

It was proposed to alter the association financial year to end on 31 August thus enabling the accounts to be audited in good time for the AGM. This was proposed by Mike Davidson and seconded by David Lewis.

Summary Activities: In July the Association entered the Fuller's Surrey Village of the Year 2010 Competition. A good show was put up by Stoke D'Abernon with the judges being taken on a quick tour of the village, cricket club, church etc. and the tree and bulb planting pointed out. A few residents and friends spoke briefly about the welcoming atmosphere etc. and then the visit was concluded with tea. Our thanks to Angela Orr-Ewing for her help and motivation in getting the W.I involved and providing an excellent tea that was appreciated by all present. We will have to wait until the end of October to see how we fared in the competition. The village has appeared twice on the TV - once on a political debate when Ian Nelson was interviewed in Class Kuts (the local barbers) and then again when an advert was filmed in Vincent Road .

Planning: In general the amount of planning activity in the area has been low. It was pointed out that we, as an association, do not object to all planning put forward but the association does put in an objection when it is felt that the proposals will be detrimental to the area. Such a case was the application for 4 back to back three storey houses and 5 parking spaces to be built at 49 Knowle Park. The association decided to object to the proposal, as did many local residents, which has now been turned down but the situation will be closely monitored for amendments to the plans.

The Patisserie at Stoke D'Abernon has contracted a portion of it's premises to a 'pizza delivery service' which will operate from 3 pm. to 11 pm . It appears that the necessary 'A5' licence has not been obtained so currently the council officials have become involved until the necessary procedures are in place. There have been reports already of pizza boxes and napkins being discarded around the area and the large advertisement outside the patisserie has annoyed some residents. There is an issue with residents about the opening times. The fish and chip shop closes at 9 pm. which hasn't been a problem but residents have expressed concern that the 11 pm. time could bring problems with noise, rowdiness and litter.

It is planned to plant more trees and bulbs in the area.

Update of activities: County Councillor John Butcher informed the residents that work had commenced in the vicinity of the proposed M25 Service area. Although the original company contracted to carry out the work have gone into administration and the deadline for a new contractor to be found is nearing the final date before new approval is required and the whole process started again it is believed that a new company has come forward at the last minute.

Diana Thalben-Ball drew our attention to the Cobham Conservation and Heritage Trust's fund raising concert on 27th November at St. Andrews Church , Cobham in aid of the River Hill Project when Gerry Cott, co-founder of the Boomtown Rats will be giving a guitar recital.

Ray King, a resident, gave a short insight into the activities of the Jobs Club and invited anyone who is interested to attend one of the monthly meetings held in the Elmbridge Room of the Village Hall. Ray's telephone number is 01628 780300.

Although the local pub The Old Plough, has had to close it's doors it is hoped that a new buyer will be found quickly as it has become very much part of the village scene. Even though the pub is closed the Christmas Tree Lighting Up on Saturday 4th December will go ahead as planned.

Guest Speaker - Dominic Raab MP:

Dominic arrived straight from the House of Commons where he had been speaking during the day. He thanked everybody for inviting him and emphasised that he was keen to get to know his constituents and welcomed the opportunity of speaking and outlining some of the Coalition government's plans.

The huge number of quangos are to be looked into and many will be abolished or absorbed. A strong sense of civic pride will be encouraged and to this aim more power is to be given to councils and less involvement from Whitehall . The original targets for housing imposed by the last government will be reviewed and more realistic targets set. Communities will be given more decisions regarding 'affordable housing'.

Five schools in Elmbridge have already expressed interest in becoming academies

Dominic believed law and order had become over centralized. Police will be encouraged to be more responsive especially where harassment is concerned remembering the tragic events leading up to Fiona Pilkington taking her own, and her daughter's life, after 30 plus calls to the police for help. It is the Conservatives idea to have elected Police Commissioners.

The NHS has been 'ringfenced' regarding investment and planning. It is proposed to allow local GP's to have more power over funding. More hospitals will have 'foundation status' with a board of governors directly accountable.

He has been in touch with the chief executive of South West Trains regarding the upgrading of the station at Stoke D'Abernon and has been assured that some refurbishment is to take place. There is a bottle neck at the entrance to the Oxshott Station car park that needs to be addressed.

Plans for Cedar Road in Cobham need to be seriously monitored as the site has been sold for flats although the plans had originally included the library and local amenity accommodation.

The new government has had to take over a huge debt - 4 times more than the cost of WW11. This is a huge

mountain to climb! The country has fallen from 4th to 14th place on the international ratings. Dominic saw his role to be a bridge between his constituents and government.

Ian Nelson thanked Dominic Raab for giving us a short insight into his hectic first six months as a member of parliament.

The meeting closed at 21:45.

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