

STOKE D'ABERNON & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Half-Yearly Meeting held on 19th May 2011
Stoke D'Abernon Village Hall

The meeting was well attended and started just after 8.00 pm. with Ian Nelson (Chairman) introducing PC Daniel Moreton and his colleague PC Ian Hardy, Elise Saunders recently elected councillor for Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon and Jonathan Powell and Jan Podsiadly from Queen Elizabeth's Foundation.

Councillor Elise Saunders opened the meeting by saying how pleased and proud she was to have been elected and although it was early days she was enjoying getting to know the various responsibilities and looked forward to hearing more about the various organisations active in the area for example the WI. She expressed her thanks for the help she had been given by Councillors Jan Fuller and James Vickers and was pleased that there appeared to be a strong community spirit in Stoke and Oxshott.

The representatives from Surrey Police took the floor next. PC Daniel Moreton (Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon) and PC Ian Hardy (Cobham & Downside). They were asked about speeding on Station Road which had been the main concern expressed at the last police panel meeting. At the police meeting it was thought that the main problem was the taxi company but two ladies at the meeting thought it was commuter's cars. PC Dan Moreton did say they had checked and found no evidence of excessive speeds but obviously they couldn't always be there during the morning and evening rush to/from trains. He said they would look into it again. As the panel meetings are not very well attended PC Morton put forward the idea that perhaps Stoke and Oxshott could hold a joint meeting but this idea was turned down by the meeting. The next Police Panel meeting is 8th June at 7 pm. in the Village Hall. Diana Thalben-Ball, on behalf of the Neighbourhood Watch team stated how pleased we should be to have our full compliment of police in the area. Led by Sgt. Mark Bracknell we have 2 PCs and 2 PCSOs.

On a lighter note Ian Nelson informed everyone that although we did not win the Fullers Surrey Village of the Year 2010 competition we did receive a commendation and a small prize. The certificate is on show in the village hall, the pub and the fish and chip shop. Two small 'prizes' had been arranged; a bottle of Fullers beer for John Dare for looking after the web site so well and producing the Newsletter. The other prize was a 10 minute session at Class Cuts in their 'fish nibbling tank' awarded to Lawrence Message for his sterling work at snow clearing.

The main event of the evening was a presentation by Jonathan Powell, Chief Executive of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation, ably assisted by Jan Podsiadly about the work and aims of the foundation and all it's many parts. With the death of Queen Elizabeth, the queen mother, the charity lost its royal patronage but it is hoping another member will step forward to take her place. The Foundation has been named the Charitable Business of the Year by Leatherhead Chamber of Commerce and it is hoped this along with its other many fund raising activities will boost their coffers as with the cuts the foundation has lost about 16% of their income. Ten million people suffer a disability, 7 million of working age. Only half of disabled people of working age are in work compared with 80% of able people.

The college offers assessment and training for sustainable employment with an independent wing, Doring Court, providing skills needed to live independently. Mobility services with training for adults with disabilities if offered at the Carshalton site. There is also a Neuro Rehabilitation Services involving integrated learning for young people who have acquired brain injury. All this information on the work of the foundation was enhanced by a humbling, very interesting and informative video presentation. On 18th September there is the Leatherhead Bikeathon 2011. Obviously with any charity money is always a challenge and presently the goal is updating some of the accommodation and services as well as the general running costs of the foundation. It was pointed out that there is a plant nursery at the Leatherhead site offering excellent value. Volunteers are always welcome as are donations and legacies.

Alyson Pellowe representing St. Matthews School took the floor next explaining that land had been gifted to the school for an extension that unfortunately is green belt land with access from a dangerous bend in the road. Peter Martin met with Dominic Raab MP last week hoping for support for the plan that is still in the pre planning stage. Though a small number of children from Stoke d'Abernon attend the school it was hoped that many present would sign the petition in favour of the plan.

Sue Prentice made a short presentation about St. Mary's Church emphasising that it is the oldest church in Surrey and outlining a few of the activities, service times and welcoming all to experience the friendly atmosphere that Rev. Diana Thornton has achieved with her ministry.

David Tipping kept the meeting up to date with the money raising goals of the River Hill Project. The fund raising has gone very well so far with £107,000 achieved towards the estimated cost of £120,000. He thanked everyone who has helped and contributed. He reminded everyone that 10th September was Cobham Heritage Day that hopefully will be bigger and better than last year.

The AGM is on 13th October this year and the main speaker will be Ian Gayton from Elmbridge Borough Council Parks and Leisure department. Ian Nelson thanked the speakers for their contribution and everyone for attending.