



# EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

serving the local community

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## **Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Emmer Green Residents' Association held at the Grace Chapel, Emmer Green, on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012.**

The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Margaret Ormonde and commenced at 8pm.

The Chairman welcomed everyone. She introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Clive Edmonds, who would speak about the history and workings of the caves in Reading and the surrounding district.

There was an all time record turn out of over 100, including Councillors Mark Ralph, Richard Willis and Jane Stanford-Beale. There were some new members and many interested parties.

She also thanked Truefood Community Co-op for the refreshments.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Noreen and Eddy Hooper, Edwina and Gill Childs, Jennifer Leach, Bill Harper and Helen Lambert.

**2. THE MINUTES OF THE 27<sup>th</sup> AGM** held on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011, had been circulated and it was agreed they were an accurate record of the proceedings.

Acceptance proposed by Barry Prior and seconded by Jill Verran.

They were signed by the Chairman.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011/12**

All members had been delivered a paper copy of the Chairman's report. It was also accessible online.

[http://www.egra.co.uk/PDFs/EGRA\\_Chairmans\\_Report\\_2011-12.pdf](http://www.egra.co.uk/PDFs/EGRA_Chairmans_Report_2011-12.pdf)

The Chairman reported another fruitful year for Emmer Green and invited those present to look at our photo display panels to see our record from both the past and this last year. Much of 2011/12 had been spent planning for our forthcoming Jubilee event.

The Chairman then emphasised EGRA's role was to share information, promote relevant meetings and events; Saying that can respond to things as an association and also encourage members to respond individually. Generally things work better if we build up relationships and work with the Council, Councillors and other organisations. We also continue to work closely with neighbouring associations, such as CADRA.

We always welcomed feedback members about your area on such things as graffiti, litter etc.

The Chairman said membership currently about 500 households and encouraged more to join to strengthen our voice.

**New helpers** We are lucky enough this year to have two new volunteers willing to serve on the committee. We always value more help, both on and off the committee. Please volunteer if you have time to spare.

### **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**

June 2012 – Picnic in the Park – Thanks were given to the brilliant team who have been helping to organise this event. Chris Butlin, the leader of the 89<sup>th</sup> Scouts was especially thanked. A request was made for more help on the day and a clipboard passed round asking for volunteers' details.

## **Year's Summary**

Vice Chairman Barry Prior gave a short summary of some of the year's activities, including the new Clayfield Copse carvings, the tree planting initiative in Courtenay Drive, and recent outing to the Police Museum.

## **5. ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT**

As Bill Harper was on holiday, Barry Prior gave the annual update of accounts. These were circulated to the people present at the meeting.

The accounts continue to be healthy and the balance for 2011 was £2491.05. Receipts of donations for Blossom Trees - £600. This was money held on behalf of Courtenay Drive residents and most of the money has now been spent on new trees.

£49.44 was spent on a tea arranged at St. Barnabas Parish Centre for the EGRA volunteer helpers.

Adoption of the accounts.

Proposed: Jill Verran

Seconded: Diana Hartrup

## **6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE, OFFICERS AND AUDITOR**

The Chairman asked everyone to show appreciation to Jill Verran, who, after serving on the committee since 1984, and for many as the Treasurer, had decided to step down. We thanked her for her dedication and enthusiasm over so many years. She was presented with a plant.

Cathi Edwards stood down mid-year due to pressure of work, after serving since 2008.

Jasmine Waters joined the committee in the autumn and two new members were proposed, Vanessa Cozens and Julie Robbins.

Special thanks also go to Bob Cruickshank, who, since he left the committee in 2007, continued to give valuable support. Richard Hammond had recently taken over his role as graffiti clean up officer.

The Chairman thanked all those both on and off the committee for their continued dedication and also thanked the auditor, Janette Joyce and Clive Ormonde who maintains the website.

The Chairman introduced the committee members who were standing for election.

Margaret Ormonde Chair, Barry Prior –Vice Chairman, Jane Handley –Secretary, Bill Harper - Treasurer, Richard Hammond - Membership Secretary other existing committee members, Vera Bodman, and Jenny Leach, Andrea Robinson and Jasmine Waters (who joined the committee autumn 2011).

New members proposed. Julie Robbins and Vanessa Cozens.

The new committee was voted unanimously, en bloc.

Proposed: Colin Heaven

Seconded: Brenda Deller

## **QUESTIONS**

Three issues were raised –

**Precinct Car Park** – owned by Wolfe Properties. Barry Prior explained we had been in contact with the company earlier in the year and promises had been made to address the problem. Cllr Richard Willis explained it was in the lease of the shopkeepers that they were responsible for the upkeep of the car park. Most were independent traders and this would be a big financial burden.

**Clayfield Copse Car Park** – RBC had a duty to maintain this and Cllr Willis promised to look into it.

**School Lane** – an unadopted road, also in need of attention. Cllr Willis said there were 100 such roads within the borough.

## **SPEAKER**

The Chairman then introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Clive Edmonds, who went on to give an interesting talk with slides, about the history and workings of the caves in and around Reading.

There was an enthusiastic round of applause when he concluded and many questions asked, from the floor. The talk generated a lot of interest, as many people are affected by the caves beneath Emmer Green. The Chairman thanked Dr. Edmonds for coming and for an enlightening presentation.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9.30pm and everyone enjoyed the refreshments supplied by Truefood Community Co-op.