

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association



Notes of the Annual General Meeting – 14th July 2015

1. Welcome and introductions and apologies

The Chairman, Paul Sparks opened the meeting and welcomed everyone (51 people were present).

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Anna Elliot
- Tricia Bentley
- Ann Young
- John and Jill Moar
- Ivor Tillier
- Dorothy Sparks

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed (proposed and seconded by Wendy and Ruby Tagg)

There were no matters arising

3. Report from the Chairman of the Association

Paul's report:

"I am pleased to report that your Residents' Association has had another successful year. We have taken the opportunity of raising our awareness by taking stands at the Big Day during the Uckfield Festival and at a Clubs And Societies Day in the Weald Hall arranged by the Town Council. We feel that it is helpful for the various residents' associations in the Town to liaise with each other and as a result we hosted a meeting with the various bodies on the 7th October.

One of the results of this meeting was that Churchcoombe Community Association entered a team in our very enjoyable Christmas Quiz held in the Luxford Centre on the 6th December. This was a new event for us, as was the Easter Egg Hunt which was held on Easter Saturday together with a Punch & Judy show , and many children had a great time.

We then held our third Big Lunch on Sunday 7th June and were again lucky in having lovely weather. This provided a wide range of activities, mainly aimed at children, but there was also a fun Dog Show. One of the highlights was presenting the prizes to children from Manor Primary School for the competition to design a Rugby World Cup supporters' shirt. There were many wonderful entries making it very difficult to select the prize winners. We are very grateful for the support of Uckfield Rugby Club in arranging this event and also pleased again that Churchcoombe Community Association took part.

We have adopted Demelza as the charity that we support so that at most of our events we try to raise funds for them with our members and supporters being very generous.

Of course, throughout the whole of the year we have been running our Surgery Car Service

and just recently reached an encouraging landmark when we drove our 250th passenger. We receive excellent feedback on this much-needed service and I would like to thank all our volunteers, both past and current, for their time and commitment.

One of the main reasons in forming this Association a few years ago was to encourage a greater community spirit and to help overcome the sense of isolation. In this regard, I was very pleased when one of our members came forward with the idea of a friendly walking group to provide both exercise and social contact. This group is in its early days but I hope you can support it.

We are very fortunate to have a hard working committee together with outstanding officers in Peter Griggs as Secretary and Sally Major as Treasurer, and I am extremely appreciate of all that they do.

I look forward to another eventful year for your Association and I look forward to meeting you at one of our events or when walking around our lovely area”.

4. Report from the Treasurer

Sally’s report:

“We have ended the year with a surplus of £1,179.

Income for the year totalled £2,437 including £850 in subscriptions and £390 in advertising revenue from companies and individuals advertising in our newsletter, plus £500 in grants, namely £200 from Uckfield Town Council specifically towards the set up of the Surgery Car Service and £300 from Wealden DC which we used to purchase a sound system for use at events.

Expenses this year totalled £1,850 and include expenditure on Insurance, Newsletter production, Venue Hire, Web Hosting.

Income from the Surgery Car Service netted £43 after costs of £62.

Our social events, namely the Big Lunch and the Quiz night gave us a net cost of £238”.

5. Report from the Secretary

Peter’s report:

Membership

“I am pleased to report that the Association’s membership continues to grow and that it has now exceeded 150 households, with 14 new members joining the Association since last Christmas. This means that just over one in ten households on Manor Park and Hempstead Fields now support the Association.

Communications

In addition to our paid membership, we are pleased that we also have a very healthy following on Twitter and our Facebook page. We know that the majority of our paid members are aged 55 and over but our Twitter and Facebook accounts attract a younger following - 18 to 54.

Our Facebook page now has 328 followers, with some posts reaching huge numbers of people, and our Twitter account now has 187 followers.

We continue to print and deliver hard copies of the Association’s Newsletter to every house on Manor Park and Hempstead Fields.

The Association’s newsletter is published each Spring and Autumn and is largely financed by

the paid advertising it contains. This year for the first time it was printed in full colour.

We would like to thank the local businesses that support us through their advertising (and sponsoring events like the Christmas Quiz and Big lunch) and also the volunteers that pound the streets in all weathers delivering to nearly 1400 homes.

We also have our website of course, where we deposit copies of our committee minutes, constitution and other Association documentation.

Shoppers Discount Scheme

During the year the Association's Shoppers Discount Scheme recruited another three businesses, and members can now get a discount on a range of purchases and services, including a visit to a local solicitor, financial advice, driving lessons or a bottle of wine.

The Committee

Finally, during the year we had to say goodbye to four loyal Committee members who for a variety of reasons found they had to resign – Emma, Esteban, Glenda and Wendy, but we were pleased to welcome Anna, Gill and Jerry".

6. Election of Officers

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were proposed, seconded and voted into office unanimously:

- Chair – Paul Sparks
- Treasurer – Sally Major
- Secretary – Peter Griggs

7. Election of the Committee

The following Committee members proposed, seconded and voted into office unanimously:

- Anna Elliot
- Dorothy Sparks
- Jane Shepherd
- Jerry Miller
- Ric Mears
- Tom Crellin

8. Any other business.

Tom Crellin proposed, and it was agreed, that the Residents' Association become a corporate member of Uckfield Community Resilience.

Julia Brown said how enjoyable the Big Lunch had been.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 7.45pm.