

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association



Notes of the Annual General Meeting 10th November 2022

(Note the meeting was preceded by a talk from Josh Broadway, East Sussex Fuel Poverty Coordinator)

1. Welcome and introductions and apologies

The Chairman, Paul Sparks opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Gilly Brownsword
- Andy Clews
- Maureen Macve
- Siri Scott
- Janine Williams
- Carole Walden

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting on 4th November 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. There were no matters arising.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Association

The Chairman, Paul Sparks, said:

It was good to return to some kind of normality now that the worst of the Covid pandemic is behind us. The Surgery Car Service being our main regular community with our volunteers providing over 100 trips to the local surgeries this year.

He reminded the meeting that this month the Association has been in existence for 10 years, and that it was launched on 8th November 2012 at this venue.

Paul went on to say that it was good to see the success of our woodland ecology walks, led being by Dr Martyn Stenning, which are often oversubscribed. Also, the good turn-out we saw at the Big Jubilee Picnic last June when the weather was exceptionally kind to us.

He mentioned that the Association is about to launch a Warm Space initiative which Dorothy Sparks then spoke about.

In December the key worker tribute plaque mentioned at the last AGM was installed with a short ceremony on the open space at the bottom junction of Browns Lane and Downsview Crescent when Fr John giving a blessing.

Paul went on to mention the redevelopment of Streatfeild House and our active role in providing comments and suggestions during the planning stage.

Finally, he thanked all our volunteers supporting our community work including our five call handlers, the drivers and those supporting the Good Neighbour Scheme. Also, the many individuals, organisations and businesses that over the years have given the Association grants, donations or their time, to help the Association provide support and its services to our community.

4. The Treasurer's Report for Financial Year ended 5 April 2019

Sally Major, the Association's Treasurer reported:

Although our expenditure for the year was £243 more than our income we did start with a balance of £2077 so we are still in credit to the tune of £1834.

Income for the year totalled £1,427 including £785 in subscriptions. We also received a total of £580 in donations towards the cost of the cherry trees tribute to the key workers who served us so well during the Covid pandemic.

We spent £505 on this project with a further £25 which will show in the accounts for the year 2022-2023.

The cost this year of the Good Neighbours Scheme was £238.

Similarly, the Surgery Car Service showed a net cost of £227.

The apparently high cost of these schemes was greatly inflated due to additional outlay on our volunteers' DBS checks that we pay for.

Expenses this year totalled £1,670 and include expenditure on Insurance, Newsletter production, Venue Hire, Web Hosting and Administration.

The accounts were then duly adopted.

5. Report from the Secretary

Peter Griggs, the Association's secretary reported:

Membership

I am pleased to report that our membership numbers remain high with a current total of 159 households.

Looking back over the last ten years this is at the upper end of our membership numbers, we peaked in 2020 with 160 members.

We know that there are around 1400 homes on the two developments and so this represents over one in ten households are paid up members.

We continue to issue our welcome packs to families moving in and so if you have a new neighbour then please let us know and we will pop a pack through their letterbox.

Social media

In addition to paid members, our Facebook family grows and grows, and we now have 893 people following our page.

The demographics of our Facebook followers reveals that 72% are women and 69% are aged 35 and 64.

Social media is a very powerful means of getting our messages out into every sector of the community.

Volunteers

The delivery of the services we offer to the community - our Surgery Car Service, Good Neighbour Scheme and soon to be launched Warm Space initiative, all rely totally on volunteers, and we can never have too many. If you or someone you know would like to devote an hour or two each week to support these valuable services, then please get in touch.

Looking ahead

We are thinking that we might augment the green space at the bottom of Downsvie Crescent where we planted the cherry trees and installed a granite plaque as a tribute to Uckfield's key workers, with a wooden bench which would include a plaque commemorating Queen Elizabeth's reign. We would be pleased to hear your views on this idea.

6. Amendments to the Constitution

The Secretary proposed the following amendments to the Association's constitution, which were agreed:

Article 2 (a) to include:

responding to activities, events and proposals outside of the Association's area but potentially affecting our community

Article 3 (a) to include:

Persons living inLinden Court

7. Election of Officers

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

Chair	Paul Sparks
Treasurer	Gabriella Paterson-Griggs
Secretary	Peter Griggs

8. Election of the Committee

The following were proposed, seconded and voted into office unanimously:

Julia Brown
Belinda Da Silva
Sue Fenwick
Sally Major
Ric Mears
Jerry Miller
Jane Shepherd
Dorothy Sparks
(one vacancy)

9. Any other business

The Chairman advised the meeting that an energy trial was about to be launched on Manor Park by Amp X, which is the project partner working with UKPN, whereby participants receive payments if they agree to plug in a sensing device in their home. More information to be included in the next e-newsletter and on our Facebook page

The Chairman then thanked all those that had attended and closed the meeting at 9pm