

**CRAZIES HILL & COCKPOLE GREEN
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY 2023
AT CRAZIES HILL VILLAGE HALL AT 7:00PM

Item	
1	<p>Attendees: Dave Smith, Anj Collis, Liz Tweddle, Phil Davies, Clare Donovan, Sue Robinson, Tom Greenham, Bev Emmerson, Peter Fife, Brian Turnbull, Sandra Turnbull, Neill Pitcher, Barbara Pitcher, Beccy Greenham, Neil Palmer, Lynne Wilkes, Diane Bush, Dick Bush, Peter Fife, Nigel Dibbo, Nicky Dibbo, Victoria McKeegan, Justin McKeegan, Jo Shell, Anthony Broom, Edwin Hayes, James Hayes</p> <p>Apologies: Laura Lord, Monica Hope, Frank Hope</p>
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting – 25th May 2022 No amendments - minutes approved</p>
3	<p>Matters arising from the last AGM: Nothing arising</p>
4	<p>Primary School Report: It is hard to believe a year has passed since I spoke to you at the last AGM. We have celebrated a Platinum Jubilee, united as a school family to reflect upon the life and service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, then celebrated once again with the coronation of King Charles III.</p> <p>Just as these key events have taken place, it has been another busy year for the school. The appearance of our school grounds has transformed with completion of our fencing project. The children were intrigued as they observed electricians at work, programming and automating our new school gates. Our school looks very smart; a true reflection of how fabulous our school community is. The contractors commented about how polite and well behaved our children are. They visit many schools around the country. We felt immensely proud of our pupils.</p> <p>A very exciting project to put more solar panels on the school roof took place in the autumn term. This forms an important part of our environmental sustainability vision. We have already started to reap the benefits of the solar energy with reductions to our electricity bill.</p> <p>At the beginning of May, work commenced to re-develop the outdoor space for our Early Years Class. As a result of this work, our youngest pupils will be able to maximize high quality learning both indoors and</p>

outdoors for the majority of the year round through the installation of new equipment and sections of specialized surfacing.

Our PTA is championing the fundraising for the main adventure playground space and are continually inching towards meeting their target of £15,000 to contribute towards the total costs. We hope that the climbing frame can be replaced during the next academic year, providing all the children with a wider range of physical strength building equipment to enjoy during their playtimes.

The School Council continues to have a prominent voice. At the time of speaking to you last year, they were busily fundraising to support communities in a range of areas who may not have access to a toilet or hand washing facilities. The children's initial goal was to fund three toilets. The generosity of those that contributed led to the children being able to fund 6 toilets in total. We received photographs of the facilities that have been funded, and the children are proud that they have been able to help other communities. We continually educate and encourage our children to grow as globally-minded citizens and develop their understanding of the world beyond our school gates.

The children across school have enjoyed a wealth of performance and workshops to support, enhance and consolidate their learning experiences. We welcomed Ronald who taught every child in school to drum on a djembe, Louis Taylor heightened the children's understanding of road safety. The older pupils participated in performances aimed to teach them more about keeping safe online, the infants have enjoyed Perform Drama and Story-box storyteller sessions and the juniors have immersed themselves in Shakespeare through drama and workshop sessions.

This year we have been able to provide children throughout Years 1-6 with opportunities to take part in a range of cross-schools sporting events. Children have competed in multi-sports activities, cricket events, football matches and football tournaments. We were incredibly proud of our Y5/6 girls' and boys' football team when they came home with a trophy after winning a Wokingham Schools Tournament! We value these opportunities as they enable the children in our small school community to network with larger school communities.

Thank you, again, to our neighbours for supporting our school and thank you Dave for always communicating with us, keeping us in the loop and helping us to strengthen our links with the community.

I feel immensely proud of all that our school continues to achieve. It is a pleasure to lead such a wonderful, thriving school.

	<p>Q – How many children attend the school at the moment? 90</p> <p>Q– Is the school still looking for people to help with the children reading? Yes, please contact the school if you would like to help.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Chairman’s Report:</p> <p>Thank you for coming tonight. I’ll run through what we have been up to over the last 12 months since the last AGM and then be happy to take any questions.</p> <p>After the previous year’s coronavirus restrictions, the 2022 annual village BBQ returned to its normal slot at the beginning of June, which for 2022 coincided with the Queens Platinum jubilee, thus the theme was red, white and blue. Friday the 3rd June was chosen so as not to clash with other jubilee events over the weekend. We also decided to take up the offer from Wokingham of closing the road for free.</p> <p>This proved to be a wise move and we had a record breaking 180 residents turn up to enjoy themselves and sip a glass of wine or two in the evening sunshine whilst nibbling on burgers and sausages whilst the children had the freedom to play in the school field and run up and down the road.</p> <p>Our October social event was something new, a traditional pub games evening. Due to the cost of hiring in the games and the fact that we did not charge for under 12s, financially the evening was not a success. However, that was never the aim of this particular evening, the aim was to bring the residents together both young and old and especially those who had recently moved into the area, and in that it succeeded entirely.</p> <p>In November the villagers turned out to take part in the next phase of our rewilding project on Cockpole Green. This was the planting of yellow rattle in the open area towards the nose which we wish to establish as a wild flower meadow. The Yellow Rattle is used to suppress the grass in preparation for the sowing of wild flower seeds. I am very pleased to say that having inspected the Green yesterday there are hundreds of Yellow Rattle shoots and the first flower has been spotted. So all the hard work from last November is coming to fruition.</p> <p>Whilst talking of the Green, I should mention at this point, our thanks to Cayton Park for the regular cutting of the paths during the summer period. And also for a donation from them towards the tree maintenance work which we carried out along the strip of land we own from the Green to the Rose Lane crossroads.</p> <p>December came along and the annual carol singing returned to the Village Hall, after a four year gap. Due to some last minute unforeseen</p>

circumstances I had to take over the kapellmeister duties for the evening. We managed to run our usual fully participative programme of carols as accompanied by a full choir and orchestra, albeit streamed via a sound system. Nevertheless, the attendees sang their hearts out.

Afterwards the mulled wine and mince pies came out. Normally once the mulled wine was drunk, villagers would repair to The Horns to continue the festivities. Unfortunately, as we all know, our local hostelry is still closed and thus the RA opened up a bar and everyone could stay and chat to friends until late into the evening before wishing everyone a final 'Merry Christmas'. The RA would like to thank all those who generously gave a donation towards the local charity, Alexander Devine Hospice in Maidenhead. A total of £181.50 was raised and this will help provide specialist care and support to children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.

And so into 2023. The Spring social event in March saw yet another innovation. A Chinese banquet prepared by local resident Beccy Robinson. This was a sell out with 60 residents eating in two shifts, whilst those not eating kept the bar busy. All agreed it was a brilliant evening and a great success.

The Village clean up was earlier this year, end of March to coincide with Wokingham's spring clean day. Over 25 residents turned up both young and old and all the areas encompassed by our two hamlets were checked for litter. 12 bags of rubbish were collected and Wokingham were very co-operative and came along at lunchtime as promised and cleared away what rubbish we had found.

At the same time as the litter pick was happening RA committee members were replacing 10 trees on the Green which had succumbed the drought last summer. Given the lack of rainfall we had this was a relatively small number. The rest of the trees have survived well and continue to flourish.

It was a very wet and soggy Easter Monday but we still held the annual egg hunt on the school playing field. So whilst the adults enjoyed coffee, hot cross buns and a chat under the shelter, the children raced about in the mud in pursuit of the hundreds of chocolate eggs which had been scattered around. There were some very happy but muddy children by the end of the morning.

The last event organised by the RA over the last 12 months was the hugely successful coronation hog roast last Sunday. Just like the jubilee BBQ the previous year, the road was closed, games were organised on the school field and over 180 residents turned out to have a really great

	<p>day. Just about every household in Crazies Hill and Cockpole Green was represented. It was a true community event and enjoyed by everyone.</p> <p>There is one other thing which the RA has been involved in since The Horns closed last September is, of course the Stagger Inn. Our pop up BYO pub, here in the Village Hall, which we open in months when we do not have any other social event going on. These continue to be very popular and will return in the Autumn.</p> <p>Now all these events which I have just told you about could not happen without lots of hard work from your committee, I would like to personally thank them for being a great team and thank them on your behalf for the effort they put in.</p> <p>They are: Phil Davies, Sue Robinson, Richard Jones, Laura Lord, Liz Tweddle (Secretary), Angela Collis (Treasurer), Tom Greenham and Clare Donovan.</p> <p>That's enough from me for now but if anyone has any questions, just ask.</p> <p>Diane Bush thanked all of the committee for all their hard work.</p>
6	<p>Treasurer's Report: RA made a profit of £344 this year. We received a donation of £1,000 from Cayton Park We made a loss on the maintenance of the Green. Balance in the bank is £21,679</p> <p>Q – Why isn't the money in the bank invested? Money is kept where it is safe and where we can access it. Because of the RA's status as an unincorporated entity we are restricted in the types of accounts we can open, the bank makes charges for our existing account, but we will investigate options. Comment – Sum-Up machines have been a good investment. Q – Are we expecting to make a profit on the Coronation event? Yes although the Hog Roast was quite expensive, we had a lot of people – 180, which will cover the cost! All the profit will come from the bar takings. Q – What did the caterers provide? All of the food. Consensus is that they did a good job.</p>
	<p>Cayton Park Update by Paul Griffith, Estate Manager: 12 months have now passed since the main house was completed and the principle took residence in May 2022.</p> <p>There are 3 remaining building projects to complete and whilst they are behind last years predicted timeline, they will all be finished towards the end of 2023.</p>

There is a single-story extension about to start on Hogedale cottage at pudding lane at the end of Warren Row, this will be complete in 10 weeks.

We have no plans to start work at Springfield house, however we are likely to carry out work to Cricket Barn in terms of making the building safe and secure.

The compound at Hatchgate lane will remain in place until the last project is finished, which is likely to be the pool at Foxsteep house.

You may well have noticed that we have cleared the ditch and grips along Hatchgate lane, and we have also cleared the ditch along high street opposite the school, we exposed the drain under the road and rodded this to ensure the ditch performs as it should.

We also have full use of a road sweeper, and this will be cleaning the roads as and when we make a mess of them, timings can't be guaranteed but it will be in action weekly.

We will undertake some landscaping at the front of Foxsteep 5/6 once this project nears completion and we will refurbish the entrance driveways along with trimming and pruning of the hedges that flank this property.

We have been discussing a refurbished entrance to the isolation unit which would see a new automated entrance installed within the boundary line, thus would prevent large vehicles or horseboxes from blocking the road when gaining access, nothing has been agreed at this stage.

We are in communication with both local authorities with regards to resurfacing the damaged roads, in particular Hatchgate lane, unfortunately we must work at their pace.

There is a plan to restore the verges that are affected by the building sites as and when each site completes.

We are about to undertake extensive tree work starting at the bottom of Bowsey hill near our main gate, this will track up to the top of Bowsey hill and down the bridle path which terminates towards Knowl hill and the Grundon site.

It may be of interest for you to know that the owners of Cayton Park are giving consideration towards sponsorship of the village cricket team.

	<p>We have also offered to restore the phone box and turn this into a book exchange, the paint scheme has been completed and we now await shelves to be made for fitting.</p> <p>Reinvestment into estate infrastructure is not for financial gain by any attempts to sell the properties, but to breathe life back into these beautiful old buildings, naturally blend them into the landscape and restore function within estate.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Mr Griffith did not attend the AGM but sent in his report prior to the AGM. The questions were answered by the RA to the best of their knowledge.</p> <p>Q – Why is everything taking so long? Number of builders on the project has been reduced.</p> <p>Q – What is happening with the potholes. Both local councils have been working on this. They will not allow Cayton Park to undertake any work on roads owned by the local councils. Wokingham has done the better job. RBWM is changing leadership, so any previous agreements may not be honoured.</p> <p>Q – Is there anything that the RA can do about the crossroads at the bottom of Bowsey Hill. They are lethal with any snow or ice. RA will take this up with Cayton Park.</p> <p>Q – What is happening to the field which is currently a car park? This will remain in place until the last project is finished, then will return to a field.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Rewilding the Green and Parking – Update:</p> <p>Parking on the Green has been a problem. RA are looking at ideas on how to prevent people parking on the edges and also driving across the green. We have a few ideas – one is to put a small fence around the perimeter, the other is to create and bund and ditch all around the green. If anyone has any other ideas, please let us know.</p> <p>Q – If someone drives onto the Green and injures themselves are the RA liable? Yes, but we have 3rd party liability insurance.</p> <p>Q – Should we encourage people to come to the Green and park, rather than discourage? No if we allow unlimited parking, the Green will erode.</p> <p>Comment – There are a number of bund and ditch projects in Maidenhead Thicket and Cookham. RA to investigate.</p>

<p>9</p>	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>The bus shelter that blew over in the gales last year, is standing but not safe and is rotting. RA considers it to be part of the village. It's been difficult to establish who owns it, but both Councils are of the view if it stays and remains a bus shelter there is no issue. They are happy for the RA to arrange for repairs or replacement with a similar structure.</p> <p>Wargrave Heritage Trust have made a donation to refurbish it. It will be in exactly the same style, we are currently looking at costs.</p> <p>Dick Bush – great idea to replace it. Parish Council will also put money towards replacing it.</p> <p>Q – Is there anything happening with The Horns? No, however Midsummer Murders are filming in the Horns 22/5 to 5/6 so there may be renewed interest.</p> <p>Q – Is there anything that can be done about the speeding around the village? There have been ongoing discussions both here and in Wargrave. Chances of getting anything done will depend on data and number of deaths.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Election of the Committee and Officers for 2023-24:</p> <p>Laura Lord has decided to stand down after nearly 10 years on the committee. Laura's first meeting was 23rd October 2013 and she has been a stalwart on the committee ever since. Laura has been the backbone of all our catering efforts at the social events we put on. It all starts in her kitchen with a team of volunteers and then moves onto the village hall for Laura to put the finishing touches on. Without Laura there would have been some very hungry people over the years. Laura's other major contribution has been to run the ever popular egg hunt on Easter Mondays. Come rain or shine, Laura was there with the eggs to scatter, tea and coffee prepared and hot cross buns buttered. However Laura has now started a new business which is taking off and she realises she will not have enough spare time to do her job on the committee properly. The whole committee will be very sad to lose her drive and enthusiasm but understand the situation.</p> <p>RA Chairman, Dave Smith will present Laura with a gift as a thank you from the committee for all her hard work.</p> <p>The rest of the committee have agreed to continue.</p> <p>Dick Bush proposed all of the committee, Neil Palmer seconded. Everyone agreed to re-elect the remaining committee members.</p>

	<p>Dick Bush thanked all of the committee for all their hard work.</p>
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PD presented DS with a gift from the committee for all his efforts and commitment as Chair as a gesture of appreciation.

Meeting closed at 20:05