

**CRAZIES HILL & COCKPOLE GREEN
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 25TH MAY 2022
AT CRAZIES HILL VILLAGE HALL AT 7:00PM**

Item	
1	Attendees: Dave Smith, Anj Collis, Liz Tweddle, Phil Davies, Laura Lord, Clare Donovan, Sue Robinson, Tom Greenham, Steve Emmerson, Helga Lehman, Neil & Barbara Pitcher, Nigel & Nicky Dibbo, Jo Shell, Diane & Dick Bush, Victoria McKeegan. Apologies: Claire & Peter Fife, Brian & Rita Turnbull, Rita & Clive McLaughlin-Pugh
2	Minutes of the last meeting - 21st July 2021 Approved with no amendments
3	Matters arising from the last AGM: Nothing arising

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Primary School Report: JS

Jo Shell, Head of School, gave us a good report of the highlights of the school year. Now back to normal, it's lovely to see the excitement as the children reconnect with their friends. There are now 102 children in the school. We have placed great emphasis on re-affirming the school vision and values - Matthew 7 verse 20 - "A tree is known by its fruit, people by their actions". The school is having a service to plant an apple tree in the school grounds to celebrate. The three main roots are Relationships, Resilience and Respect. The school nurtures a deep sense of compassion, friendship, loyalty and love. They strive to grow children who thrive on challenge and are happy to take risks and make mistakes as they learn. The children are a great source of pride when they leave. This has long been the case, but the last 2 years have been a time of uncertainty. Some of the children seem more fragile, and as a school we are very aware of the mental health crisis amongst young people.

Interspersed throughout the year, the children have enjoyed a range of trips - Windsor Castle, Reading museum and the Victorian schoolroom. The School council are also leading a series of charitable initiatives to foster a deeper understanding of the wider world.

The school is proud to be able to offer a range of sporting activities, such as multi-sports, dancing, fencing, judo as well as relaxation and mindfulness through yoga and Relax Kids sessions.

Creative arts experiences include sewing, choir and arts clubs, and Spanish.

There has been a significant project under development to smarten up the external appearance of the school and it's grounds. The fencing will be replaced at the beginning of the summer holiday - the key priority is safeguarding and improvements to the fencing and security are paramount to keeping the children safe.

Jo's vision to update the adventure playground is also under development.

A new website is imminent and will help to promote the school and showcase the work and experiences the children have. There will be a link to Twitter, where they will be posting photos and news.

The Reverend John Cook has joined the school again for class collective worship, supporting the spiritual development of the pupils.

The school is looking for local support for anyone interested in joining their reading volunteer team.

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Chairman's Report: DS

Since we met last year in May, we held our annual village BBQ at the end of July. It was delayed from its normal June slot because of coronavirus restrictions but when it did take place it was very well attended by over 75 residents. Many were just glad to be able to get out and meet socially for the first time in a long time and although the weather was typical for the Summer Holidays, overcast and showery, a great time was had by all and we raised a record breaking £800 towards the upkeep of the Green.

In October we reverted to the ever popular Race Night event which attracted over 60 residents who tried their luck on the Horses. As always there were some financial winners and losers, the biggest winner was Roger Avent who scooped £25 on one single race. However in a non financial sense, we were all winners on the night as everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and again a healthy amount was raised towards the Green.

Talking of the Green, October saw a work party from the committee clearing the brush which had grown up around our saplings and under the trees. We also cut the grass which we had allowed to grow during the summer. This was done later than we would have liked due to the unavailability of the grass collector that was needed. I should mention at this point our thanks to Cayton Park for the regular cutting of the paths during the summer period.

I am pleased to say that we only lost about four trees out of the 100+ that had been planted. An excellent result and those trees have now been replaced. We are now in the process of working on a long term plan on how best to achieve a wild flower meadow on part of the Green, whilst leaving other parts to grow whatever wild plants spring up. We will be keeping an eye on the growth around the base of the young trees and asking villagers to help out with this. We want everyone to feel part of this community effort. We will promulgate further information in future newsletters and emails.

December came along and preparations were well underway for a new production of our annual carol singing in the Village Hall, however Omicron arrived and sadly put a stop to that and we had to cancel a week before the event. Undeterred Owen our landlord at the Horns put some speakers outside of the pub on the evening of the date of the carol singing and piped music outside where it was safe to meet. Despite the impromptu nature of the setting, many villagers turned up and sang all the traditional carols whilst drinking mulled wine and eating mince pies. We are planning to have the carol singing back in the hall this December and are keeping our fingers crossed that nothing comes along to disrupt this once again.

Eventually by the end of February this year, with covid cases falling rapidly, the Government scrapped all restrictions in England which meant our Spring event could go ahead at the end of March. We chose a Wine Tasting event, something we had not done for several years. It is always difficult to know what to put on and we are aware that some events, like wine tasting, do exclude children but think it is OK occasionally to have an adults only event. As an aside if anyone has any bright ideas for future social events please just drop us an email.

The Wine Tasting itself only attracted 35 residents and unfortunately Gavin from a local wine company, Purplefoot, had to leave early due to a problem with his family, which meant there was not as much information about the wines as we would have liked. However it was a tremendous social success, demonstrated by the time the last attendees left. Because of the nature of the event and the very generous ticket price set by the RA the evening did not raise much money, but it certainly raised the spirits of the villagers coming out of covid restrictions.

With life returning to some sort of normality it meant we could hold the egg hunt on Easter Monday on the school playing field. Whilst the adults enjoyed coffee, tea and hot cross buns and a chat, the children raced about in their pursuit of the 600 chocolate eggs which had been scattered around. And very diligent they were in their search. Not one had been missed when we checked the field afterwards. There were some very happy children by the end of the morning.

The final event organised by the RA over the last 12 months was the Village clean up on 7th May. Over 30 residents turned up both young and old and all the areas encompassed by our two hamlets were checked for litter. The good news is that unlike previous years there was very little to find. Wokingham were very co-operative and came along at lunchtime as promised and cleared away what rubbish we had found. In the meantime, the litter pickers repaired to the Horns for a refreshing drink and to enjoy the pastries provided by Owen.

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.

They are:

Phil Davies, Sue Robinson, Richard Jones, Laura Lord, Liz Tweddle (Secretary), Angela Collis (Treasurer), Tom Greenham and Clare Donovan.

6	<p>Treasurer's Report: AC</p> <p>From all sources we have £5,500 in income and we spent £3,500 on normal expenses plus the re-wilding. We are looking at ways of reducing spend on village green. The aim is to cover costs and maintain the capital base. Having had no fundraising events for the last 2 years has had an impact. Two of our annual social events make money. The other 2 are mainly to allow people to socialise.</p> <p>Q - What's happened to the land at Braebank - RA Sold land to Braebank.</p> <p>Q - Phonebox. We keep discussing different ideas. Suggestions of library, seed exchange, book exchange. We are always looking for ideas. A suggestion was to get the schoolchildren to come up with ideas.</p> <p>Q - Nettles around the postbox - Nigel Dibbo volunteered to cut these on a regular basis.</p>
7	<p>Cayton Park Update:</p> <p>As reported in the last newsletter, the main work on the house is complete and the owners will be moving in any time now. You can see the finishing touches are being done to the main entrance gates.</p> <p>The current works which are underway are the renovation of the pool and tennis courts in the gardens of Fox Steep. Foxsteep 5 & 6 (opposite the pub) these are being turned back into two properties and being extended into the roof space. Foxsteep 4 (the house near the crossroads at the main entrance), this is being renovated and extended under permitted development.</p> <p>Springfield House and Barn are still on the back burner and no new plans have been put in yet since the previous application was refused in April last year.</p> <p>Cayton Park have stated that they intend to use all these properties as staff accommodation, and they will not be put on the market.</p> <p>By the time we meet again next year everything should be complete apart from Springfield House and this will no longer be an agenda item. At least the works over the next 12 months will be no different to that will be undertaken by residents of several houses in Crazies Hill & Cockpole Green.</p>
8	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>Q - Does Cayton Park want to sponsor the Cricket Club?</p>
9	<p>Election of the Committee and Officers for 2022-23:</p> <p>There have been no new nominees. The following have indicated a willingness to stand: Dave Smith, Angela Collis, Liz Tweddle, Phil Davies, Clare Donovan, Laura Lord, Sue Robinson, Richard Jones, Tom Greenham.</p>

	<p>Dick Bush proposed to re-elect all of the committee and everybody seconded the proposal.</p>
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	<p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:20</p>
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