



**PENN & TYLERS GREEN RESIDENTS SOCIETY(P&TGRS)
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Friday, 5th June 2015
Held in St Margaret's Parish Rooms, Tylers Green - 7.30pm

1. Reception ; Village Pre-school Display

The Chairman of the Board of P&TGRS, Mr Miles Green, invited some 65 Residents, together with the Society's President, Earl Howe, Steve Baker, MP for Wycombe, Parish, District and County Councillors and Directors (Trustees) of P&TGRS to take their seats. He remarked that, had those who had sent apologies attended (19), he doubted the Parish Rooms would have been able to accommodate everyone ! He drew attention to the Village Pre-School's display at the back of the Hall, which Nicky Lovegrove, the School's Manager, would speak about later.

2. Formal Welcome by Chairman

Miles formally welcomed everyone to what he hoped would be an interesting and rewarding Annual General Meeting (AGM). He asked the Secretary to explain the Standing Orders and other regulatory and procedural matters. The Secretary drew attention to the copies of the Agenda, the Minutes of the 2014 AGM, the Annual Report and the essential elements of the 2014 Accounts which had been made available to everyone. Standing Orders relating to the AGM were on the website, as were the other regulatory documents, including the Society's Memorandum and Articles of Association and Company Rules. Hard copies were also available at the Meeting. Referring to the Standing Orders, the Secretary announced that no formal motions had been received for debate and no one present had advised him or the Chairman of the intention to seek to propose a formal Motion for debate at the Meeting. At its recent meeting, the Board had decided that there would be no special or additional interpretations of the Standing Orders for

the Meeting. The Secretary asked all attendees to ensure that they had "signed in". This was so the Board could use the information to issue a personal invitation next time.

3. Apologies

In reading out the Apologies, Miles observed that the list was longer than usual. This reflected, he believed, the Board's improved ability to issue personal invitations both to previous AGM attendees and also to the larger number of Residents who had this past year been involved with P&TGRS affairs.

Apologies came from :- Cheryl Gillan MP; Cllrs David Shakespeare, David Schofield, Ian Forbes and Alan Hardie ; Adrian Cooper, Barbara Wood, Paul Ricketts, Christine Nesbit, Hilary Forbes, Mrs Janis Dieppe, Dr Coggan, Samantha Hanley, Peter Brown, Den Winterburn, Phil Hooper, Joe Gleeson and The Reverends Michael Hill and Mike Bissett.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 16th May, 2014

The Minutes of the 2014 AGM as approved by the Board were agreed by the Meeting as a true and correct record and were signed as such by the Chairman.

5. Presentation of Annual Report and Accounts for 2014

The Chairman referred to the Society's work for the year as set out in the 4-page Annual Report Supplement to the April / May edition of "Village Voice", copies of which were available to the Meeting (see Annexe A). He invited individual Board Members to speak on each of the items identified in the Report :-

Mike Morley, Woodland Manager, Common Wood, referred to the 3 new paths constructed in Common Wood and their new surfaces; the return of cattle to Farther Barn Field ; a greater number of observed butterflies than in the 1950s, despite an RBS report indicating a decline in butterfly population overall ; the 50 dormice boxes placed in Common and Penn Woods, in association with The Woodland Trust, and the substantial sum of money (£4,000) raised through tree felling.

Russell Read referred to the improved access to Millar Wood, the opening up of a new footpath and the intention to plant bluebells to improve the appearance at the entrance to the village. A further plan for 2015 was the erection of information boards depicting the history of the Wood.

Russell also drew attention to the continuing work to slow traffic entering Church Road East, mostly from Hammersley Lane, and so lessen danger to pedestrians using this 30 year-old rat run.

Cathy O'Leary, Editor of "Village Voice" and chairman of the Village Voice and Village Voice On Line Sub-Committee thanked the large number of people regularly involved in the production, advertising, accounting and distribution of the magazine. She urged everyone to use the magazine to promote village

interest stories and the work of village organisations. She referred to the imminent special birthday of Pat Dancer, a long standing and regular contributor to "Village Voice". Cathy thanked Adrian Cooper, Hilary Forbes and Sharon Herron for their valuable work on the website and wider social networks and encouraged the Meeting to view the website as frequently as possible.

The Chairman added that "Village Voice" was a fine magazine which provided the principal source of income for P&TGRS. He congratulated Cathy on behalf of the Board and paid credit to Ruthie Pocock for her work on managing advertising in the magazine and to Mike Morley for his work on the "Village Voice" accounts.

Nicky Lovegrove, Manager of the "Village Pre-school" spoke of a successful year highlighted by a "full house", with some 34 children staying for some or all of the extended sessions each day, and by Lesley Routledge (School Supervisor) for obtaining a First Class her BA Hons Degree in Professional Practice (Early Years). The introduction of "Forest Schools" and two sessions of "Dance and Movement" each week have proved valuable additions to the curriculum. Nicky referred to forthcoming summer events, particularly the planned celebration on the Common of the Pre-school's 50th Birthday.

Robert Robinson, chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee, thanked the members of the Committee for their support in what has not been an easy year. Although the majority of local planning applications cause little concern, it is clear that the more contentious ones almost always trigger among people most affected by them a realisation that engaging with the formal planning process can be frustrating and often may appear pointless. Decisions made by professional planning officers, often based upon subjective opinion and with little regard to local representation, produce a resigned cynicism which the Planning Sub-Committee feels amounts to a "democratic deficit" in the process – something which runs counter to the philosophy of public engagement set out in WDC's "Statement of Community Involvement". This concern was represented by the P&TGRS Secretary to a meeting of WDC Planning Officers convened by WDC's Head of Planning and Sustainable Development, because of evidence produced to her of inconsistency and incoherence in local planning decisions. Robert said that these representations were well received, and there was likely to be a follow-up occasion.

The Secretary intervened to thank Steve Baker MP for being successful in leading a Commons Adjournment Debate in July 2014 on the unsympathetic nature of the planning process and the incoherence in much of the National Planning Policy Framework .

Gill Markham, Board member with responsibility for PR and Communications on WDC's Local Plan, gave a detailed account of the work undertaken by P&TGRS to represent the considerable local concern about WDC draft proposals for housing in Gomm Valley and Ashwells. She expanded upon the text in the "Annual Report" by referring to the Society's engagement with WDC through its respective Liaison Groups and with local Residents' representatives from the Ashwells area and Pimms Grove. It was gratifying that WDC recognised the experience and knowledge possessed by P&TGRS in

planning matters. P&TGRS 's concerns were that all matters triggered by the government's insistence that WDC provide a greater number of houses than had been originally planned should be fully considered. A major aspect was the many interrelated infrastructure issues e.g community services, transport and environmental quality of life concerns which had to be seen as integral to the eventual Local Plan and not of secondary importance. Gill referred to the considerable amount of work which needed to be done during the rest of the year and urged Residents to keep P&TGRS advised of comments and recommendations via Village Voice, the website, Facebook and other communication vehicles being developed.

6. Presentation of Accounts

In presenting the P&TGRS Accounts, David Harris, P&TGRS Finance Director, referred to the copies of the Income and Expenditure Statement and the Balance Sheet which were available to the Meeting. David explained the layout of the two sheets and indicated how, together with the Directors' Report, they would constitute the Society's Statutory Accounts. A copy of these Accounts would be placed on the website. The Accounts had received the approval of the Board. David explained the difference between Restricted and Unrestricted Funds and the role of V/V in providing the Society with the major part of its income for disbursement in respect of its charitable objects. He referred to the £4,000 produced by timber sales following the thinning of Common Wood, the reduction in costs as a result of changes to the printing of "Village Voice" and, with congratulations to the Village Pre-school Sub-Committee and the Pre-school Management team, the considerable improvement made to the Village Pre-school's financial health. After taking questions on detail, David concluded by thanking John Bettinson, P&TGRS Treasurer, for his considerable help and support, particularly his professional input in support to the Village Pre-school, the production of the Management Accounts for the Board and for assembling the Society's Statutory Accounts.

7. President's Address

After receiving the approval of the Meeting for the additional information provided by Board members in support of the Annual Report, Miles announced that he had to offer his profound apologies to the President for not having invited him to address the Meeting at the outset of the AGM and asked that he would now do so.

The President said that he was very pleased to accept Miles's invitation. This AGM was a rather special occasion for him, since he was down to speak twice, once as President and again later as a "guest speaker". It had been in fact very rewarding to have been able to sit and listen to all that had been said thus far, because it had confirmed his view, if it needed to confirming, that the work of the Society was of great importance in encouraging and sustaining the community character of Penn and Tylers Green.

The President then addressed the Meeting as at Annexe B.

8. Appointment of Directors

The Secretary reminded the Meeting that the Society was a charitable company limited by guarantee. All the Directors of the charity were subject to retirement by rotation. Each year, one-third had to stand down and could resume office only if reappointed by a Resolution approved at the AGM. New Directors could only be appointed, if particular procedures set out in the Articles of Association were followed. No nominations under these procedures had been received. However, Ken Nelson had indicated that, for family and personal reasons, he was unable to continue to serve as a Director or remain as a non-Director of the Board. The Board wished to thank him for his past services and was pleased to make clear that he wished to continue to be associated with the work of the Residents Society. Directors due to retire by rotation in 2015 were :

Michael Morley
Cathy O'Leary
Ruthie Pocock

Each of these Directors had indicated their wish to continue to serve, and the Board therefore recommended that each be reappointed pursuant to Articles 27 -29. The Meeting unanimously approved the Board's recommendation.

9. Question and Answer Session with Parish, District and County Councillors.

The Chairman invited local Councillors to address the Meeting and take questions: -

Cllr. Katrina Wood, Chairman CWPC, Leader WDC, County Councillor for Hazlemere, reminded the Meeting that, until recently she had been a Director of P&TGRS. She strongly supported the work of the Society particularly its efforts to build an effective relationship with elected Councillors. She had only been in post as Leader for a week but hoped to be able to make WDC a highly efficient Council, despite the cutback in Central Government grant. She expected the new Leisure Centre at Handy Cross to open in January 2016.

Cllr Lawrence Wood, Councillor, WDC, Tylers Green and Loudwater, observed that Penn and Tyler Green was a community in a very real sense of the word. He was struck by how much work was done by P&TGRS and looked forward to being part of that. He sat on WDC's Planning Committee and hoped Residents would feel able to contact him on any planning matter with which they needed help. Although 98% of planning applications were decided by Planning Officers, Councillors were able to call in any application for detailed examination and decision by the Committee.

Cllr Jean Johnson, CWPC, referred to the additional equipment provided to the Ashley Drive recreation area and CWPC's plan for planting an orchard locally. Anyone interested would be welcome at the Loudwater Orchard Group. Allotments were still available for rent.

Cllr Jane Creasy, Penn Parish Council, looked forward to contributing to the work of the Council and to supporting the Residents Society but had been on post only 3 weeks.

The Chairman invited Ken Cooke, a retired architect, to comment on the work of the Ashwells / Gomm Valley local Residents group on WDC's plans for that reserved site. Ken referred to the meetings with WDC Officers on the Development Brief and drew attention to the difference between Ashwells and Gomm Valley : WDC owned Ashwells, so could appoint its own developer ; Gomm Valley was owned by AXA. Current discussions were on density and design features, where the concerns were that the proposed density was higher than in neighbouring developments.

10. "Days in the Life of a Parliamentarian". Two talks by (and questions to):-

**Earl Howe –"A Government Minister in the House of Lords"
Steve Baker MP –"My Year in the House of Commons"**

Miles introduced the two speakers, saying that we were fortunate to have as speakers two parliamentarians who were also strong supporters of the work of the Residents Society.

Earl Howe spoke of his work as a government Minister in the House of Lords and the quite different portfolio he now had, having moved from Health to Defence. It was a fact of parliamentary life that Ministers were expected to master their brief in a very short time, which meant long hours at the desk and in meetings with colleagues. It was a particularly important task for a Minister in the Lords to persuade crossbench peers of the validity of the government's case.

Steve Baker spoke of his year in the Commons following his increased majority. He said that he knew well that the Residents Society was not a party political body but felt the Chairman would allow him an indulgence to thank people who voted for him. It was important to make clear that his duty was to work for and represent the interests of the entire Constituency, including those people who did not support him or his Party. Although he had been given some national Party responsibilities, he wanted to make clear that priority would always be given to Constituency matters. Steve went on to outline his personal position on contemporary issues and details of his average working week. He invited the Society to arrange a visit to the House of Commons for those Residents interested and able to attend.

The Meeting acclaimed both speakers' respective presentations.

11. Refreshments

Miles declared the official business of the Meeting to have been discharged and invited attendees to partake of refreshments and continue general discussion, especially with the two guest speakers.



Penn & Tylers Green Residents Society

Annual Report 2014

The Penn & Tylers Green Residents Society is a charity that undertakes its activities, primarily on a voluntary basis, and helps other non-profit organisations. All member residents are welcome to be involved so if you can give an hour or two a month, or even occasionally to support our activities please get in touch. If you are a non-profit organisation or individual with an idea or project that could benefit a section of the local community please contact us - we may be able to help...

The Residents Society had a busy year in 2014:

- Producing the Village Voice magazine
- Managing the community website: www.pennandtylersgreen.org.uk
- Managing and maintaining Common and Millar Woods for the benefit of residents
- Managing the non profit-making Village Pre-school
- Working with police, and providing community representation on the Neighbourhood Action Group
- Commenting on planning matters which could affect the character or quality of the environment of our community. In particular the development of Gomm Valley & Ashwells.
- Worked with CWPC and the Highways Authority over concerns about traffic in Church Road East and given £5,900 towards narrowing the junction with School Road.
- Helped local organisations financially.

Village Voice

6 editions of Village Voice were produced in 2014, and delivered to all Penn & Tylers Green, households. It remains popular for clubs, societies, and individuals to report on events and activities, and advertisers to publicise their businesses.

Our philosophy for including content remains, 'by the villages, for the villages, and of the villages', and to limit the advertising volume, to ensure we are not regarded simply as a vehicle for advertising, but instead as a high quality, reader-valued, community-orientated publication.

P&TGRS website

www.pennandtylersgreen.org.uk increased its site visitors, in 2014. The appearance and content has recently been refreshed, with plans for further enhancement over the next few months. It is ideally suited to capture news in between editions of VV, to include full length articles originally submitted to VV, but which for reasons of space were shortened. Our aim is to be regarded as a valued 'all things Penn & Tylers Green' resource, and to achieve this goal, we will continue to add content regularly.

Woodlands

Earlier in the year, as part of our management plan, contractors were engaged to thin some plantations and to remove a number of declining mature beech alongside paths before they became dangerous. Over 300 tons of timber were sold for firewood. An experiment using Dexter cattle from Penn Wood to graze Farther Barn field was successful. This is one step towards creating a meadow where machinery is expensive and damaging. We are encouraged by an entomologists report about the numbers and diversity of butterflies.

A joint project with the Woodland Trust raised a significant grant towards Lidar mapping and way marking. The project covers new paths along the horse field and at Burrows Gate, repair of the Rushmoor path and surfacing of the Holloway. Dormouse monitoring will be undertaken over the next years. Additionally first aid training and the purchase of wood maintenance equipment with relevant training will enhance work undertaken by volunteers.

The wood is used by external organisations and the Thames Valley orienteering mapped the woods in detail for a key event in February.

Millar Wood has had a tidy up and progress is being made in the provision of information boards. Similarly boards are being prepared for Coppice Farm Greens. Our financial position is sound and we endeavour to carry out works through grants where possible.

Village Pre-school

Forest School sessions are an exciting new venture with fully trained members of staff. Dance and Movement sessions twice a week commenced early in 2015. We have been recognised by the ITERS (Infant and Toddler Environmental Rating Scheme) and ECERS (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scheme) audits. We continue to raise the standard of expertise and qualifications of our staff. All are now qualified to Level 3 or above and are supported in their professional development. This year we recruited a Business & Finance Manager, Gill Lynn, who was a Manager of The Village Pre-school for some years and has since gained an accountancy qualification.

Our Parents Committee organised fundraising events such as Cake Sales, Book Sales, Bag2School collections and latterly the extremely successful Christmas Fayre has enabled the children to experience Basil's Farm, Zoolab and John Johnny at the leavers party in July. The annual Nativity performance this year allowed the children to write their own scripts as well as choosing their own parts.

Finance Report 2014

2014 was a successful year for P&TGRS, with all our activities showing surpluses.

Village Voice continues to be our main revenue source and enabled us to continue making donations to local causes, chief of which in 2014 was £2,000 to the Methodist Church, Coppice Farm Road. The Village Preschool has worked hard to become sustainable and, after a large deficit arising in 2013, has produced a surplus of some £3,000 in 2014. Early figures for 2015 suggest this considerable improvement is being maintained. Common Wood benefitted from a £4,000 sale of felled timber in 2014 and, even after footpath extensions costing £1,000, produced a surplus of £2,500. After forgiving a £1,000 loan to the Jubilee Fund, the Society has an overall surplus for 2014 of some £12,000.

Neighbourhood Action Group

The Hazlemere and Chepping NAG comprises local representatives including residents, local councillors and police. Susanne Ludgate is the TG NAG representative. Once again, speeding has been a major issue with the highest speeds being recorded in Church Road and New Road. Funding for 2 further Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) devices has been approved. Success of the use of these devices will be monitored with a report being sent to Hazlemere PC. Additionally “Think 30 for a Reason” signs have been ordered and the MVAS data will help determine where these should be optimally positioned. A further traffic problem has also been identified in the form of inconsiderate parking including parking on pavements or across footpaths, and parking vehicles too close to junctions. NAG has launched a Considerate Parking Campaign with the use of posters and a contact point for reporting incidents.

The representation of the police at the NAG meetings continues to be a very helpful with excellent communications maintained. This liaison has provided sound advice on the speeding and parking problems and has also provided feedback on local problems including crime figures and initiatives to address individual issues concerning residents.

Planning

We check the Wycombe (WDC) and Chiltern District (CDC) Councils planning application weekly lists and after careful consideration make comments on those few applications where we consider this will be in the interests of the wider community. Two prime examples in this past year have been the threat to Joe Gleeson’s shop and livelihood by virtue of a change-of-use application (CDC) and similarly the application for change of use of the shop at 29 Coppice Farm Road to a fast-food take-away (WDC). In both instances the community made its voice heard loud and clear in objecting to these proposals and the applications were refused by the respective councils.

We have met Steve Baker MP on several occasions to represent our view that the National Planning Policy Framework does not lead to or encourage local participation in planning matters – rather the opposite - and that it is for Parliamentarians to put this right. Despite Steve’s effort to have our concerns aired in an Adjournment Debate in Parliament in July, nothing has changed. The locality continues to suffer from the decisions of the Planning Inspectorate (a supposed independent authority but under the authority of the Department of Communities and Local Government), particularly on appeals, which have taken little or no account of the opinion of local people or of elected Councillors. This serious situation – which risks creating a democratic deficit in decisions on planning matters - may bode ill for the outcome of consultations begun

during the year with Wycombe District Council over proposals in the WDC Local Plan, particularly for Ashwells and the Gomm Valley.

Wycombe District Local Plan

The proposals to develop the Gomm Valley and Ashwells grew closer with the release in October of the 5 “Reserve Sites” by WDC. We were very pleased to support Pimms Grove resident Graham Andrews when he organised a walk through the Gomm Valley on a bright Sunday morning in August. We continue to press the case for the least harmful outcome through our representations to the planners and Councillors and to our MP. With other local interest parties we are on the Liaison Group set up by WDC. We publish regular reports in Village Voice and on our website.

Church Road (East) Traffic Problem

The P&TGRS, working with local residents and institutions, has taken the lead over the past five years to highlight the need for action on this narrow local road, which is heavily used by commuter traffic, and represents a potentially dangerous conflict with local users, including pedestrians. A significant realignment of the kerb at the Hammersley Lane end has been agreed to prevent vehicles entering at unsafe speeds from that direction, benefiting pedestrians crossing the road at the widest point. P&TGRS contributed £5,900 to the cost.

Membership - The Penn & Tylers Green Residents Society (P&TGRS) is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Its members are held to be all the residents of the “Tylers Green Ward” of Chepping Wycombe Parish Council and of “Ward UA” of Penn Parish Council (unless they notify the Secretary that they do not wish to be). Members are entitled to attend or to have their views represented at meetings of the Board of Trustees, the Annual General Meeting and any Special General meeting; they are also encouraged to express their views on the P&TGRS website: www.pennandtylersgreen.org.uk and “Village Voice”, the community magazine published by P&TGRS and distributed free of charge to every house in Penn & Tylers Green.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be here again to speak to you this evening as President of the Penn&Tylers Green Residents Society. This event seems to come round quicker every year, and I find myself on each occasion wondering how it is that the work of the Society manages to continue at such a high level of effectiveness across its range of businesses.

The Society's Annual Report for 2014, a copy of which you have, illustrates where and how the Board and individual members of the Society – all volunteers - are engaged in delivering in many different ways the Society's principal aim : to continue to make living in the villages of Penn and Tylers Green a good experience by encouraging Residents' involvement and seeking their practical support to maintain the quality of our local community and conserve its environment. As I said a couple of years ago at this Meeting, “ ...this is a rather special organisation ; it is a “ Society” which, to me, points to it being concerned to sustain and promote the values of a particular community of people “. I am proud to be its President.

I am proud also to be able to thank all the Directors, the other Members of the Board and our many volunteers from the wider community for their indefatigable efforts under our Chairman, Miles Green ; and, if I may (and not in any party political spirit, because I am forbidden from doing so by our Constitution) , I'd like to congratulate Katrina Wood, a founding Director of this charitable company, who has recently been chosen as Leader of Wycombe District Council. It is good, in my view, that members of the Residents Society become involved in local government, and I know that there are Councillors at Parish, District and County level who are either on the Board of the Society or who actively work with the Board and support its aims. If there is anyone here this evening who may be interested in helping with the work of the Residents Society in however small a way, do please speak to Miles or Brian or any Board Member : you will receive a very warm welcome – and probably some work as well !

I think I have said enough for now, because, uniquely, I am down to speak again later : the second time with my colleague “from the other place”, Steve Baker, returned in the General Election as MP for Wycombe, about my experience as a Parliamentarian - and since I cannot wait to hear myself speak about this, I'll now sit down and hand over to Miles !