

**WOODCOTE GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2020**

A committee meeting of Woodcote Green Residents' Association took place at 10 Woodcote Green, Wallington SM6 9NN, on Wednesday 12 February 2020, starting at 8.00 pm.

**1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Present:** Ivan Woodhouse (chair), Vinita Bhasin, Sue Doyle, Caroline Clarke, Vythilingam (Nagul) Nagulendran and Patrick Radford (secretary).

**Apologies for absence:** Chris and Lynne Gill, Jim Simms

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 16 October 2019 were accepted and signed. All matters arising were dealt with under later agenda headings.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- a. Communication with members.** Ivan Woodhouse reported that, with help from committee members, he had written a letter to local residents about what the association had been doing: this letter had been taken round by Caroline Clarke, Jim Simms and himself. Feedback, he stated, had included:
- i. Complaints about double parking on The Drive by "students and teachers",
  - ii. Complaint about pick-ups and drop-offs by parents in Tollhouse Drive (obstructing drives),
  - iii. Criticism of the new Woodcote Road roundabout
  - iv. The case for a one-way system round the Green, and
  - v. Speeding on Sandy Lane South "rat run".

The committee agreed to take round a follow-up letter shortly after the meeting (action IW, CC and others).

- b. Development on nursery site off Woodmansterne Lane.** See item 9.

- c. Social media.** The chair reported that he had signed up to a Nextdoor (sic) local group, adding that he had found it useful for spreading information about WGRA and sharing information on recent burglaries. Those members present with experience of social media in this context gave their view that Nextdoor and neighbourhood WhatsApp (sic) groups had been helpful in sharing information about burglaries and (eg) finding local tradespeople.

- d. Burglaries.** The meeting noted with concern that there had been several burglaries in the WGRA area and elsewhere locally, noting that the perpetrators had come in groups, had broken in while residents were in bed and (at least once) had taken car keys to steal the cars. A common view, it was reported, was that the police did little to investigate these crimes. See item 7b below.

- e. **Neighbourhood Watch.** Ivan Woodhouse reported that he had attended an informal meeting with Nina Amin (the ward NW coordinator), Caroline Clarke, another resident, Bery Radford and Jim Simms. As a result of this, the delivery (see item 3a) had included a membership form from NW. Nina Amin, he reported, had stressed the importance of “local care in the community activities”.
- f. **Public Realm.** Ivan Woodhouse reported that Jim Simms had asked the local authority about using Local Realm money for (i) planting trees on the grass outside the school by the roundabout and (ii) installing bollards on the pavement around the corner shop. He gave costings and further details. As the council officers wished to confirm community support for the bollards, he and other committee members had prepared, taken round and emailed information and a request for views on this. It was noted that all the responses so far had been positive, as had been that from the shop’s owner. The committee was in favour of both proposals (action IW and JS).

#### 4. TREASURER’S REPORT

Vinita Bhasin reported that the current balance was £136. She asked for claims from committee members who had incurred expenses on WGRA business.

#### 5. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The chair said that he would write a report for the general membership after the meeting, ready for delivery on 29 February or 7 March.

#### 6. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL

Patrick Radford reported that the future of the SNP was in doubt as his own resignation as its secretary had been followed by the notice of resignation by the chair, who had become disillusioned because lack of support, little involvement by residents’ group and other reasons. During the discussion, Caroline Clarke confirmed that she could be the next nominee of WGRA and said that the Neighbourhood Watch ward coordinator believed the panel to be useful (action PR). It was agreed that, for many, social media had become the preferred means of communication about local crime and related matters.

The committee agreed to review its position on the Safer Neighbourhood Panel after its next meeting (on 8 April), at the next WGRA committee meeting

#### 7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

- a. **Meeting with ward coordinator.** Caroline Clarke reported on the meeting referred to in 3e above. She stressed the advantages of becoming a member of NW, such as receiving email updates from the Sutton NW and said that she and Bery Radford would continue to be in contact with Nina Amin.
- b. **Burglaries.** (See minute 3d above). The committee expressed its concern over recent burglaries, which had been carried out by several criminals at a time and which included the stealing of cars using keys from inside homes. There was enthusiasm about local WhatsApp groups for sharing reports of suspicious behaviour and actual crimes. It was agreed that committee members should

consider joining the local group that Vinita Bhasin was a member of (action: members to send mobile numbers to her).

## 8. LOCAL COUNCIL MEETING

Ivan Woodhouse reported that the recent planned meeting had been cancelled because of the parliamentary election and said that he and Jim Simms would attend the meeting scheduled for 10 March 2020 (action IW, JS).

## 9. CARE HOME PROPOSAL

[Reported: the site, off Woodmansterne Lane, belonged to a previous co-owner of the adjacent Woodcote Green Nursery, who had agreed a sale to a developer. No planning application had yet been submitted.]

Ivan Woodhouse reported that he, with Jim and Beatrice Simms and other close neighbours, had attended a meeting with a local councillor and representatives of the developer. Ivan Woodhouse reported:

- The developer's representatives had talked about the plan for a dementia care home,
- Councillor Jayne McCoy had stated that the council would *not* approve such an application as it would be against the council's policy on the Green Belt, and
- The developer's representative had expressed their confidence that they would win on appeal.

The meeting supported the view expressed by Councillor McCoy and expressed its thanks to Jim Simms and Ivan Woodhouse.

The meeting agreed that, if there were to be such an application for planning permission, ***the committee would recommend a campaign against approval*** (action chair and secretary). Ivan Woodhouse agreed to write about this matter into his planned circular for the full membership (action IW).

## 10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. **1 Woodcote Green.** Reported: an application to increase the height of the roof. Agreed (Nagul Nagulendran did not vote as he had a declared interest): no objection.
2. **153 Sandy Lane South.** Reported: an application for a house and patio to replace the previous bungalow. Agreed: no objection.
3. **Bollards at junction of Woodcote Road and Woodcote Green,** northeast corner. See item 3f. Agreed: support for the proposal to install 10 bollards on the pavement at an estimated cost of £3,360 (action IW and JS).
4. **Additional trees** to be planted outside the girls' school on either side of the entrance to their car park on Woodmansterne Lane.

## **11. NHS HOSPITAL CONSULTATION**

Patrick Radford explained the consultation about the proposal, the preferred option of which would result in a new acute hospital on the Sutton Hospital site with continued use of both Epsom Hospital and St Helier Hospitals, plus 24/7 urgent treatment centres on all three sites. It was agreed that committee members should study the proposal options online and/or at public meetings in order to make their own minds up (action all).

## **12. WEBSITE**

The chair reported that the site was not currently operative. He said that he would contact Ras Krishneratne about handing on responsibility and about whether a fee to the site host was overdue (action IW).

## **13. COUNCIL PARKING STRATEGY AND ONLINE SURVEY**

Ivan Woodhouse reported that the strategy proposals for Area 3, which would include the WGRA area, had yet to be published.

## **14. NEXT MEETING**

Agreed: next committee meeting to be on Thursday 14 May 2020, at 8.00pm, at 165 Sandy Lane South, Wallington SM6 9NP.

Agreed: annual general meeting to be on Wednesday 17 June 2020, at 8.00pm, at Sun Ridge, Woodmansterne Lane, Wallington SM6 0SU.

[Both meetings were postponed at the Chair's decision because of measures in place nationally to control the Coronavirus pandemic.]

IW pr 13.05.2020