

## **Minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the**

### **Sneyd Park Residents' Association**

**held at St Mary's, Stoke Bishop on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 7.30pm**

The meeting was attended by approximately 50 members

**Apologies:** Chris Byrne (Membership Secretary), Denis and Sheila Mullen.

The Chairman, Stephen Small (SS), welcomed everyone to this 50<sup>th</sup> AGM – members and non-members – and our two Councillors, Peter Abraham and John Goulandris.

**Minutes of the 49<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 15th May 2018:** The Minutes had been summarised in the newsletter and were also on the website. They were agreed as a true record, proposed by Aubrey Matthews and seconded by Tom Sain. They were agreed unanimously.

**Matters Arising:** None.

**Chairman's Report:** SS felt it was a great achievement for a voluntary organisation to reach its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is totally self-funding and should be proud of its achievements. A year ago, SS was afraid it would come to an end, as it only had 3 Committee members. Thankfully several more Committee members are now in situ and we can move forward. SS felt that if we can achieve 75% of what we want to do over the year, which we have, then we have done well. He thanked all the Committee, and particularly David Smith (DS), Treasurer, for being a guiding light. He also thanked Steve Goode who operates our website, and Bill Redmond, Ian Beattie and Aubrey Matthews, past Chairmen, for their advice and guidance. He also thanked the Road Captains for their sterling work in delivering newsletters and our Councillors for their guidance with planning and dealing with the Council. He also wished to thank the wives, husbands and partners of the Committee who give their support. SS calculated that he had spent one day a week on SPRA issues over the last year, which is a big commitment.

There have been a lot of planning applications to deal with. The Council felt SPRA only objected, but we have been supportive of some applications if they are considered good. We do not always stop development, but we have made them reconsider sometimes.

- Team Love – The Concert on the Downs – SPRA meet with Team Love and we have sorted out all the security posts throughout Sneyd Park. SS will inspect every security position over the two days, and Team Love have agreed to six properties to have independent sound level monitors.
- Café on the Downs – SPRA has encouraged members via emails to write to the Downs Committee and the Council. At Planning Committee B some of the Councillors did not feel the Downs Act is relevant to this application. The Roof terrace has been removed from the application. We are not totally satisfied over this application, but it is in the hands of the Secretary of State.
- Extra 1,000 University Students in Stoke Bishop campus – We have written objecting to this, as has the representatives of the Stoke Bishop Forum. The University would

have to build on the last green areas of the Campus which would make it totally concrete jungle.

- Road Captains – We need more Road Captains, particularly in Lower Church Road, Woodlands in Goodeve Park, and in the blocks of flats. We held a small thankyou party last February and hold to do so again.
- Data base – This is still in the process of compilation, but it should mean we can reach people quickly through emails to keep people up to date with information that will affect them.
- SPRA has made a small donation to the Friends of Julian Road Telephone Box who plan to repaint it and plant it with flowers.
- SPRA is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday with a party at the Botanical Gardens on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Alan Jenkinson (AJ) will promote this later.

We are continuing to issue newsletters, and another is due in the summer. The SPRA website will be more informative. Membership is down but we have some new members and we are gradually getting more people to sign up to Standing Orders. DS will explain in his report. We do need to encourage younger members to join.

What of the future? There are several areas of concern, such as the campers on the Downs, the University's plans, and whether we are protecting the trees enough. People ask, "what is SPRA doing for us?" and we ask "What are you doing for SPRA?" We need more Committee members – DS wants to stand down as Treasurer next year, and Bob Worraker has stood down as Planning Adviser, so we need replacements. When we email you with information, it is a call to action so please look at the email and act on it. It is better for the Council to receive 400 emails than for them to receive 1 from SPRA.

Proposed: Ian Beattie, Seconded: Bob Worraker. Agreed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** DS reported that during the year the subscriptions were halved due to us not collecting them in the summer as we did not know whether we would still be in existence. We have now approximately 200 standing orders as well as those who wish to pay cash/cheques. We still have over £5,000 in the accounts, of which £1,700 is allocated to the 50<sup>th</sup> party. During the year the highest expenditure had been the AGM, which will be much reduced next year. We still need Road Captains to collect subscriptions and encourage Standing Order payments. Thanks were extended to Iain McGregor for auditing them.

The Accounts were accepted. Proposed by Jane Rooth, seconded by Gillian Worraker, and agreed unanimously.

**Election of Officers:** Chairman – SS was willing to stand again for 1 or 2 more years but he emphasised we need to have a Vice Chairman. He was proposed by Aubrey Matthews and seconded by Alan Coleman. The rest of the Committee were elected en bloc – proposed by Angela Bethencourt, seconded Alan Coleman, and agreed unanimously.

### Open Forum:

- 1) Ian Beattie wished to thank the Chairman and Committee for their work done during the year. He outlined several projects that could be done by volunteers and hoped we would encourage groups or younger people to get involved. There is no need for Public Liability Insurance. He is particularly keen in the maintenance of Mariners Path.
- 2) Peter Abraham (PA) spoke about the proposed "loop" around the Downs for cyclists, pedestrians and pram-pushers. He advised the proposed route of the 3-metre wide path. He was concerned about the loss of shrubs and trees on the LHS of Ladies Mile. Both PA and John Goulandris (JG) were concerned about mixing people with cyclists. Michael Crisford also pointed out that skateboarders would use it. Gay Huggins (GH) asked if a dividing line separating cyclists from pedestrians was planned but PA advised this had been rejected. It would also be two-way, and PA could see the potential for accidents. PA asked people to write to him or JG with their views. Alan Jenkinson (AJ), as a cyclist, pointed out the Bristol to Bath cycle path as an illustration of a possible death trap as there is no regulations on it. SS stated that this is typical of the work SPRA is now dealing with. The "loop" would need grants to pay for it, but PA felt that it would be funded through Sustrans. PA was not aware that it would need a planning application, but Bob Worraker assured him it would as a path is a development. Jane Rooth asked if it was planned on the grass or on the existing path? PA explained it was planned to go partly on the grass but would move onto the road at the Sea Walls end. Jean Flowers asked where a similar path was in situ. PA said this was not like other tracks which are usually in parks and not in open spaces, so different from the Downs.
- 3) Campers on the Downs – This is a problem all over Bristol. JG stated he had been involved with SPRA for 32 years and there have never been so many. The van dwellers are different from the travellers who go on the Downs itself and can be moved off by the courts. The police view is that, if they are on the highway and have tax and MOT, the police cannot do anything. The Council will only act if proof is given of anti-social behaviour. JG encouraged people to write to The Mayor to insist he implements a bye-law requiring them to move. He is reluctant to do this. Remember this when he comes up for re-election in 2020. Patricia Rogers said on van pulled out in front of her this morning and it was leaking something along the road. PA said the Council Enforcement Team will move them on if they break the law. Need photographic evidence. Apparently, those where there is parking restrictions of 5-hours are 'living' not parking!! Ian Beattie stated Council Officers should ask them how they are disposing of their waste. The Officers will not get involved unless the Mayor approves. PA had spoken to the Medical Officer of Health who said they had visited and inspected, and they are not a health risk. Gillian Worraker asked if they pay Council Tax – no. AJ said that homelessness in this City has increased over the years. If some of these people were kicked out of their vans, would they be adding to the numbers of homeless. PA said there is a huge area at Avonmouth which could be used to house the camper vans, but the Mayor is against it. Please write via email to: [themayor@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:themayor@bristol.gov.uk)
- 4) Aubrey Matthews stated that some years ago a man was buying and selling cars in Sneyd Park. Trading vehicles from streets is against the law and the Neighbourhood Enforcement department should be contacted.

- 5) Margaret Pearce asked if people had building work done, and their builders' vans were parked on the verge, churning up the grass, as had happened in The Avenue, should they not be made to repair the damage. JG told her to talk to Planning Officers as it should be a rule of the development. Alternatively, ring 101.
- 6) JG raised the problem of student parking. A further 1,000 students descending on the area would make the problem much worse. Please bear this in mind when the planning applications are submitted by the University.
- 7) SS raised the question of trees. Should we be more protective of our trees. In Downleaze there is a magnificent tree which someone wants to cut to the ground. It has a TPO on it. Please keep an eye out for such applications and inform us immediately and write yourself to object. These trees were planted by our ancestors and we should maintain them. Should we sponsor trees? It is expensive. PA advised there is a process of making a donation and there is a management plan. Cost of purchasing a tree, together with its maintenance for 5 years, is high. Hazel Matthews said that a tree planted in The Avenue a couple of years ago has subsequently died following the very hot summer. PA advised this is the job of Highways and they should be contacted. JG asked everyone to water any trees that are near your property especially in the dry season.

Alan Jenkinson then outlined the plans for the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June and tickets would NOT be available on the day but should be purchased in advance either from him or from Aimee's Winehouse or SPAR. Tickets are going well but need more people.

SS then thanked everyone for coming and hoped SPRA would continue for decades to come.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm