

**Croft Avenue Residents' Association
Minutes of the General Annual Meeting
Held on 6th February 2025 at 7.30pm
in R42, The Ashcombe School**

Present

Diane Delaney No.1; John Pilkington No.6; Tim Philpot No. 9; Simon Murray (Treasurer) No.10; Bruce Ottaway and Maggie Barford No.11; Bryan and Margaret Dennis No. 12; Lisa Packham No. 16; Gwen Robson No.17; Gill and Steve Valentine No. 20; Lynne (Secretary) and Colin Wills No. 22; Ed Kent No.21; Heather and Mark Epps No.24; Jerry (Chair) and Sue Maxwell-Timmins No.27; Catherine and Jack Jackson (Vice-Chair) No. 28 and Helen Kendrick No.29.

Apologies

Sheila and Ken Wright No.7; Lisa and Henry Herouvin No.23; Pam and David Pettman No. 25;

Minutes of the AGM Held on 11th April 2024

The Minutes were proposed by Ed and seconded by Steve.

Election of Officials

All current board members are happy to remain in place for another year.

This was proposed by Heather and seconded by Tim.

The Inspection Team: Steve, Bryan and Claire (Kent) are also happy to continue for another year. This was proposed by Lisa and seconded by Diane.

Chair's Report

Jerry informed us that he had written to the Lib Dem.MP Chris Coghlan and Councillor Stephen Cooksey, regarding support for reducing the speed limit at the end of our road from 30 mph to 20 mph, as this is one of the policies that the Lib Dem's support. At the time of our meeting he had not yet had a response.

Jerry also mentioned that as most are aware, No.13, has a 'Sold' sign outside. An offer has been accepted - but the sale is not yet complete.

Treasurer's Report

Simon presented the accounts from 1 Jan - 31 st Dec.' 24. All historical debt has now been cleared. The main expense this year has been the road gullies and Simon informed us that we have just under £12,000 in the road bank account and still have free banking at the moment. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by John and seconded by Lisa.

Increase in Road Subscriptions

We now need to plan ahead and ensure we have enough monies raised to cover the next major expenditure of having the road resurfaced, in roughly 5 years time. It was last completed 5 years ago. Jerry informed us that a quote given to us last year was £20,000 plus VAT. By 2029/2030 this will no doubt cost more.

The road subscription of £80 has remained unchanged for the past 7 years, but unfortunately an increase was now unavoidable, in order to raise enough money to cover the road resurfacing by the end of 2029.

Simon had calculated that each household will therefore need to pay a new annual fee of **£120 from 2025** onwards, in order for us to cover the necessary costs in the future. Bryan added that he was aware of other private roads in the area, where their annual subscriptions were much higher than ours.

The proposal to increase our road subscription to £120 was unanimously agreed and proposed by Bryan and seconded by Gwen.

A.O.B

The trees were last pollarded in 2023 and it was agreed that they would be left until 2026. Tim mentioned that he pays to have French pollarding on the trees outside his property, which is another possibility.

Heather raised the issue about building work soon commencing near to the train station and to be wary of builders using the end of our road to park their vans etc

Jerry pointed out that it is illegal to have cars clamped, but we can put signs up and report registration number plates thought to be parking without permission.

He encouraged once again, for those especially whose homes are near that end of the road, to use the street stickers in their car windows - to discourage others from leaving their cars/vans there.

Jerry also confirmed that the whole road, including the two cul-de-sacs, are privately owned and it is only the two street lamps that are council run. Therefore the road surface is all private.

Regarding payment of the road subscriptions - Lynne offered to send a reminder out around June time, to try to avoid having to chase up households at the end of the year.

The possibility of holding a summer street party was raised at the end of the meeting and it was agreed that it would be good to hold one in June. The Committee will identify a date and location to make this possible.

MEETING ENDED 8pm.