

# Gleneagles & Grovelands Residents Association

## 2015 AGM Minutes

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT GROVELANDS SCHOOL  
SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2015

The meeting opened at 2.30pm. Attending were Andy Dixon (Chairman), Steve Hearn (Vice-Chairman), Steve Dean (Website), Sarah Dean (Treasurer) and Viv Gouin (Minutes Secretary). Apologies for absence were received from Theresa Atkins (Secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from residents John Pilgrim, Mountain Ash Close, Ellen Godward, St. Mellion Close, Karen Coppin, Wentworth Close & Sadie Cromwell, Turnberry Close.

### GUESTS

Bill Bentley, Councillor, E.S.C.C.

Jo Bentley, Mayor, Hailsham Town Council

Jon Taylor, local Police Community Support Officer.

James Hoare, Transport, E.S.C.C.

119 Residents attended AGM from 48 houses

**(New members ... Sarah to Confirm please)**

Minutes of the 2013 AGM were circulated for resident's attention

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Andy welcomed everybody to the meeting. Last year the majority of the original committee stood down, and along with poor attendance at the AGM, there was concern as to whether the Association would be able to continue. However, neighbours rallied and a new committee was formed. All of the above committee members have agreed to stand again this year & have been re-elected.

Nobody came forward to represent the Groveland's Road area.

Andy thanked Sue (Wentworth Close), Jackie (Pitreavie Close) & George (Turnberry Close) for their continued help with leaflet distribution.

There would be 4 main topics for discussion today, with a 'Questions & Answers' session, hosted by Steve Hearn, to be held at the end.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** Posted separately onto website.

### **SCHOOL PARKING**

Since the school took the decision not to open their gates until 3.10pm, queues and congestion have been a major concern for residents. Inconsiderate parking by parents, obstruction of driveways and blocked access are an everyday occurrence, especially in Dunbar Drive and Woburn Close. This also extends further into closes along Gleneagles Drive. A similar situation is in Grovelands Rd & surrounding roads. The head teacher Julie Claxton and head of governors Richard Miller declined an invitation to attend our AGM but have stressed their decision to limit access to the school car park is based solely on the children's safety. There were originally **80** parking spaces earmarked for teachers & parents use, but staff numbers have doubled in recent years, leaving very few spare spaces. This causes friction in the car park among parents, even resulting in some being barred. Following Andy's meeting with Mrs Claxton and Mr Miller, it was agreed to implement a trial period( subject to caveats) whereby the school gates are closed completely, therefore forcing parents to park their cars before they enter the school's grounds. It was hoped this would ease the nuisance for residents. Residents at the AGM voted unanimously for this to go ahead. The trial period is due to start around Easter, once certain caveats and policing are put in place. Bill Bentley, Jon Taylor and James Hoare all offered their support. It was suggested that Andy ask the councillor from Hellingly who represents schools, and a resident from Dunbar Drive to accompany him to the next meeting with the head teacher. Other suggestions included the installation of yellow lines; a 20mph speed limit; a 'No Parking' restriction, i.e between 8.30 – 9.00 & 2.30 – 3.30, and a 'Kiss & Drop scheme. It was strongly suggested that the field adjacent to the school be used as a car park; this idea was very popular.

### **COUNTRY PARK & SURROUNDING AREAS**

**Whilst the park is generally well maintained** the country park and lake are in need of some maintenance, particularly the ditches and drainage.

The lake appears overgrown with reeds and there is concern over the acute lack of wildfowl. Bill Bentley said that Hailsham Town Council have been given extra money in their budget to be allocated to the park this year. Andy to speak to John Harrison at the Town Council to discuss the possible solutions. Andy thanked those residents who have helped maintain Groveland's Orchard Park. He also stated that more volunteers were needed for Hailsham in Bloom's 'Plot to Plate' scheme. Also Andy emphasised that residents should take responsibility to deal with overhanging shrubs, trees etc & generally maintain their area. If they need help then ask.

### **DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL FIELD**

This originally formed part of the school playing field , owned by ESCC, now deemed surplus to the schools needs with Redrow having subsequently gained outline planning permission for 40 new homes, including a percentage of affordable housing.

Access through Dunbar Drive is currently planned thus exacerbating the current parking issues, however, consideration is being given to possible access directly onto Gleneagles Drive. There was a very strong feeling among residents that the planned building should not go ahead and that Hailsham in general has had enough new houses already. There were concerns over heavy plant accessing the site should the development begin, Bill Bentley said restrictions would be put in place. Residents reiterated their preference for the field to be used a school car park.

### **TRAFFIC CALMING**

**This has now been in place for some 2 years, not perfect but better than before.** Former Association secretary Graham Yates advised that very few residents viewed the plans for the traffic calming measures and even less offered negative opinions. Although Gleneagles Drive is still used as

a rat-run, there has been far less traffic and while some of the 'build-outs' are considered dangerous, this is mainly due to people's bad driving. Cars are still travelling too fast. It was suggested that the 'cushions' be replaced with 'sleeping policeman' to stop cars driving round them. Jon (PCSO) advised that we could implement a 'Community Speed Watch'. The overall opinion is that the traffic calming measures are a success.

#### **A.O.B**

Andy reiterated the need for more committee members and asked residents to use the websites and contribute.

Grovelands Road and footpaths are considered to be in desperate need of repair. James Hoare agreed to investigate.

There were concerns over communal grass areas and the lack of up-keep. Letters sent by Highways, informing home owners about the need to deal with excess shrubbery were considered frightening, especially to older residents.

There will be flower tubs again this year at road junctions. Nearby residents were asked to keep them watered.

Two ladies kindly offered to help the Association, possibly becoming committee members

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4.25