

# Pilot Field Area Residents' Association

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 8th October 2022 At St Barnabas Church

### Attendance and Apologies

There were 44 in attendance including Councillors Turner and Batsford, and guest speakers Richard Lawless of EFT and John Whittington of HBC.

There were 5 apologies received including Councillor Cooke.

**1 Introduction** The Chair Peter Bailey welcomed everyone and apologised for the late change of date for the meeting.

**2 Minutes of AGM held on 4th September 2021** Proposed by Penny Avann and seconded by Pat Kendrick. Agreed

**3 Matters Arising** None

**4 Guest Speaker Richard Lawless** Deputy CEO of Education Futures Trust (EFT). Richard explained the development of EFT ('The Firs') as a Community Hub. Security fencing and CCTV together with an outdoor gym and children's trail area had already been installed and within the next few months an enterprise hub, a community cafe and welfare club will be opened. Holiday and after school courses are being run for children and in partnership with Plumpton Agricultural College horticulture courses are held three days a week for young people..There will also be courses on bushcraft and whittling as well as a forest school.

EFT have been allocated one of the three Queen's trees given to East Sussex.

Volunteers are needed for help with packing and delivering food hampers for people in need.

In answer to a question from the floor regarding parking on Elphinstone Road, Richard said that the Community Payback team had cleared the area at the bottom of the site for off road parking.

**5 Finance** The Treasurer Les Hawes presented the finance report explaining that there were 110 member households and subscriptions had raised an income of £224. The expenditure for the year was £1073.68 made up of Hall hire £560.00, Printing £375, Website £93.60 and Bank Charges £45.08. The closing balance on 30th August was £4580.17. The higher than normal costs were due to the increased activity necessary in challenging the Planning Application for the Pilot Field and the introduction of banking charges.

The Treasurer proposed, seconded by Denise Tregown that a Constitution Clause 4a be adopted to the effect that "**The Treasurer be authorised to carry out online banking for the Charity and the other two cheque signatories be authorised to have access to the online account for the purposes of viewing and monitoring the Account.**"

This was agreed by the meeting.

After some discussion there was a proposal from the floor that the membership fee be increased to £5.00 a year. This was agreed by the meeting.

There was also a request that the committee consider a one off life time fee.

**6 Election of Committee** The chair invited nominations from the floor indicating that the existing members other than John Buckles were willing to continue. Proposed by Peter Bailey seconded by Pat Kendrick and agreed by the meeting that the Committee members be:- Peter Bailey ,Les Hawes, Anja Johnson, Graham Hodgeson, Denise Treglown, Tony Butcher, Adrian Robson, Monica Steward and Jeff Marland.

**7 Chairman's Report** Peter began by recording his thanks to Erica Barrett, the previous Chairman, who had recently moved to Buckinghamshire to be near her family. She had been of great assistance to him during the last year for which he has been very grateful.

He then outlined the work that had been done in preparing the objections to the Pilot Field and Tilekiln Stadium Planning Applications based on the key areas of Environmental, Drainage and Traffic and included visiting residents here and in the Tilekiln area, preparing and collecting petitions and presenting the objections to the Planning Committee. Of particular concern were the drainage systems around the Pilot Field and surrounding area and how they would be very adversely affected by the proposed housing development.

In the end the outline application for the Pilot Field was granted on planning grounds but subject to reserved matters that were outstanding.

Councillor Andy Batsford stated that in April the Council agreed unanimously, as landowner of both sites, not to sell either site and were looking to engage with the football club to help with the development of the Pilot Field Facilities including loans. HUFC had admitted that the Tilekiln stadium proposal would be too small and because the town needs more 3G pitches for young people they were bidding for levelling up funds. However HUFC had refused to show details of their financial plans as to how the financing of a new stadium would be achieved.

The proposed development of Helenswood playing fields and the Mount Denys site will pose similar problems with drainage and traffic downstream from them..

Councillor Mike Turner described the current downstream drainage problems in Scutes Close and lower roads and that the Hastings planners were aware that developments upstream would cause further drainage and traffic problems. Southern Water had said that early development of The Pilot Field or in areas further up the hill would need serious additional drainage construction, the costs of which would run into millions of pounds

Other activities carried out by PFARA during the last year had been a litter pick around the PFARA area and Malvern Way, and getting the council officers to stop the tipping of rubbish at the back of the Pilot Field.

**8 Guest Speaker John Whittington** HBC Community Safety Manager

John explained his role which included addressing issues of anti social behaviour, crime and disorder, fly tipping, burglary, hidden domestic abuse, modern day slavery and radical terrorism. He works with other agencies such as the police, fire service and County Council. He has access to limited funds which have been used for cctv at The Firs for EFT, a taxi warden in the town centre. The local issue of anti-social behaviour in Hoadswood Road involving the gating of the footpath from Linley Drive would be considered by the Council shortly. Other issues in the area being dealt with are the stone throwing at buses in Malvern Way and around the Broomgrove Community Centre.

His main message was if there is a problem - report it. He gave contact details for the various agencies.

**9 Rev Penny Avann, St Barnabas Church** Penny spoke about the role of St Barnabas as part of the local community and welcomed residents to the various groups held there.

- Tuesday 10.00-12.00 Art Goup all abilities welcomed
- Wednesdays 2.00-3.15 CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)
- Thursday 10.00-12.00 Come Be Belong coffee group (dogs welcome)
- Film Night once a month.

**10** The Chairman closed the meeting by reminding all of the purposes of PFARA :-

- To preserve and enhance the local environment
- To further the interests and quality of life of residents
- To act in a non-discriminatory way

The meeting closed at 12.00

