

# Houndwood Community Group

MINUTES of the Houndwood AGM  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 19.30 (via Zoom)

Present: Peter Goater, Deb Goater, Sarah Bolt, Heather Shearer, Jane Reeves, Jay Legge, Sue Tarbard & Steve Tarbard – all residents were invited to the AGM via newsletter, social media and notice boards.

Heather Shearer welcomed everyone to the AGM on Zoom and that to help with compiling the minutes we would like to record the audio and she asked if there were any objections, there were none.

Heather then explained that though you automatically become a member of the Houndwood Community Group when you become a resident on the Houndwood Estate but it is helpful if people formally sign up so we can keep in touch and get an understanding of how many people we are reaching.

She welcomed Alison Knight to the committee and then went on to say how the meeting would progress in that we will look and adopt the annual report and accept the previous AGM and the accounts, elect committee members and we also have to adopt a Safeguarding Policy, which is new this year.

After dealing with the formal elements, we will have a talk by our guest speaker.

Heather went on to say that we have made available a number of key documents on the Houndwood Community website including the above and our constitution.

Current committee members are Peter Goater, Deb Goater, Sarah Bolt, Lorna Flintham, Michaela Edmunds, Jay Legge, Kay Poincey, Jane Reeves, Adam Triggol, Sue Tarbard and Steve Tarbard.

1. Apologies: Sue Monaghan, Lorna Flintham, Michaela Edmunds, Kay Poincey, Adam Triggol.
2. Election of Officers: We have to elect the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and these need to be proposed and seconded by committee members.

Members stepping down Sue Monaghan, who does not feel able to continue with the secretary duties and Fiona Barnwell, who is a long-time member, and we thank them for their hard work and participation.

As there have been no names put forward for any of the roles and Sue Monaghan is standing down from the secretary role Heather will take on this role with support from Sue Tarbard & Sarah Bolt and Peter will continue to be both Chairman & Treasurer - Steve Tarbard proposed & Deb Goater seconded the above.

3. Minutes: The acceptance of last year's AGM Minutes was proposed by Sue Tarbard & Sarah Bolt seconded.
4. Safeguarding Policy: This is something we have had to do because when we put in for a couple of grants with Mendip District Council, which were successful, but they asked if we had one. In the past when we organise events, we make sure that committee members are never in a position of control or influence of anyone that may be vulnerable or children, we

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always say that parents or guardians need to accompany these groups and at the big events we use SASP.

Mendip asked us to put one in place, which we have done, and we now need to approve this, proposed by Sarah Bolt and seconded by Jane Reeves.

5. Accounts: Peter Goater thanked our sponsors for their support, Mendip for their grants, Street Parish Council continue to pay our running costs, SASP provide people for play on the green & the fete, LiveWest provide materials and help with some of our events & Somerset Wildlife Trust give us support & advice.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 we had £2,603.70 in the bank which carried forward into 2022. This was inflated by the ECO grant received in December with no spending until 2022.

Our expenditure in 2021 was £759.17 We did manage to reduce our insurance by changing provider. See our annual report for more detail.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Heather Seconded by Steve Tarbard.

6. Events: The events, such as the fete, Halloween etc. are the visible things that the committee does but we do a lot that is invisible. Over the last couple of years, we have not done much, due to covid but over last year we managed to organise a picnic on the green, which is where we launched the ecology group, and Halloween and amongst the invisible stuff is liaising with estate management.

We want to make sure that people can enjoy the spaces, get involved and that we are inclusive

7. Ecology Group: Sue Tarbard spoke about the reasons for setting up the group, such as finding out what wildlife lives or passes through the estate and what we can do to enhance the space for what is already here and to try and entice new things in.
8. Gardening Group: Jane Reeves talked about the gardening group, that they meet a couple times a week and look after the raised beds and the wild area at the end of Serenity. The group take cuttings and grow from seed, which where the replacement greenhouse will come into its own.
9. Annual Report: Jay Legge proposed that the annual report was accepted and Jane Reeves seconded.
10. Guest Speaker: Les Troutman from the Somerset Wildlife Trust spoke about how he got interested in wildlife and his particular love for Somerset and the range of habitat in the area but also his concern for the decline of certain species. He then spoke about Houndwood Estate and the opportunities to help endangered species, work on the pond to make it easier for pond dipping etc. and maybe increase the range of bird boxes to try and attract birds such as house martins.

He then asked if anyone had any questions

- Sarah reminded Les of the surprise he had as he walked around the estate.
- House martins & swallows and wider implications to these birds around the world.

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- Try to get school children involved. Deb spoke about one local school that may want to come onsite.
- What can our landscape contractors do such as the way we manage our grass area and letting a border grow without mowing, don't use sprays, introduce plants to mown lawn.
- Leather jackets and people getting rid of lawns. Les spoke about nature in balance
- Cats how can we entice birds but keep them safe. Not really a solution.
- Flowers for insects, Les will send a list.
- Installing swift/house martin boxes high up, 3 storey houses, flats instal with cherry picker.

11. AOB: Peter mentioned Premier Estates have now taken over the whole estate and there was some concern that Crest Nicholson residents have now started to receive bills which they have not had before so maybe we can help people understand the bill and explain that people need to pay it. We can put some information on the website.

The estate was handed over with a snagging list, this would include such things as the shoe tree but we do not know exactly what it contains, such as the shoe tree area.  
A new site manager from Premier is being appointed soon.

12. Closing: Looking forward to seeing people at the fete Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June, eco activities will be announced as and when, play on the green, date to be announced and Halloween.

Also, put a call out for a cherry picker, and helpers for the fete to try and reduce the hours people spend manning areas.

Thank you everyone.