

MINUTES of the Houndwood AGM
Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 19.30 (via Zoom)

Present: Peter Goater, Deb Goater, Sarah Bolt, Heather Shearer, Jane Reeve, Sue Tarbard & Steve Tarbard

Present via Zoom: Roger McDonald, Joyce McDonald, Adam Trigoll, Lorna Flintham, Karen Carver & Matteo Mantovani

INTRODUCTION

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 informed everyone as to how the meeting would progress in that we will look and adopt the annual report and accept the previous AGM and accounts, elect committee members.

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

ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Peter Goater then gave a brief overview of the responsibilities of the upkeep of the estate.

Premier Estates are responsible for the upkeep of the estate and use Avery Landscapes for groundwork. We pay Premier the management fees, but Peter said that these were not enough to meet all the complexities of the site, so they must prioritise and do what is needed.

Crest Nicholson & Barratt Homes are responsible for getting all outstanding work completed so the estate can be adopted.

Somerset Council are responsible for bin collection and fixing potholes.

COMMUNICATION

Sarah Bolt then went through the many ways we keep residents informed of what is going on and events coming up, such as Facebook, Website, newsletters, two of these were done last year, and we also print & distribute information about specific events.

EVENTS

Sarah then went on to discuss events that were held last year.

Summer Fete, 18th June which ended up finishing early due to heavy rain.

Parent & Kids Activity Sessions, four of these were held during the summer holidays.

Halloween, residents on the estate were asked to decorate their residence and let us know via the Halloween Facebook post and we could then add to the site map.

Christmas Decoration Competition, where residents chose the best house, window/balcony and/or street.

ECOLOGY GROUP

Sue Tarbard talked about what we did last year.

Bird box cleaning, we did this twice, the first one in February and the second one October, which will be when any future ones are done.

Wildflower walk, Val Graham from Somerset Botany Group took a group of residents around the estate looking at what plants we have here, and he was very impressed with range.

Bat walk, using bat detectors we took out a good number of adults & children on the 14th October and heard a number of common pipistrelles and we may have heard another species but we were not sure. The second group on the 21st was a lot smaller.

GARDENING GROUP

Jane Reeve spoke about the challenges keeping plants alive with a very hot summer and then a very cold winter, and it looks like it will be similar this year.

A lot of the planting is trying to encourage wildlife such as butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.

The greenhouse was replaced as the polycarbonate sheets kept blowing out.

There has been a spate of trees being broken so the plan is to replace with more established trees in September/October.

Jane also said that they would love anyone interested in gardening to join the group.

FORMAL BUSINESS

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

1. Election of Officers: We have to elect the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and these need to be proposed and seconded by committee members.

As there have been no names put forward for any of the roles Peter Goater will continue to be both Chairman & Treasurer and Heather Shearer will continue to be Secretary – proposed by Sue Tarbard and seconded by Jane Reeve

And there are no changes to the committee members, but we would love more people to get involved. Santhosh Balasubramaniam is a member of the committee but not active now due to work patterns.

Minutes: The minutes of last year's AGM were proposed by Steve Tarbard & Jane Reeve seconded

2. 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, Live West provide materials and help with some of our events.

This last year we carried over £2,603.70 and received £4,011.28 made up of grants equalling £2,313.72, lottery £233.50, donations £1,064.06 and fete income totalling £6,614.98.

Outgoings equalling £4,936.48, so we will be carrying forward £1,678.50.

Proposed Heather Shearer, Seconded Jane Reeves.

Sarah Bolt ended the meeting with a thought of how we see our community evolving over the next every house donated a couple of hours a month doing something such as litter pick, how much better we would all feel.

- **“Community is much more than belonging to something; it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter”**.

- - Brian Solis

The committee would like to thank the following for their help throughout the year:

Street Parish Council, SASP, Live West & Mendip District Council

Steve Tarbard thanked the committee for all the work they have done for the estate.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Via chat:

Plan for work on the pond – this is hoped to be part of a holistic plan for the estate for which we will be looking for funding and we understand that there may be someone on the estate with some knowledge in this area.

Is there a plan to get the shrub on Bullmead to be cut back as it is creating a blind spot – Avery have done this in the past, we will ask them to do this again.