

Minutes of the Houndwood Community Group AGM

Held on June 12th 2025 at 7:30 pm on the green

- 1. Present:** Heather Shearer (Chair) Kay Poincey, Jane Reeves, Peter Goater, Hannah Patterson, Sarah Bolt, Sylvia & David (Oberon Grove), Jason Porthouse.
- 2. Apologies:** Debbie Goater, Adam Triggol, Lorna Flintham, Michaela Edmunds, Jay Legge, Sue Truman-Cox, Steve & Sue Tarbard.
- 3. Welcome & Introductions:** Heather welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.
- 4. History of the Group:** A brief history of the group was shared: Started approximately 14 years ago as an ecology group, originally supported by Knightstone (financially and with volunteers). The group received various grants over the years. A community fête was held regularly but eventually discontinued due to financial losses. The group is now supported by a grant from Street Parish Council. There are two active subgroups: Gardening and Ecology. The group operates at low cost and aims to support residents, including making representations to the estate management company.
- 5. Estate Management:** PG explained the structure and parties involved in estate management – see accompanying slides.
Some success has been achieved with Premier, particularly regarding rat issues in bin stores, which appears to be resolved.
The estate is not yet adopted: Sewage and water have been adopted by relevant authorities, but the lighting issues (streetlights have been sighted in the wrong place, on residents' properties rather than on communal land) are delaying the adoption of roads, pavements, and lighting infrastructure.
Ongoing concerns remain about cladding on flats, which may affect property sales.
- 6. Communications:** SB presented an update on group communications. One newsletter had been distributed to all households on the estate and regular communications took place on the Facebook page. Noticeboards were discussed: A new board may be needed near the pond. In the meantime, PG will attempt to improve the appearance of the current board.
- 7. Litter Picks:** Litter picks began over 10 years ago and continue monthly. The original equipment was donated by McDonald's, and the Council continues to collect the refuse after each event. We spent money this year on a long litter pick tool to help us clear litter from the waterways with some success.
- 8. Events:** We had a Picnic on the Green in July and held a Community Day with LiveWest and Somerset Wildlife Trust in October. We also held two decorations events, one for Halloween and the other for Christmas, prizes were given for Best Decorated properties and streets as well as other individual prizes.
- 9. Ecology Group:** Held frog and toad safari's as well as bat walks. They were well attended. We purchased some new bird boxes from 'The Men's Shed' as several of the previous ones had deteriorated with age.
- 10. Gardening Update:** The gardening ladies maintain the raised beds and flatbeds around the site. Most plants are grown from seeds or cuttings. This year, over 50 pumpkins were composted, producing excellent mulch in about four months. The electric wheelbarrow, funded by a grant, has significantly eased the workload. The main challenges include: poor soil quality in the beds and access to water, especially during dry periods. Compost is purchased at a discounted prices and Dave often supplies sacks of manure to help improve soil conditions.
- 11. Election of Officers & Committee:** Heather Shearer to take on role of Chair, Peter Goater – Treasurer, assisted by Hannah Patterson as vice-treasurer. Sarah Bolt to take on the role of Secretary. The Officers were proposed 'en masse' by Jane Reeves and Seconded by Kay Poincey.

The committee; Deb Goater, Adam Triggol, Lorna Flintham, Michaela Edmunds, Kay Poincey, Jane Reeves, Sue Tarbard, Steve Tarbard & Sue Truman-Cox, with new committee member Jason Porthouse joining, were proposed 'en masse' by Peter Goater and Seconded by Heather Shearer.

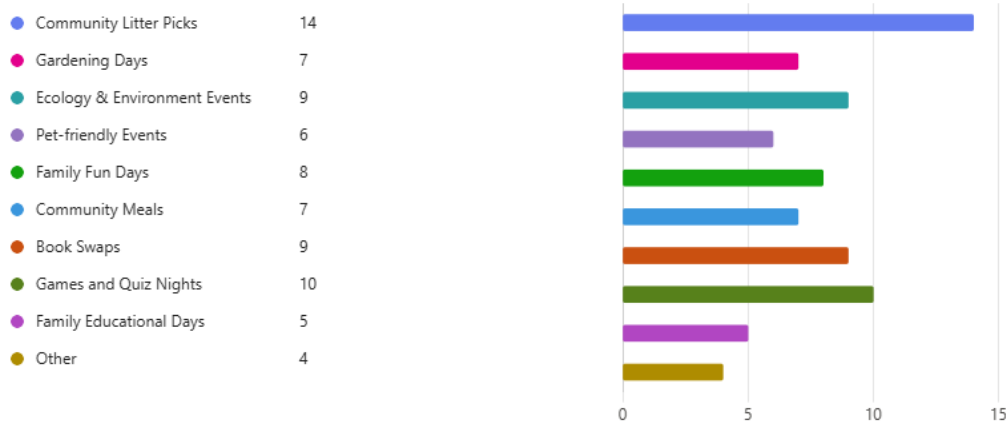
12. It was agreed that the **Minutes** from AGM 2024 were a true representation of the meeting. The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Peter Goater and seconded by Jane Reeves.

13. Accounts: The accounts for the calendar year 2024 were shared. **The adoption of the accounts** was proposed by Sarah Bolt and seconded by Heather Shearer.

14. Q&A session:

The results of the online survey were shared by SB:

1. What kinds of events would you like to see in the community?



2. What would you like us to do more of in the community?

(e.g. *More social events, more communication, more help for older residents, etc.*)

- Less of everything
- More community activities
- More socials we have such a lovely open green space
- Book club Quiz night
- More social events like lockdown quizzes etc
- More fun days
- Try to STOP, or at least educate drivers about the dangerous speeding on Couture and corners.
- Share your table? Where a solo elderly resident comes for dinner, for company. I like the idea of a book swap! Maybe we could put a watertight container somewhere for people to donate and borrow? I've seen some local villages use old telephone boxes.
- More event that involve children and family's
- Speed dating
- Help for older residents is a good idea Communication re maintenance works
- Nice to get more people involved
- Social events. Help for older residents.
- Social events. Street food + bar
- Family fun days

3 respondents (20%) answered social events for this question.



4. What would you like us to do less of, or do differently? Honest feedback helps us grow!

- Party's on the green
- Litter picks later in the afternoons. We can never make mornings due to kids sporting clubs.
- Nothing it is perfect x
- Nothing

5. Is there anything that you would like to raise at the AGM?

- Premiere Estates not doing their jobs
- Yes the upkeep of the estate i.e. roads
- Apologies I cannot attend as I'm away on holiday. More dog poo bins, the amount of dog mess is getting worse. Better parking signs. Can the Reed beds waterway be cleared cut back a d rubbish removed?
- Quiz ideas
- Explain to all the Residents the remit, responsibilities and limitations of the Houndwood Committee.
- Probably a boring one and one that's mentioned constantly! But parking. In particular coming into both sides of the estate and people not using dedicated spaces.
- Certain streets because of certain people are a mess and more need to be done to prevent this and anti social behaviour
- More sensible parking. The stone sticking out of the road on Couture Grove. Not sure what the lighting is like now near Limetree but it was bad last time I was up there.
- I'd love to see the introduction of a Houndwood community secret santa, the committee do a fab role at arranging other festive treats and I feel this would be a great addition to this period
- Areas of over grown hedges, areas of damage to estate not repaired- vandalised parking posts, general parking issues
- State of parking - number of work vans, large vans, caravans - how can this be policed
- Parking on Courture Grove - cars parked on the corner of Clipper Court and Courture Grove make visibility very difficult when pulling out of Clipper Court. Can we restrict parking on this side of the road? Or within in a certain distance of the junction?

6. Would you be interested in helping shape future events and decisions?

● Yes, I'd love to be more involved	1
● Maybe - tell me more	5
● Not right now	15

