

**MINUTES OF SOPWELL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AGM
HELD VIA ZOOM ON 24TH NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM**

THOSE PRESENT: Janet Audley-Charles (Chairman), Karen Lilly (Secretary) Sandy Norman, Gail Jackson, Rick Taylor, Jennifer Taylor, Steve Peters, Jo Cooney, Jack Hill, Emma Mantanle Counciller – joined later

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Janet welcomed everyone to the 16th AGM.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Peter Wares, Anne Wares, Gail Jackson, Chantal Burns, Mark James

**3. MINUTES OF AGM HELD AT ST JULIANS CHURCH O
22 MAY 2019**

The minutes were accepted. Proposed by Jack Hill, Seconded by Rick Taylor

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Janet gave the following update.

May 2019 to November 2020

Events which took place before lockdown

June – Big Lunch – reduced numbers due to wind and rain

July – SRA supported Larks in the Parks with financing the donkey rides and the Committee ran an information stall

October – Committee supported C.A.S.H at the fish and chips quiz in the Marlborough Pavilion

December. – Christmas tree decorations at St Stephens, different organisations, including SRA, sponsored a tree as a fundraiser for the church.

Christmas social for CASH.

We experimented with a slightly different Christmas distribution with a Christmas card and information. This did have its hiccups including the private printer being off sick at the time we wanted to get the newsletter out.

March. The new crossing had been put in place. But there were some issues, ie difficulty in opening the gate. If you are on a bike or mobility scooter. Also the gate stayed open and could be dangerous. Janet and Jack met with network rail one morning to point out the problems.

Lockdown meant that the AGM had to be postponed in May

Also postponed were

Big Green Lunch – 7th June
Susfest Market 24th May
Larks in the Parks – 5th July

We put posters up in noticeboards and the crossing and along the Alban Way with details of how residents could contact us during the difficult times ahead.

New Whatsapp groups were started with SRA where clusters of roads got together to offer support for residents. Eg in Priory Walk and Berners Drive, residents offered assistance to one another asking if anyone wanted any shopping etc. This group continues today as another form of support and goods exchanges or requests.

We wanted to tweak the format of the newsletter. We invited local businesses to advertise in the newsletter, in the hope that we will cover the costs of future newsletters with advertising. Thank you to Gail and Lee for printing. Overall this was a great success.

Brilliant response from local residents to assist with delivery of the newsletter in early October.

At the present time there are 691 on the SRA Facebook. With 3,100 homes in the SRA it would be good to get to 1,000. Maybe that could be our focus by next AGM.

Jo & Gail have updated the SRA website.

One ongoing thing is the St Julians Project that Sandy, Steve & Karen are involved in. Had the AGM been in normal times, Sandy was going to do a presentation in place of our original speaker who was unable to make the date back in May.

Steve & Karen along with a few other have been transcribing the Manor House account books for a Lady Ashurst. Also others have been looking into the history of the area around Tithe Barn Close. Eventually it is going to be compiled into a small book for publication.

Next 6 months I think it would be good to revert back to May AGM.

Cross our fingers that things will improve and we look forward to organising events for the residents.

It is heartening to see so many home grown organisations all wanting to ‘make things better for Sopwell’.

6. TREASURERS REPORT

The end of years accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting and Jo went through them. See separate account sheets. The accounts were agreed. Proposed by Rick and seconded by Jack Hill. There were 4 signatories, Janet, Rick, Mark & Jo. Brad talked about Internet Banking and how easy it was. The Committee agreed.

7. COMMITTEE STEP DOWN

Barry Bateman and Peter Wares were stepping down

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Brad Andrew was elected as Treasurer – Proposed by Janet Audley Charles, Seconded by Steve Peters
Raihaanah Ahmed had joined the committee during the year and Chantal Burns would also like to join.

9. AOB

Local Councillor Update

Emma Mantanle was able to join the meeting part way through. She gave a brief update. Emma stated that there had been quite a few burglaries and car crime during lockdown. A lot of catalytic converters were being stolen. She also said to be very careful in the shops due to Covid.

Festive Streets

Karen spoke about the Festive Streets campaign. The idea was to decorate windows of houses to cheer everybody up as they walked by. Quite a few streets had already registered.

City Neighbourhoods Committee

The next meeting was on 25th November 2020.

10. DATE OF NEXT AGM

To be confirmed – will hopefully revert back to May
Next Committee meeting to be confirmed.