



## **RISBOROUGH AREA RESIDENTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019, 7.30pm Red Lion, Whiteleaf**

The meeting started at 7.30pm

**Committee Members Present:** Linda Cannon Clegg (Chairman) (LCC), Ian Parkinson (Treasurer) (IP), Will Streule (WS), Colin Courtney (CC), Richard Clayton (RC) and Mandy Dormer (MD)

#### **1. Opening Remarks**

LCC (Chair) welcomed all and commented on the good turnout of approximately 30 people. She welcomed special guest speaker Carl Etholen, local County and District Councillor who after the AGM meeting would be giving a talk about 'Unitary for Buckinghamshire' followed by questions and answers. She thanked Carl for taking the time to prepare and talk to RARA.

#### **2. Apologies**

Bill Bendyshe-Brown, John Hughes, Ian Churchill, Sandy Macfarland

An attendance list was passed around for all present to complete.

#### **3. Minutes of last year's AGM**

Minutes of the previous RARA AGM meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were approved.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## 5. Presentation of Annual Reports

LCC presented the **Chairman's Annual Report - see Report attached**. The report was received positively with applause.

A member of the audience asked why two Princes Risborough Town Councillors were in attendance when RARA members had been excluded from their meetings? LCC explained this was an open meeting and that they had been invited to attend like everyone else.

There were no other questions.

The Chairman's Annual Report was adopted. It will be posted on the new RARA website along with the AGM minutes

IP presented the **Treasurer's Report – see Report attached**.

IP explained the £11,882 expenditure was largely legal fees for RARA to be represented at Local Plan Hearing in the summer of 2018. Much of this had been raised through donations i.e. £14,255 and a further £2,500 was still expected following an application to HMRC for Gift Aid against donations received. With current net assets in the bank of £3,685, once the Gift Aid payments is received, RARA will have funds of circa £6,000.

LCC asked if anyone had any questions about the financial accounts. A member of the audience asked, 'Do we keep a running tab to ensure we don't pay any more than we should on legal fees.?' WS explained that our QC had originally been a resident of Wycombe and was keen to act on our behalf with a very good legal package and cost.

The financial accounts were approved and will be posted on RARA's website.

LCC commented that although RARA did not manage to reduce the scale of development at this time, RARA had raised local community awareness and gained respect as the independent voice of Princes Risborough, a role that RARA will continue to fulfil.

IP thanked everyone who had donated to raise money for legal advice in 2018.

## 6. Election of Officers

LCC explained she had served 3 years as Chairman and now wanted to step down in order to enable the role to become refreshed. LCC proposed Will Streule as Chairman and he agreed to stand. He was seconded by CC. CC thanked LCC for her work as Chairman.

LCC explained that Peter Brookhouse had served as Secretary for 2 years and now wanted to step down. She thanked Peter for his time, support and commitment to the RARA Committee as Secretary. CC proposed LCC as Secretary which was seconded by RC.

The following officers were duly proposed, seconded and formerly elected:

**Officers:**

- Chairman: **Will Streule** newly appointed. LCC proposed, CC seconded unopposed
- Deputy Chair: **Richard Clayton** was proposed by LCC and WS seconded unopposed.
- Treasurer: **Ian Parkinson** (re-elected unopposed)
- Secretary: **Linda Cannon Clegg** newly appointed. CC proposed and seconded by RC unopposed.
- Other Members: **Mandy Dormer** (communications and social media), **Colin Courtney and Ian Churchill** were re-elected unopposed
- New Member: **Alan Frost** proposed by LCC and seconded by RC and was duly elected unopposed.
- Resignations: LCC thanked **Peter Brookhouse** (see above)

**5. Status of the Princes Risborough Expansion Plan and Recent Consultations.**

CC gave an update on the SPD. WDC have not yet replied or commented on 200 responses, the majority of which were critical. Eric Gadsden owner of builders W.E. Black was particularly critical and is now stopping further building on his site near the station which remains unfinished. His main issue is the relief road going through his site which he believes is not required.

CC also explained that the HIF bid awarded by Homes England was key to the development. It is intended to be used to fund only the first stage of the relief road. RARA has asked WDC for the terms and conditions for the funding but Homes England have placed an embargo on any announcement.

BCC Unitary Council has identified a gap in the funding for the relief road and believe more funding is needed overall. However, WDC have approved the plan. It remains to be seen how this pans out once Unitary is in place. Some of the smaller developers are creating a fuss in the hope that the larger developers will bail them out re financial contributions. Phase 1 of development is programmed between 2021 – 2023 and until the developers' contribution to the road and the guaranteed use of the HIF fund is clarified, this stage remains uncertain to commence.

No information regarding liaison with Network Rail has been released as it is confidential.

LCC asked if anyone had any questions?

A member asked, 'With the General Election coming up, a Conservative candidate is standing for **Buckingham** who is against large developments in green areas. So, is it worth asking the newly elected MP for this area to help us fight the development? WS responded that he will take this question to the hustings on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December and that RARA would be engaging with the new MP.

IP said the election boundaries are to be changed.

## **6. Bucks Unitary Authority/Local Elections, May 2020**

WS stated there will be some vacancies for the PR Town Council in May next year. It was noted that Carl Etholen will be talking about Unitary after the break.

## **7. New RARA Website**

RC showed the new RARA website on the interactive screen. He had created the website using a WIX platform because it was easier to manage. The new website was now live. LCC thanked him for all his work on this. RC asked for contributions.

## **8. AOB**

A member of the audience and a Town Councillor explained the hustings meeting would be on 9<sup>th</sup> December and signposted people to email [risboroughhustings2019@outlook.com](mailto:risboroughhustings2019@outlook.com) for more information.

### **The meeting closed at 8.45pm**

There followed an illuminating talk by Carl Etholen about the new Buckinghamshire Unitary Council – **see slides of talk attached.**