



Crowthorne Village Action Group

CVAG protecting our village against urbanisation

THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

The 10th Annual General Meeting of The Crowthorne Village Action Group was held on Tuesday 21st May 2019 starting at 7.30 pm. at The Morgan Centre, Crowthorne.

PART 1 - MINUTES OF THE AGM

1. Registration and apologies for absence.
 - 1.1 The Chair opened the meeting at 7.35 p.m.
 - 1.2 At which time there were 25 local persons attending.
 - 1.3 These included the 8 Committee Members [John McNab, Eddie Lyne, Carole Doran, John Baster, Andy Holley, Suzanne Hines, Janet Rogers, and Steve Bolton]
 - 1.4 Also present were the two guests who were to speak at the Public Meeting later in the evening, Conrad Taylor the ranger at Buckler's Park and Jenny Bates from Friends of the Earth.
 - 1.5 It had been successfully planned this year to avoid meetings clash for local Councillors so CVAG were very pleased to greet 6 of the 10 Parish Councillors: Bob Wade, both Tina and Bruce McKenzie Boyle, Richard Price, Simon Butterworth, and Simon Sever
 - 1.6 No apologies had been notified.

2. Comments by the Chair.

Andy Holley, the CVAG Chairman for 2018-9 announced a warm welcome to all present.

3. Minutes of the 10th AGM held on 1st May 2018
 - 3.1 Accuracy. With no corrections to note, John Baster moved adoption of the minutes, seconded by Barrie Searle and agreed without further comment.
 - 3.2 Matters arising. It was observed that there were no matters arising that needed attention.

4. Hon. Secretary's report of the work of CVAG for 2017/18.
 - 4.1 Carole Doran the Secretary of CVAG read from her annual written report, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A to these minutes.
 - 4.2 The report was accepted and no additional comments were noted.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Financial Statement for 2018/19
 - 5.1 The Treasurer, Eddie Lyne, presented his report and the accounts for the year 2018/19. A copy of these are as Appendix B and C to these minutes [available on-line as a PDF file]. He gave the Chairman and Secretary each a copy of the independent examiner's report, declaring that the presented accounts were accurate and satisfactory, and confirmed that the original had been placed in his files.
 - 5.2. Copies of the Treasurer's written report had been distributed around those present and no additional comments were necessary.
 - 5.3 There were no questions on any of the detailed figures of the accounts. John Baster moved adoption of the Accounts seconded by Suzanne Hines, and agreed without a vote.

6. Amendments of the Constitution.

Whilst there were no proposals for amendment of the constitution, a paper had been distributed which explained that in accord with the constitution [article 5] the committee have agreed a new definition of membership to encompass what has been called "family membership". A copy of the arrangement is attached as Appendix D to these minutes.

7. Election of Committee for 2010 – 20

7.1 On the closure date for nominations, 10 nominations had been received for 12 vacancies and therefore in accordance with the constitution no ballot was required. The following members were duly elected as the Committee to serve for 2019 - 20.

Andy Holley	Carole Doran	Eddie Lyne	Suzanne Hines
John Baster	John McNab	Graham Elliott	Steve Bolton
Janet Rogers	Stephen Beasley		

7.2 It was pleasing to note that at long last we are able to welcome a new member to committee, Stephen Beasley, but the Chair once again iterated that the Committee would welcome other new blood. If anyone considers that they would like to contribute to relieve the workload of the elected Committee then just contact a Member of Committee to commence procedures. Also if anyone knows of someone who they think would be a useful recruit then notify a Committee member so that we may consider making advances to the nominee.

8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner of Accounts for 2019 - 20.

Alison Holden has indicated to the Treasurer her willingness to serve for a 6th year if requested. Formally, her nomination is at the bottom of the Treasurer's report. John Baster seconded the proposal. There were no other nominees. It was agreed nem con that Mrs. Alison Holden be asked to serve for 2019-20, with gratitude for her past work.

9. Any other business.

There had been no prior notification of any other business.

The Chairman declared the AGM closed at 8.02 pm.



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The Secretary's Annual Report for 2018-19

- 1 CVAG continues to be concerned about air quality in and around the village and last June we attached an air quality measuring tube to a lamp post by the roundabout at Old Wokingham Road and Nine Mile Ride, near Pinewood. This was supplied by Friends of the Earth and after 2 weeks we sent it back for them to let us know the results. When the legal limit is 40 micrograms for Nitrous Dioxide, it is worrying to note that the results were 39.9 micrograms per cubic metre. What will it be when the 1000 homes are complete on Buckler's Park I wonder? Last year in this speech I said that as this affects us all and we want to see the Council taking active steps to meet their statutory obligations. So far, I am not aware of anything being done to avoid traffic congestion in the High Street even though suggestions were made about moving the bus stop last year. We will continue to monitor the situation and raise our concerns with whoever we feel can do something to help.
- 2 We have continued to be involved with preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and a couple of weeks ago we went to a meeting to discuss the comments sent in by residents and consultative groups. This was the next stage in getting the Neighbourhood Plan completed. After receiving comments from some residents and statutory consultees, developers, landowners and other interested organisations, changes will be made to the draft document, and it is hoped that the Parish Council will be able to submit the Plan for inspection early in July.
- 3 It has been interesting to see that in the Historic England consultation response to the Neighbourhood Plan, they have noted that the Historic Park and Garden at Broadmoor is Grade II listed, which means that houses cannot be built there. This is a cross over to another concern that we have about any potential building of 220 homes in the walled garden. The latest news from the Chief Executive is that the Trust has now formally taken over the new Broadmoor Hospital from the construction company Kier and has formal possession of all five new hospital buildings. Moving the patients is expected to happen later this year. In parallel with the move to the new hospital, the Trust will be modernising the way in which it communicates with the local community by decommissioning the remaining sirens and replacing them with the Thames Valley Alert system. If you have any concerns or thoughts about this let us know as it will be discussed at the next stakeholders meeting on July 4th.
- 4 We were all involved in April when the warning sirens at Broadmoor went off, causing much discussion on Facebook. Like others, I contacted the development team and was able to re-assure people that it was simply a fault on the system. We have been told this is one of the reasons for discontinuing the sirens is that they are old and expensive to service.
- 5 We have continued to speak out about the potential loss of the strategic gap between Crowthorne and Bracknell and we attended a full Council Meeting to put a formal question to executive Councillor Chris Turrell about the need to maintain this green gap. My interpretation of his response was along the lines that "the need for more housing overrides the Local Plan and the Strategic Gap".
- 6 However, possibly in conflict with his attitude, is the appeal to build 68 homes on the Beaufort Park site which would potentially mean the loss of the strategic gap and wildlife corridor as mentioned earlier. The appeal has been postponed till October but the application was refused by Bracknell Forest Council and we see that the Council supported the strategic gap in their argument against developing the site, stating that Beaufort Park has a high ecological value. Meanwhile we assume

that BSRIA (Building Services Research and Information Association) are still interested in buying the building and moving from their current site in Bracknell. We are keeping involved with this unwise application

- 7 Applications for burger bars - CVAG have helped in the process to get the licensing rules changed when it comes to planning for them. It came to light when there was an application recently for a burger bar in the Wildmoor Heath car park and the full Parish Council were not aware of it until they were alerted the day before. One of our members wrote to Bracknell Forest to say that the process was faulty, and it has now been changed.
- 8 In brief these are other events that members of the committee attended or commented on in the last year:
- *We attended a display in the Morgan Centre by Wokingham Council which was packed with people.
 - *We attended a meeting in the fire station to view the redevelopment plans and I see on Facebook that they are now in their temporary home at Wellington College while the new fire station is built.
 - *We objected to the proposed development at Oak Apples which would have meant removal of woodland off Oaklands Lane and were pleased to see that this was refused.
 - *We will continue to keep a close eye on any plans to develop part of the Ravenswood land reported at last year's AGM.
 - *We complained about damage to trees caused by the new lighting that Bracknell Council put up along the Old Wokingham Road.
 - *Members regularly attend liaison meetings at Oakham Park.
 - *We are currently researching the availability of points to charge electric cars.
 - *We sent in comments on the Bracknell Local Plan draft copy, which was the document that sneakily left out the need for a Strategic Gap between Crowthorne and Bracknell which I mentioned earlier.
 - *We continue to responded to questions from residents who are sometimes given....shall we say....odd information! For example, one resident was told by the sales man when looking at possibly moving to Cricket Field Grove, on asking about what plans there are for the old Broadmoor hospital buildings that "they would be made into a hotel, apartments and a museum". Sensibly he asked us if this was true and since it's not true, we got the development team to speak to the sales group to stop presenting inaccurate information to prospective residents.
 - *We have decided to have a family membership so that joining CVAG as a member is easier for everyone. However, we still need people to join the committee and would welcome any ideas about who would be interested in working with us.
- 9 In past years I have attempted to have some humour in my speech but this year I would like to end with the story about the Oak tree that has been planted in the Buckler's Park SANG in memory of my parents. I may be the only person in this room who is grateful for the rain we get! Andy Dicker of L and G sourced the tree for me and arranged for it to be planted, for which I am very grateful. We have the ranger here to talk about his work on Buckler's Park, and he has promised to keep an eye on my tree!

Appendix B to the Minutes of the CVAG AGM 19th May 2019



Crowthorne Village Action Group CVAG protecting our village against urbanisation

TREASURER'S REPORT YEAR 2018-19

The accounts are before you. You can see that at the end of the year that £3,287.71 is available for the year 2019-20. This continues as a healthy balance given the current activity of our Group.

'Earned income' over the year is entirely the result of membership fees – approximately £525. The current membership is **118**. This is the "paid up" membership. We are to amend the membership rules so that we can take recognition that there is likely to be more than one member in a household that holds our objectives dear to their heart. Please take up our offer of 'family membership' and encourage your friends and neighbours to "pay up" in order to give us an even stronger voice. Our current recorded distribution of newsletters stands at **318** but we expect that to rise also.

I reported last year of the possibility of generosity of the Carnival Committee with excess funds that they raise, and sure enough we were allocated a donation, £100 towards our running expenditure. Many thanks.

The 2018–2019 accounts have been duly independently inspected and declared sound. The Secretary can confirm for you that a signed copy of the Inspector's report is on file. Yet again I must record thanks on behalf of all members to Alison Holden acting as the approved voluntary independent inspector of accounts. I look forward optimistically that you will once again approve my request that Alison Holden be appointed to perform this task in 2020.

E.J.Lyne
Treasurer CVAG

Appendix C to the Minutes of the CVAG AGM 19th May 2019

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 28th February 2019

<u>INCOME AND</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>STATEMENT</u>	This Year 2018/19	Previous Year 2017/18
<u>INCOME</u>				
		Membership fees collected	£523.84	£611.99
Donations	General		£0.00	£0.00
	From Crowthorne Carnival Committee		£100.00	£0.00
Website	Other user		£37.68	£50.24
TOTAL INCOME			£661.52	£662.23
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
		Subscriptions		
	CPRE		£36.00	£36.00
General Meetings	Venue for AGM		£40.00	£40.00
Website	Other user		£50.24	£50.24
	CVAG usage		£81.20	£79.04
	Domain		£12.00	£12.00
Other expenses	Planning Advice		£250.00	£0.00
	Running costs		£81.19	£166.61
CREDITORS	Clear accrued creditors		-	£10.80
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			£550.63	£394.69
<u>NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR</u>			£110.89	£267.54

<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>			This Year 2018/19	Previous Year 2017/18
BANK FUNDS AVAILABLE				
		Bank balance b/f	£3,176.82	£3,063.62
		Net income during the year	£110.89	£113.20
		Bank balance c/f (agreed to bank statement p185)	£3,107.71	£3,176.82
ACCRUALS				
Debtors:	Membership [awaiting bank statement]		£80.00	£260.09
	Carnival donation [awaiting bank statement]		£100.00	
Creditors:			£0.00	-£105.75
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE			£3,287.71	



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 2019

FOR AGM AGENDA ITEM 6 [the Constitution]

No formal amendment to the Constitution is required but members are advised as follows.

‘Rule 5’ of the Constitution specifies that < Any joining fee, annual membership fee or any other designated fee, shall be defined from time to time by the Committee and all or each of them may be set as zero. > The Committee has decided to amend the Membership to be a ‘Family Membership’. The membership Joining form will be amended such that on payment of the designated – ‘ fee any family member over 18 years of age residing at a given address may be designated, in writing, to be included as a CVAG paid member.

Accordingly membership fees for ‘Family Membership’ shall be £5 per year and £20 for 5 years i.e. as exists. The Treasurer and Membership Secretary will communicate with existing members to offer to accept their paid fee in line with the new requirement with no financial change. Existing fees paid may be extended to cover other family members and where double fees have already been paid in a family, offers will be made to hold funds in credit for renewals.

Members attending the 2019 AGM are invited to recognise this new arrangement and thereby ratify the amendment.

The CVAG Committee
May 2019

Clarification ... ‘family’ may be interpreted to recognise any ‘partner’ and will also be extended to include basically ‘anyone on the electoral roll’ at a given address.

PART 2 – NOTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

To follow the CVAG AGM the Chair opened the meeting for any relevant matter of concern.

1. This part of the meeting commenced with an introduction by Andy Holley to Conrad Taylor who is working as the warden on the Buckler's Park estate.
2. Conrad gave an insight into the advantages of the SANG. He illustrated his speech with many current photographs taken within the SANG, including Carole's tree [see minutes]. Of course at this stage many of the features have only been rooted and his role ensures that the features will mature into a wonderful asset for the village [such as where and when replanting needs to be done as trees mature]. At present he works for the Development Management who are clearly trying to make a good job of the SANG.
3. A copy of his presentation is attached as Appendix A to these notes.
4. Conrad was thanked for both his work and for coming to tell us about it.

There then followed a presentation by Jenny Bates from Friends of the Earth. Jenny had been asked to speak on the subject of Air Quality [noting our concerns about pollution in the Crowthorne High Street area and the CVAG observations around the Pinewood roundabout – see minutes]

5. Jenny explained that the Friends of the Earth were primarily concerned with agitating for awareness of the problem but she did not advocate solutions to specific problem areas. This stirred the Councillors present to ask several questions about what was expected of them. The answer was “to be aware that they should address the problem”. Which is what CVAG have been advocating to the Council for some time and would continue to do so.
6. A copy of the slides that Jenny presented are attached as Appendix B to these notes

There were several concerned questions and answers such that this second session overran somewhat. So unfortunately there was no time to consider any other pressing problem or subject to be raised by those present

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

APPENDIX A to Notes of Public Meeting following the 2019 CVAG AGM

APPENDIX B to Notes of Public Meeting following the 2019 CVAG AGM