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Minutes of the (virtual) AGM 2020

The AGM was held virtually due to the restrictions imposed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. A document was circulated by e-mail to each of the 23 member households, requesting agreement to or comments on various topics normally raised at a physical AGM. We originally proposed to show as having attended all who have responded by the deadline, and show apologies from those who did not respond, but the response was so high that we have decided simply to record how many responses were received.

A total of 21 responses were received, of which 2 did not identify the household and have therefore been treated as spoiled ballots. The remaining 19 were 6 out of a possible 8 for Waterloo Way, and for Lakeside 13 out of a possible 15.

1. Minutes of the 2019 AGM

- These were agreed by all.

2. Matters arising

- One survey of the lake has taken place, the surveyor basically washing his hands of the job because of the depth of silt and sediment in the lakes. We have recently been in touch with another company and hope that we will receive some realistic options for dealing with the lake.

3. Chairperson's report

- We welcomed our new residents (some of whom actually arrived during the 2020/21 financial year). In the lower Waterloo Way entrance Malcolm and Linda moved into number 10, Karen and Matthew into number 14 and Alister and Caroline into number 12. On Lakeside, Glenn and Naomi have moved into number 29.
- We had some serious tree work done at the end of January, and the willows are now growing back nicely. Hopefully it will be some years before we need more major work.
- The main outstanding issue is the lake which is overgrown as well as being infested with crassula helmsii (please feel free to Google it, but it is widely reported as being very invasive. In addition, if our actions to remove it cause any to flow downstream to the Nene Wetlands Nature Reserve we would be liable to prosecution.) We are working on identifying possible solutions but residents should be aware that we may at some point need to incur significant expenditure. A committee meeting will be arranged in the near future to discuss these items.

4. Accounts

- The accounts having previously been distributed to each household, these were approved unanimously. It was reported that our current bank balance was in the region of £10,600.

5. Committee

- Catherine Bailey having recently moved away, the remaining committee is Jim Morrison as chair, Kam Chaggar as treasurer, and Tim O'Dell, Ian Giles and Tony Deverson. In response to the questionnaire, 2 residents expressed a possible interest in joining the committee and will be invited to sit in as observers the next time the committee meets (Covid regulations permitting). A third, recently arrived, resident also expressed a willingness to consider joining in the future.

6. Auditors

- The recommendation by the committee to continue to use DNG was agreed unanimously.

7. Contractor

- The committee recommendation to accept Glenn Marshall's quotation was agreed unanimously. 2 residents did request a breakdown of the tasks undertaken by Glenn each month.
- Glenn's quote covers keeping the grass at a tidy level, pruning shrubs and bushes, sweeping up and removing fallen leaves in autumn and trying to keep the paths reasonably moss-free. He uses his own tools and also takes away all the green waste, and is quick to point out to the committee any problems that he sees, as well as taking on requests for other jobs in the amenity area. New residents may not be aware that Glenn does not stick to a rigid timetable but comes as often as he feels necessary: regularly more than once per week. The committee is generally content with Glenn's reliability, work ethic and attention to detail and considers that his rate is competitive when compared against other quotes which we have received.

8. Maintenance Charge

- The committee proposes no change to the current charge of £23 per month.

9. Events

- We had hoped to organise a barbecue in late summer but Covid regulations made that impossible. Should the situation have improved significantly by next spring we may be able to arrange a social gathering in the lake area. In addition, there may be a need for working parties to tidy the amenity area and, depending on the results of any survey we are able to arrange, to remove growth from the actual lakes. These will be discussed at the next committee meeting. One responder to the questionnaire in fact volunteered to "muck in" with any remedial work undertaken by the residents.

10. AOB

- It was pointed out that food had recently been left on the ground in the amenity area. While it is good to see the area being used, we do not want to encourage vermin.
- Several responders thanked the committee for their work.

11. Next meeting

- The next meeting will be in September 2021, precise date to be arranged nearer the time.

Jim Morrison
Chairman
October 2020