

DRAFT MINUTES OF RVR AGM

Thursday 7th March 2024 (Shortlands Golf Club)



Present:

Margaret Brearley, Clive Lees, Beatrice Osborn, Euan McMaster, Monica Wiltshire, Dave Wiltshire, Andrew Lancaster, Linda Müller, Alastair Holmes, Jacqueline St. Quinton, Monica Martin, Tony Illingworth, Philip Johnson, Wendy Watmore, Jane Doherty, Greg Doherty, Nicola Martin, Judy Adcock, Anne Lancaster, Richard Fagg, Emma Fagg, Julia Chaplin, Carole Mullord, Nigel Foster, Julie Foster, Julia Chaplin, Bernard Becker, Alan Rooke, Nigel Foster, Olivia Livesey, Sheila Mann, Christina Brown, Cathy Morgan, John Ealey, Dolores Ealey, David Page, Brian Atkinson, Pura Atkinson, Chris Porter, Kevin Molloy, Anthony Guyver, Pearse Reynolds, Val Crowdy, Cllr Michael Tickner, Cllr Graeme Casey, Mark Ladd

The information in this document reflects the items discussed at the AGM as well as some of the information contained in the RVR Officers' reports produced earlier this year.

IMPORTANT: 2024 ELECTION OF RVR OFFICERS – PROCESS & RESULTS

The meeting was quorate. The following members were proposed and seconded and duly elected in the following roles with immediate effect: -

Margaret Brearley	Chair
Alastair Holmes	Membership Secretary
Sharon Richardson	Treasurer

Consequently,

1. Pete Saunders, Linda Müller and Dave Wiltshire stepped down with immediate effect.
2. Jacqueline St Quinton (Secretary) and Beatrice Osborn (Vice-Chair) continue in their roles.
3. **It was resolved that the elected officers be authorised to change the bank mandates to reflect these changes.**

1 Opening Remarks & Welcome to All

Clive Lees opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to our new meeting venue – the Shortlands Golf Club at Ravensbourne Avenue. He reminded attendees that RVR officers need to be elected every year. The first item of business concerned the election of a new Chair as Pete Saunders had indicated his wish to stand down at the 2023 AGM. At the January 2024 meeting, a volunteer for this post (Margaret Brearley) had been proposed and seconded. A formal vote was now necessary. A show of hands among the attendees in favour of Margaret Brearley unanimously confirmed her appointment as Chair of the RVR. Margaret then officially chaired the evening by proceeding with the rest of the agenda.

2 Apologies, acceptance of apologies, absence of Officers

Apologies were received from: Nicholas Ansdell-Evans, Cllr Felicity Bainbridge, Martin Ruddick, Pete Saunders, Terry Richardson, David Mackenzie.

3 Approval of minutes of last AGM: discussion of matters arising

No objections to last March's minutes were flagged and the minutes were duly approved.

4 Guest Speakers

Catriona Ross – Thames 21 Engagement Officer + James Allen – Beckenham Park Ranger

You can see the full BPP/Thames 21 presentation on the RVR website [here](#) and [here](#)

Catriona first presented slides prepared by James and then went on to give an illustrated talk about her involvement at Beckenham Place Park (BPP). James' slides illustrated the work at BPP to implement the Park's stated vision to 'be a dynamic open space that provides opportunities for nature and people to flourish with a thriving community at its heart'. One of the slides showed an artist's impression of the Downham Side redevelopment area:

- Sunken lawn to improve flood resilience up stream.
- Improvements to the River Ravensbourne and its corridor
- New wildlife pond and expanded woodland areas to improve biodiversity and habitat.
- New mountain bike trail, multi-use games area, exercise equipment and children's play area to improve activity levels.
- A new park café including public toilets to improve available facilities.

In addition to talking through her slides, Catriona called for volunteers to do a 2-day free training course that would enable them to organise events. The Mayor of London/Lewisham/Environment Agency would provide the funding. Catriona referred to an item of interest: the Glassmill pond project. This covered the separation of the Glassmill Pond from the River Ravensbourne – due to silting the two water bodies had joined up. This was a successful project and waterways for fish and other wildlife have been improved. See the published information about this [here](#). Questions from the audience related mainly to pollution and

	wildlife ... and the number of golf balls retrieved! Anyone wishing to flag particular pollution items or other issues that cause concern along the river can report these on the L.B. Bromley Fix My Street website.
5	New Chairman's address
	Margaret expressed her pleasure at being elected and referred to the many RVR members who will be working with her. She also pointed out that RVR was the right 'vehicle' to bear out some university research that indicated that happiness in communities was not primarily wealth or job satisfaction but friendship and relationships. One of Margaret's objectives is to steer RVR along this path.
6	Election & appointment of new officers
	<p>One of Margaret's first tasks was to address the election of officers for 2024.</p> <p>New Treasurer: Sharon Richardson was proposed and seconded by Clive Lees and Richard Fagg respectively. The vote for Sharon was unanimous.</p> <p>New Membership Secretary: Alastair Holmes was proposed and seconded by Euan McMaster and Jacqueline St. Quinton respectively. The vote for Alastair was unanimous.</p> <p>New Social Secretary: This is an appointed rather than an elected post. Linda Müller was appointed at the end of 2023, having served as Membership Secretary for over 10 years. This appointment was formally notified to the membership.</p> <p>New Auditor: As Alan Williams has retired from this post, RVR now seeks a suitably qualified replacement who is external to RVR.</p> <p>No nominations were received for the roles of Vice-Chair (currently Beatrice Osborne) and RVR Secretary (currently Jacqueline St. Quinton) and consequently the existing post holders remain in post, having previously expressed a willingness to do so.</p> <p>Also remaining in post are Street Friends Coordinator (Monica Wiltshire), Newsletter Editor (Euan McMaster), Planning Officer (Clive Lees), Beckenham Place Park Officer (Liz Logan) and the Roads & Traffic Officer (Andrew Lancaster).</p>
7	Officers' reports for 2023
	<p>The membership was notified of the location of officers' reports on the website ahead of the AGM. Only the 2023 Chair's report and the Treasurer's report were read aloud at the meeting. The consolidated officers' reports can be found on the website – here . A brief account of these reports is set out below.</p> <p>Chairman (Pete Saunders): A summary of his involvement in RVR over the last year and the activities of specific colleagues who help to make the Association the success that it is. Pete indicated that his decision to step down was due to the difficulties of juggling his family commitments and the work required from the Chair. He also strongly underlined the benefit to RVR of his (then) potential replacement.</p> <p>Treasurer (Dave Wiltshire): In addition to detailing the income and expenditure of the RVR, Dave stated that there was an overall deficit for the year of £532 and the General Reserve was thereby decreased to £9684. These 2023 accounts were audited and passed by our (then) current auditor. Dave added that 'At £9684 the General Reserve remains in a very healthy state and the Society is committed to seek opportunities to spend much of this reserve to support local projects and charities.' Dave recommended that there was no need to increase our members' household subscription for 2024. He confirmed that senior citizens and those members experiencing special circumstances can continue to subscribe as they feel able to. Dave also thanked our long-standing Auditor, Alan Williams, for his work on our behalf. Alan has now relinquished this appointment.</p> <p>Planning Officer (Clive Lees): The designation of the Shortlands Village Conservation Area has been instrumental in ensuring that developments and property alterations are carried out according to the regulations set out by Bromley Council for areas of this status. There have been a number of appeals and planning application refusals that underline the view that developers and residents are not fully aware of what is permitted in conservation areas. Clive has provided examples of breaches.</p> <p>Roads & Traffic Officer (Andrew Lancaster): Traffic issues and their impact on road safety continue to be of great concern. There are several traffic-related problems outlined in Andrew's report. They include the use of residential streets as 'rat runs' that involve high volumes of traffic; parking in unadopted road sections; parking across residents' driveways by inconsiderate drivers; ignoring traffic light stipulations. Disappointments in the Group's efforts include the dismissal by Bromley Council of a proposal for a Quiet Zone to curb the 'rat running' problem. Another has been the delay in establishing roundabouts aimed at improving road safety – please see the full report for specific examples. The Roads & Traffic group works with the Community Road Watch programme and is committed to working with our Councillors and the Police to improve road safety for our residents.</p> <p>Street Friends (Monica Wiltshire): The efforts of Street Friends continue to be productive and provide a cleaner environment for the residents of the area. Monica's work with young people is flourishing with her mentoring for those engaged in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Street Friends plans for this year have already included a river-cleaning session with the Beckenham Place Park Engagement Officer and the Lead Park Ranger. Some of the refuse removed from the river has included a microwave oven and a supermarket trolley. Street Friends' involvement with London Borough of Bromley and Veolia continues with the attendance of planned meetings.</p>

	<p>Beckenham Place Park (Liz Logan): Progress continues since November last year to the East side of the Park. The playground is shaping up and foundation for the Café. The large retention pond is full due to the latest rain. Trees have been felled and the riverbank is emerging from the brambles. A number of activities have been taking place - and continue – namely park-led walks throughout the year; fun runs on Saturday mornings; food and farmers' markets. In the summer there are dog shows and musical events such as those staged by Hospitality in the Woods.</p>
8	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Questions from audience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can RVR do to counteract plans from a freeholder to add floors to their property, causing inconvenience to neighbours? Clive Lees and Cllr Tickner responded that the freeholder needs to submit plans to L.B. Bromley for the work planned to be approved – and at that stage, residents can voice their objections. • Goan Fields – any news ? No news to share at present – this was merely a highly speculative investment. <p>Social events/projects to promote RVR social interaction - WATCH OUT FOR NEWS!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RVR Newsletter Editor invites the membership to contribute articles to the production of each newsletter. • Social events are being planned: e.g. walk in BPP with the lead ranger; garden party at Harcourt House; historic walk around the neighbourhood; Summer Tea at Bromley Court Hotel; visit to Bromley College; group booking to Bromley Little Theatre.
9	<p>Socialising to refreshments & music</p> <p>We were pleased to be able to gather in small groups or one-to-one to meet one another. The attendees wore badges that gave their name & street. This information helped to facilitate getting acquainted as we looked at photographs and maps of the RVR environs. Photographs of activities by Street Friends and Thames 21 could be seen at close quarters on the display boards ... all this over coffee/biscuits/drinks ... to the sound of live jazz in the background (thanks to Roland Perrin).</p>
10	<p>Next meeting: Members' meeting – Thursday, 2nd May 2024 at 8pm @ Shortlands Golf Club</p>

The meeting closed at 10:00 pm

Prepared by Jacqueline St. Quinton (Secretary)

Approved by Beatrice Osborn (Vice-Chair)

March 2024