

# TOTTERIDGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF 82<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
AT KEMP HALL, ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL, TOTTERIDGE GREEN N20  
AT 8:15pm

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Totteridge Residents' Association **Chairman, Kerin Conn**, welcomed everyone to the **82<sup>nd</sup> AGM**, particularly the **Guest Speakers: The Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP, Dr Michael Worms** of the Darlands Conservation Trust, and **Superintendent Louis Smith** of the Metropolitan Police.

Also welcomed were: Our President **Eileen Eskenzi**; Cllr **Caroline Stock**, Mayor of Barnet; Cllr **Richard Cornelius**; Cllr **Alison Cornelius**; and our local Police Officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team - PS **Tony Toporowskyj** and PC **Majid Younus**.

**Apologies** were received from Nigel Wray, Paul Davis, Rev Tim Seago, Jo Devine, Aviva Bard, Michael Lim and Maj Alex Masson.

## 1. Approval of Minutes of 81<sup>st</sup> AGM held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018

The minutes of the 81<sup>st</sup> AGM were available in the Hall.

Approval of the Minutes was Proposed by Paul Flashman

Seconded by Dianne Murphy

## 2. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Michael Caro presented the accounts on behalf of Michael Lim.

Subscriptions increased by 30% over the previous year; there was also an increase in Standing Orders.

Expenses rose slightly; nevertheless funds at the end of the year increased to an encouraging £93K.

Approval of the accounts was Proposed by Richard Stock

Seconded by Jenny Pead

## 3. Subscriptions

The subscription will remain at £5 per household.

## 4. Election of President: Eileen Eskenzi

Proposed by – Name unknown

Seconded by – Name unknown

## 5. Election of Vice-Presidents: Nigel Wray, Paul Davis, Rev Tim Seago, Dr Christine Riley

Proposed by – Name unknown

Seconded by – Name unknown

## 6. Election of Committee

Chairman: Kerin Conn; Treasurer: Michael Lim; Secretary: Barbara Wishart;

and existing Committee members:

Claire Bannister, Aviva Bard, Michael Caro, Jenny Ellis, Paul Flashman, Adam Harris,

Michael Jordan, Sarah Langsford and Maj Alexander Masson

offered themselves for re-election.

Proposed by Dianne Murphy

Seconded by Jenny Pead

## 7. Election of Hon Auditor

It was proposed to continue with the appointment of Taylors Chartered Accountants as the Independent Examining Accountant for the Association.

Proposed by Jenny Pead

Seconded by Sarah Langsford

## **8 Guest Speakers**

### **8.1 Dr Michael Worms**

Before introducing Dr Worms, Kerin Conn spoke briefly about the Darlands Conservation Trust. Cllr Richard Cornelius praised the cooperation over 25 years between Mill Hill and Totteridge and its achievement of the 99-year lease for the Darlands Nature Reserve. Fundraising started at the Millennium and aims to raise £1.7M. There will be opportunities for working parties of volunteers to help maintain Darlands. The Council has refurbished the dam but the lake needs restoration and invasive weeds must be dealt with.

Dr Worms is a research biologist and President of the Mill Hill Preservation Society. He showed slides and spoke about the work to be done by the Darlands Conservation Trust:

- . The remit of the Trust is to allow people to get out and experience Nature; this will require footpaths, signage etc.
- . The source of water for the lake is in Mill Hill.
- . Many areas beneficial to Darlands are in private hands and as these change the Trust needs to be aware of changes in quality and quantity of water.
- . Without proper management silt will accumulate below the water surface; one of the main tasks now is to remove the silt.
- . Some trees (e.g willows) adapt to water and stabilize the mud, allowing dry land to take hold.
- . Giant hogweed, an irritant to skin, must be cleared.
- . Horse chestnuts are deemed to be 'pests' as they establish too readily.
- . If not managed, grassland quickly turns to scrubland - although the thick grasses are now home to warblers.
- . Trees must be assessed individually; many are part of original plantings.
- . Darlands is bordered by open agricultural land; being at the end of 2 train lines, it benefits non-locals also.
- . There needs to be an assessment of what is there and what is needed.
- . The Trust hopes to count on the support of volunteers.

Dr Worms answered questions from the floor:

Q: How will progress be reported?

A: Progress will be reported on the website via links/lists.

There is also a facility for contacting the Trust via the website and receiving a reply via email.

Q: Are underground streams the explanation for the water?

A: The water table in the Valley is primarily the result of runoff through gravel on each side, making it look like streams.

Dr Worms and Dianne Murphy (Chair of the Trust) stayed to answer further questions after the meeting.

Exhibits were available for viewing in the Hall.

### **8.2 The Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP**

Theresa Villiers paid tribute to the Totteridge Residents' Association for their work in protecting the environment and expressed her thanks for being invited to speak.

Theresa Villiers provided a brief report on issues and progress since the last AGM:

- . Burglaries are worryingly high.
- . She is campaigning for more police - which she sees as essential.

- . On the issue of the Barnet Police station, she is campaigning to keep the station as there is no alternative base close by for Police officers:
  - . the front desk has gone but the station is still unsold and will be in use until at least next year.
- . Theresa Villiers has fought against overdevelopment of Barnet House and welcomed Barnet Council's rejection of the latest plans.
  - . While she recognizes the need to build new homes, regeneration must not be at the cost of green spaces.
- . The conversion of TFL carparks into housing developments is another area of concern.
- . Theresa is working with local schools to obtain more funding.
- . The viability of town centres is at risk and she is working with high street retailers who are finding it difficult to compete with online buying.

### **8.3 Police Report**

Kerin Conn highlighted the TRA's main concerns which are burglaries and speeding. TRA members are helping with the latter by participating in speed gun trials.

Kerin then introduced Superintendent Louis Smith who described the organizational changes affecting Barnet and his priorities:

#### 1. Organization

- . Policing of the boroughs of Barnet, Brent and Harrow has been merged into one unit, comprising 63 wards.
  - . Residents can walk into any police station in the area and have their problem dealt with.
  - . The Met have done well in 'Top-End Policing' of big events e.g. Olympics, President Trump's visit; they have also successfully dealt with terrorist incidents.

#### 2. Priorities

- . As a Community Police Officer, Superintendent Smith spoke with residents, not just victims and witnesses, and learnt of their concerns. The approval rate was seen as good.
  - . At the top of his priority list are dedicated Police Officers, such as PC Majid Younus, and the prevention of aggravated burglaries (violent crime). Although the number of incidents of the latter is tiny, it is perceived as a significant problem because of the major impact on those affected.
  - . The Flying Squad are investigating organized crime.

#### 3. Advice

- . Residents' groups should come together to discuss local issues.
- . Residents should sign on to OWL (Online Watch Link)
  - . OWL is a police-approved scheme which allows residents to receive local Neighbourhood Watch alerts via email. Registration is free via <https://www.owl.co.uk/>.
  - . Aggravated burglaries happen because criminals think there is something there to be stolen; minimize the risk by not leaving anything of value visible.
  - . Criminals break into houses to obtain car keys; store them in a non-descript box in a cupboard.
  - . Utilize window locks.

Superintendent Smith answered questions from the floor:

Q: What action is being taken against acid/knife crime?

A: Knife crime is difficult to manage since it usually involves kitchen knives and young men; they need role

models, education and an understanding of what it means to be a man. They also misunderstand the use of

public spaces e.g. for drug dealing.

In addition, 'good' people often think they need a knife for protection.

Acid crime has the same causes.

Q:How can we protect ourselves against keyless car theft?

A: Keys can be cloned by standing next to the owner as he closes or opens the door.

It is best to get advice from the dealership about any concerns.

PC Majid Younus of the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) presented a report on the following topics:

#### 1. Crime

. The crime rate in the ward is at level 5, in the Borough at level 6 and in London at level 8, indicating a small increase in the ward.

. There has been a small drop recently in burglaries; this could be attributed to the arrest of a number of members of organized crime.

. The main problem is theft from motor vehicles e.g. builders' vans.

The advice is to warn your builders that leaving expensive tools in vans and onsite leads to burglaries.

. Overall, Totteridge is a safe place to live.

. Handouts were available with crime prevention advice for each season.

#### 2. Local Action

. The area contains some ASB hotspots. The Police have put plans in locally to deal with this.

. Some police stations have closed, so the Police now often pop out to venues e.g. Waitrose and Swan Lane,

where they can meet with local residents.

. Any resident wishing to talk to/meet with the Police should drop them an email.

## 9. Matters arising and AOB

Questions/Comments from the floor:

#### 1. Footpath closures

Question:

Can the Council do anything about workers closing footpaths, forcing residents to go out into the road

where there are no cones?

Response from Cllr Richard Cornelius:

Cllr Richard Cornelius will take this up with the various agencies e.g. gas companies.

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The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked the President Eileen Eskenzi, the Mayor and Councillors, the Police, the Guest Speakers and the Committee for attending and the Road Stewards for all their hard work.

The members were reminded that they could keep up with the TRA and other local organisations by looking at the website [www.totteridge-residents.org/](http://www.totteridge-residents.org/) and could contact the organisation by emailing [info@totteridgeresidents.org](mailto:info@totteridgeresidents.org).

All were invited to stay for refreshments and further discussion.