**Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting of the Maiden Erlegh Residents Association held at 8pm on Thursday 10 May 2018 at the Kenton Road Day Centre, Kenton Road, Earley**

**Executive Committee officers and contributors present**

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| Steve Feltham (Secretary) – In the Chair | Pamela Tames (Treasurer) |
| Jonathan Brown (Magazine/Editorial Team) | Patricia Brown (Magazine/Editorial Team) |
| Liz Kerry (Magazine/Editorial Team) | Edwin Trout (Magazine/Editorial Team) |
| Constantina Ainsworth (Area 7) | Jean Beck (Area 12) |
| Judy Clark (Area 5) | Rosemary Cook (Area 11) |
| Pamela Roberts (Area 10) | Celia Smith (Area 6) |
| Siyu Smith (Area 2) | Tim Smith (Area 2) |
| Barbara Stansfield (Area 8) | Brian Hackett |
| Peter Soul (EASI) | Jenny Lissaman (ACER) |

*16 other members of the Association also signed in as present at the meeting.*

**Apologies received**

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| Colin Mair (Chairman/Area 3) | Anne Booth (Area 9) |
| Vera Box (Area 12) | Shelagh Quick (Area 12) |
| Peter Woodward (Area 1) |  |

**PRESENTATION**

Steve Feltham advised the meeting that he was standing in for the Chairman, Colin Mair, who was currently in North America and had given his apologies for not being able to attend this AGM.

The Secretary welcomed all those present at the meeting and introduced the Speaker for the evening, Peter Baveystock. The topic for the evening was ‘A Cleaner and Greener Wokingham’.

Peter explained his role as the Manager for the Cleaner, Greener and Reactive Services Team and he described some of the background to the changes that had occurred since 2012.

He commenced his presentation with an update on the changes to the grass cutting regime, which was the subject of much discussion last year. He explained that adverse weather conditions this year had led to another delay in the grass cutting programme, and this was compounded by a sudden change in weather which had led to vigorous growth. Although some areas were having to contend with overgrown verges and play areas currently, the grass cutting was now well under way and the contractors were working hard to make up for lost time.

Turning to waste services, Peter stated that the council acknowledged that most residents were not in favour of wheelie bins, and so in 2012 the blue bag system with recycling containers was introduced. As a result, there was a 20% drop in waste destined for landfill and recycling went up by 30%. However, the Environment Agency had since prevented street sweepings from being recycled, and recycling rates nationally and locally had declined as a result. The council had subsequently introduced a process for reclaiming grit.

Peter described the root and branch review of waste management that had been undertaken more recently. The council decided to keep the weekly collections and the blue bag system with the recycling bins. In addition, it was decided that food waste would be collected separately from April 2019. Under the new arrangement, the blue bags, recycling bin items and food waste would be collected in the same vehicle. A seven-year extension of the contract with Veolia was approved.

The meeting was told that 30% of blue bag waste was food, and it was expected that 5,000 tons of food waste was expected to be handled by the new method when the new system was in place, providing a saving of £0.5m. Biodegradable bags will not be used and the boxes would be free for residents.

The Government expected councils to reach a target of 50% of waste to be recycled by 2020. The latest figures showed that 40% of waste was already being recycled, and the recent increase in the plastics that could be added to recycling bins should add 20% to that amount. Accordingly, the council should meet its recycling target with the existing measures in place.

Glass recycling was achieved by way of bottle banks, and the council was looking to increase the number of these available to residents. Chalfont Park was currently under consideration to ease the level of demand on the Asda site. Kerbside collections had been considered by the council, but with less than 1% added to the recycling rate that would be realised with a collection service, a business case could not be made.

In answer to a question, Peter agreed that fly tipping was a problem. However, the council would not save more by withdrawing the charges for trade waste.

Peter announced that he was moving on to a new role in Lead Specialist Clienting, where he would be responsible for waste, parking enforcement, highway contracts and building control.

Following further questions from the audience, the Secretary concluded the session by thanking Peter for his presentation, and members showed their appreciation.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2017 were accepted as a correct record. Pamela Tames made the point that the loss of the invoice referred to in respect of the 2015/16 charge for Kenton Road was not the fault of MERA.

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

The Secretary referred to the Chairman’s report which had been circulated prior to the meeting and which was available on the day. The Secretary drew attention to the activities in which MERA had been involved as described in the report and the Chairman’s thanks to the officers and area representatives for their work over the year.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

The report of the Treasurer and the audited Statement of Accounts which were available for inspection were considered and agreed. The Secretary commented that the new website referred to in the report was currently being developed and the progress made on this would be reported in the MERA magazine.

The Secretary confirmed that Don Box had put his name forward to continue his role as auditor for the coming year. The Secretary proposed that Don Box should be re-appointed as MERA’s auditor, and this was seconded by Brian Hackett. On being put to the vote it was

**AGREED:** That Don Box be appointed as Auditor for the ensuing year.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND AREA REPRESENTATIVES**

The Secretary announced with regret that Shelagh Quick and Vera Box (both serving Area 12) had decided to retire and did not wish to stand for re-election in 2018/19. The Secretary stated that Shelagh and Vera had served MERA for many years and their contribution would be greatly missed.

The meeting was advised that there was now a vacancy for Area 12 (excluding Repton Road, which would continue to be served by Jean Beck) and he asked if anyone would like to put themselves forward to fill the role of area representative, explaining that the resignations had been received too late to find a replacement in time for the meeting. As there were no names put forward, the Secretary stated that every effort would be made to find a replacement as soon as possible.

The Secretary proposed that all other existing officers, area representatives and the editorial team who were willing to serve for a further term be re-elected. The proposal was seconded by Peter Soul and the nominations were agreed by those present at the meeting.

The meeting was reminded that MERA had been without a Vice Chairman for the last year, but the Secretary was pleased to announce that Peter Woodward (Area 1) had put his name forward to serve in this role. The Secretary proposed that Peter Woodward be elected to the role and this was seconded by Jean Hackett and the nomination was agreed by the meeting.

The Secretary advised that at the last meeting of the Executive Committee, a decision was made to include the duties of Data Protection Officer as part of his secretarial duties until the AGM. He explained that these duties included the implementation, monitoring and provision of advice in relation to the new General Data Protection Regulation which was due to be implemented on 25 May 2018. The new legislation was designed to protect individual rights in relation to the keeping and sharing of personal details. The Secretary asked the AGM to agree that this temporary arrangement be extended until the next AGM to be held in May 2019 to ensure compliance and to embed the new arrangements into MERA’s practices, to respond to questions raised in respect of data protection and to draft a policy for approval at the next AGM.

Margaret Marshall proposed that the inclusion of these duties in the role of Secretary be agreed. This was seconded by Jean Beck and the proposal was agreed by the meeting.

**AGREED:** That

1. All existing non-retiring officers and area representatives including the Editorial Team be re-elected to serve in their existing capacities for the ensuing year.
2. Peter Woodward be elected as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.
3. The role of Data Protection Officer be included in the duties of the Secretary for a temporary period expiring in May 2019.

**RESOLUTIONS AND RULES PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

There were no resolutions or rules proposed by the Executive Committee.

The Secretary stated that at next year’s AGM, members would be asked to vote on the adoption of a Data Protection Policy to ensure continued adherence to the GDPR. Additionally, and subject to the Chairman’s approval, a revised Constitution would also be put forward for agreement.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The meeting agreed that the Editorial Team should be congratulated on the continuing high standards maintained in the production of the MERA Magazine, which was very much appreciated by residents.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.05pm.

***Date of the next AGM***

Thursday 9 May 2019 at 7.30 for 8pm.

***Date of next Executive Committee***

Thursday 14 June 2018 at 8pm.