

# WARREN AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the AGM 11th October 2023 held in Mapledurham Pavilion

These notes support the information in the AGM presentation slides lodged on the WADRA website. The AGM was preceded by a presentation from Alison Foster from the Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust

**Present** Elisa Miles, Hayley Brommell, Martin Brommell, Sally Hart, John Heaps Alistair McLean, Bob O'Neill, Pam Reynolds from the committee and 23 other members and guest Paul Carnell

**Apologies** John Kavanagh, Derek and Gillian Murphy, Granville Orange, Shonagh Brunnen, Lesley Waite. Also, Nick Haskins and others attending a North Reading Neighbourhood Safety Forum on the same date

**The minutes** of the 2022 AGM were agreed. (proposer Nigel Stanbrook and seconded by acclamation)

### **Introduction and matters arising**

Elisa Miles welcomed members. She thanked the committee and the small band of volunteers who supported WADRA activities. She invited more volunteers. Referring to the previous minutes she said the Deed of Dedication had still not been signed off. It was important that the final version would not be damaging to the Trust. WADRA had paid for legal advice which indicated that the deed had not defined the 4% of land referred to nor adequately protected the remaining area. The Playing Fields Management Committee were also trying to clarify the Trust Land within the Local Plan. These issues together with ASB and the School expansion planning application had pre-occupied the committee so issues such as the Logo had been set aside. Friends of WADRA who were not resident within its boundary were able to keep in touch through using the café and following social media as well as the website.

### **North Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum (slides 8 and 9)**

Martin Brommell's presentation outlined the attention given to Anti-Social Behaviour and the changes in support from Thames Valley police and Reading Borough Council. An open-air meeting to discuss recent ASB incidents at the playing field between residents and the police seemed to have had a deterrent effect on the perpetrators and two Have Your Say Meetings will be held at the same venue in 2024 at 6.30pm on 5<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> August. Volunteers were being sought to undergo throw line training with the Fire and Rescue Team. Martin also reported that he and Pam Reynolds had attended a community leaders' event and has been invited to attend further ones.

### **Mapledurham Playing Field Management Committee (slides 10 – 13)**

Slide summarises the main issues - many relating to who does what, where and when. Recently people had been asked to move from benches by representatives of the school. Residents have a right to hold their ground. The complaint regarding noise and light pollution affecting homes close to the school had been accepted as worthy of investigation by the Local Authority Ombudsman. If this is

unsuccessful WADRA may have to renew its offer to help fund soundproofing screens although the school PTA had an excellent record of fundraising for other facilities. The school had launched as a “walk to” school but there was evidence that a growing proportion of pupils came from beyond the local area. Congestion in the pavilion car park at drop off and pick up times was testimony to this. Some park and pavilion users needed to arrive by car e.g. the Parkinsons group. RBC would be providing signage to indicate the school parking area and the area for pavilion, tennis club members and playing field users i.e. the main car park.

Clarity was also being sought on payments to the Trust by businesses using the area. RBC charges for the use of the hall were high. Consideration was being given to merging the two small meeting rooms to create a larger room plus a store. This would be more attractive to potential bookings.

Generally, Mrs Miles was trying to make the running of the management committee more efficient, effective, and more welcoming to observers.

### **Mapledurham Field, Hall and Pavilion events (slides 14 – 16)**

Elisa Miles summarised events supported. The Festival salvage had been reduced to eliminate storage costs that had been incurred in previous years. If Festival Republic could provide suitable storage in future, it may be possible to hold some equipment for charities and emergencies.

The Community Café on Thursday afternoons had received welcome sponsorship and more would be sought for the coming year. More helpers would also be welcome. Attendance at events in the last year had dropped off and a slimmed down programme was likely in future.

### **Treasurer’s Report (slide 17)**

Hayley Brommell presented the financial report 1 Sept 2022 to 31 August 2023. A question from the floor observed the dependence upon camping sales and events for income as the subscription remained at a one off £5.

### **Planning Report (slide 18)**

Alistair McLean’s presentation highlighted where WADRA had opposed applications. Of note was an approach to develop housing on a leisure plot on an open stretch of the Warren near the sports clubs. Mrs Appleton asked for continued vigilance regarding the applications for 18m communication masts.

### **Election of Committee (slide 19)**

Martin Brommell was standing down from the committee and he was given a fulsome round of applause for all his work in support of WADRA over the years.

Bob O’Neill and Alistair McLean were re-elected and Barbara Garden was elected and welcomed to the committee.

The committee were thanked for their work.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm