**WOODCOTE GREEN RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION**

[**www.wgra.info**](http://www.wgra.info)

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

**13 September 2022**

A meeting of the committee of Woodcote Green Residents’ Association (WGRA) was held at 2 Woodmansterne Lane, Wallington SM6 9NN, starting at 8.00 pm.

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Jim Simms (chair) welcomed others present: Vythilingam Nagulendran, Caroline Clarke, Sue Doyle, Owen Pengelly, Vinita Bhasin and Patrick Radford (secretary). Apologies were received later from Lynne Gill. The chair noted that this meeting was taking place during the period of mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

1. **MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 3 MAY AND AGM OF 21 JUNE 2022**

The minutes of the committee meeting were agreed and signed.

1. **MATTERS ARISING: none**
2. **TRAFFIC/ PARKING ISSUES**

Members present referred to the recent letter from Alan Todd. It was pointed out that his photos of Sandy Lane South on the first day of the school year showed at least one vehicle with wheels on the Green. Jim Simms reported that Steve Thompson from the parking programme office had written to say that the suggested parking restrictions would probably not work. It was agreed that the daily congestion from parking, particularly on Sandy Lane South, remained a problem. It was agreed to continue dialogue with Steve Thompson and with councillors (action JS). It was noted with approval that, at the recent school entrance examination, there had been “no parking signs” on local streets and that traffic enforcement officers had been at work there.

1. **TRAVELLER INCURSION ON THE GREEN**

It was noted that a group with seven vehicles had stayed on the Green for four days (28 July to 1 August). The committee agreed that they the group had made attempts to deal with waste. It was reported that there had been no suspicion of theft or antisocial behaviour. However, it was agreed, there had been denial of part of the Green to the public (particularly dog-walkers), that their animals (dogs and poultry) had been noisy and that rubbish, household objects, animal droppings and animal feed had been left on the Green when they left. It was agreed that the council, the borough’s waste contractor and local residents had done well in collecting waste during and after the stay. Committee members reported that the posting of an official notice to leave from the council’s solicitors had resulted in the departure of the vehicles and their users.

The committee discussed the option of asking the council to consider erecting “bunds” (low turfed rounded walls) on the perimeter of the Green, an option suggested by one local councillor. Members present said that this incursion had been the first in 30 or 40 years. The committee agreed ***not*** to request such barrier at present but to review this decision if a further incursion were to occur (action JS). It was agreed to thank the council for their actions and to inform the membership (action JS, OP, PR). Members agreed that “the system” had worked.

1. **PLANNING ISSUES**

It was reported that there had been a planning application for a shed at the Dobbies Garden centre. It was agreed that no action was needed.

It was reported that a new café had opened at “Naturallythinking” on the Little Woodcote Estate. It was agreed that no action was required but that members should look out for any resultant traffic congestion (action all).

1. **WEBSITE**

Owen Pengelly reported that the site was working but continued to have little traffic. He said he would update it and that he needed material (action all). It was agreed that the draft minutes of this meeting should be posted as soon as possible (action PR, OP).

1. **FINANCE**

Vinita Bhasin reported that little had changed since the AGM but that she would send the current balance sheet to members (action VB). Owen Pengelly, in answer to a question about the website ongoing charges, said that he was happy to pay these small sums himself, for which the committee thanked him. Patrick Radford said that the cost of future flyers could exceed our balance before the next AGM. The meeting agreed to make a collection if necessary.

1. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Caroline Clark said that she would primarily be working with WGRA rather than the Neighbourhood Watch hierarchy. She reported that she hoped to run a coffee morning soon.

1. **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL**

Patrick Radford reported that the current priorities for the South Beddington and Roundshaw ward were:

* To reduce violence against women and girls by patrols, using data from Streetsafe
* Monitoring Foresters Drive for speeding
* To bring an off-road motor cycle police team to Roundshaw Downs as part of action on the illegal motor cycle incursions

He reported that he, as chair of the ward SNP, was now a member of three borough-level panels concerned with safer neighbourhoods.

1. **LOCAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Jim Simms reported from the recent Beddington and Wallington Local Committee.

* There had been a report from Sergeant Lambert-Singer, which included motor cycle incursions onto Roundshaw Downs and theft of catalytic convertors from vehicles.
* The chair of the local committee was now Ed Joyce.
* A representative of a local group had asked about the Beddington Park wilding project.
* Jim Simms himself had asked about the gates to Carew Manor, which were in poor state.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** none
2. **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 22 November 2022, 8.00 pm, 10 Woodcote Green, Wallington SM6 9NN

JS PR 24.09.2022