

Pratt's Bottom Resident's Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4 August 2021 at Pratt's Bottom Village Hall

The meeting was preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the Pratt's Bottom Village Hall Management Committee.

1. Welcome

The Chairman Liz Turnbull opened the meeting by welcoming approximately 30 local residents and Councillors Mike Botting and Angela Page.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Christine Bradford and Rebecca Randall.

3. Chairman's report

Liz Turnbull said there had been no AGM in 2020 due to the pandemic but that the Committee had continued to meet via Zoom on a monthly basis. The website was also being updated on a regular basis with relevant information.

Liz referred to the financial statement of the Association's affairs which was circulated at the meeting. She asked the meeting to endorse the statement; this was proposed by Val Westwood and seconded by Angela Sutherland and was duly approved.

Liz said that there were a few "hot potatoes" concerning the Association at the moment. The situation at Broke Hill golf course will be reviewed at a planning inquiry in October 2021. The Association, along with surrounding villages, has objected to the proposed residential development. The breaches of planning control at Wheatsheaf Hill are a great concern, particularly as the land is in the Green Belt. Bromley Council have succeeded in obtaining a court injunction prohibiting further work on the land but the long term future of the site remains uncertain. Fort Halstead is still in the pipeline, but there does not seem to be any great clarity as to when development might begin.

Although he was not present at the meeting, Liz thanked Tony Lavelle, who has been campaigning tirelessly to try and improve bus services to the village. Liz also thanked the numerous volunteers who help with village life by litter picking, delivering newsletters for example.

Liz Turnbull advised that all Committee members were standing again. The current Committee is Liz Turnbull, Christine Bradford, Jackie Gibbs, Laura Dimpleby, Rebecca Randall and Alec Lauder. Mel Turtell had recently resigned. She said that new members would be welcome but none were forthcoming at the meeting.

Liz asked if there were any questions from the meeting.

John Hickinbottom asked about the number of Members in the Association. Liz explained that there are six Committee members but that more would be welcome. The Bromley Federation of Residents Associations are struggling with numbers. She said that many residents associations/groups arise as a result of a single issue, such as a controversial planning application or road proposal. When things are "normal" it is often difficult to maintain interest.

A resident what the major issues are as far as the Association is concerned. Liz said that the impact of traveller sites on the local environment was a cause for concern but probably the biggest single issue is that of traffic speeding through the village. This has been a problem for many years. Jackie Gibbs said that this had been looked at many times and that the Association has lobbied hard on this issue. She said any suggestions would be welcome. Peter Hudson said that the fundamental issue is that people are breaking the law when they speed through the village and that is difficult for residents to control and influence. There are more measures in place now than ever before.

Liz introduced Councillors Angela Page and Mike Botting, who work hard on our behalf. Councillor Angela Page attends Association meetings regularly and she said that relations with the Association are very good from the Council's point of view.

There being no other business for the Association, Liz handed the meeting over to Peter Hudson.

#### Friends of Pratt's Bottom Common

Peter Hudson said that the Friends are in a good position and that people can help by litter picking and using FixMyStreet to report problems. If there are maintenance issues, Peter is happy to liaise with idverde, the Council's contractors. He said that fly tipping should be reported, but that residents should not put themselves at risk by trying to identify culprits.

Peter outlined what the Friends do and said that he and his son Michael are happy to continue and look forward to the future. He introduced Lesley Jones, chair of the Fete Committee. Lesley said that the Fete remains on schedule for next year but that she had just resigned as Chair. A replacement is being sought.

Gwyneth Hudson made the Numbers Club draw. The winners were Margaret Southby, Chris Hudson, Philip Sansom and Janet Howes.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.25 pm.