

## SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**Minutes for Annual General Meeting (AGM)** – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 8pm at St John's Church Hall, Upper Selsdon Road

Before the meeting began the attending residents were welcomed and asked to sign the register at the door. A total of 41 attendees were recorded. Copies of the 2019 agenda and 2018 Annual report, as well 2018 AGM minutes and 2018/2019 SRA and Gazette Accounts were available at the meeting.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Ray Rowsell (Vice-President), Dudley Mead, Choi Kim (Gazette Treasurer)

### 2. Police report.

The Police were not able to attend the meeting due to their shifts clashing. PSCO John Rosemeyer has moved from Selsdon to the New Addington ward. Selsdon is now be covered by two Police Wards (Selsdon & Addington Village and Selsdon Vale & Forestdale) as they chose to emulate the Council ward boundary amendments. So far this doesn't seem to have affected Selsdon (as crime remains low) but does mean that the SRA have to attend separate Police meetings despite asking for these to be merged. The SRA continues to champion Selsdon and any points of concern are discussed and 'The Gazette' will report on any issues or pass on advice to residents as appropriate.

3. **2018 AGM Minutes** – These were approved by attendees by a show of hands. Proposed by Sheila Childs.

4. **Matters arising from the 2018 minutes** – There were none.

5. **Annual report for 2018** (printed in the February Gazette).

The report was approved by attendees by a show of hands. Proposed by Sheila Childs.

### 6. Treasurer's report and adoption of 2018/2019 Accounts.

Iris Jones (Treasurer) said that overall income to the SRA for donations to the Christmas Lights and for subscription has reduced. Furthermore the quantity of High street Trader donations for the Christmas Lights has been effected by the increasing number of empty shops (10). Those traders who gave were listed for public thanks in the Gazette. We hope that these lights do bring custom to our high street. Iris thanked the Councillors for their large one off donation to the 2018 Christmas lights from the Community fund. Committee member Peter Underwood raised the point that without this large donation the SRA accounts would be in deficit. The Chairman thanked Iris Jones for her work as Treasurer. Thanks also given to Angela Jones who reviewed the Accounts. Approval of the Accounts was proposed by resident Jean Shaw, and seconded by Ian Leggatt (Committee). Approved by a show of hands.

### 7. The Selsdon Gazette

Heather Govier (Editor) said she was pleased to get written contributions from residents. She noted that 'times gone by' contributions seem to be popular. She was sad to lose Ted Frith who wrote about Selsdon's past from research. She is now placing copies of the Gazette online at the SRA website ([selsdon-residents.co.uk](http://selsdon-residents.co.uk)). These have proved popular with ex-pats though the paper subscription is still available via Mary Gill. Heather and Mary were thanked for their work with a round of applause.

Carlo Rappa's efforts as Gazette Advertising Manager and Choi Kim's as Treasurer help the Gazette to remain mainly self-financing. Thanks were given to them both.

A large team of volunteers work to make the Gazette happen. A round of applause was given to Wendy Mikiel (Distribution Manager) and her team for their hard work.

### 8. Christmas Lights and Floral displays

The high street was decorated with flowers again for two seasons - summer and winter. This was funded from the SRA accounts. This may be the last year that we can afford to display these.

Thanks must be given to the Councillors Community fund one off grant for the 2018 Christmas lights which helped to fund this great event. The 2018 Christmas lights switch on went well with particular thanks to Cllr. Robert Ward at short notice for loan of a Sports car to transport Father Christmas. Many thanks to our Father Christmas for coming to Selsdon for so many years!

We are very grateful to The Village Club for continuing to host the event and thanks to the helpers who blow up and distribute the balloons (including the Aid cadets and John Ruskin pupils) and to the Rotary club who helped steward. Thanks also to the Baptist Church for supporting and providing refreshments. Additionally the 'village green' space of the triangle land by the Community centre was decorated (on a low tech basis) by the Committee.

The future of the lights? - Linda said that the current Christmas lights do need to be renewed and the contract is being negotiated. In future there will be more costs as further Health and Safety checks (which incur cost) are now required. We may get a better deal by moving from a 3 year contract to a 5 year contract. Unless we can meet the costs via donations each year the Selsdon Christmas Lights may not appear in the future but we hope to keep them going for as long as we can.

Thanks and applause were given to Linda Morris for organising this.

#### **9. Annual Subscription for 2019/2020**

It is proposed to maintain the subscription level at £3. Proposed by Phil Roberts (Committee) and seconded by Yvonne Huber (Committee). This was approved by a show of hands.

#### **10. Election of Officers for 2019/20**

Sheila is happy to continue as the Chairman, there being no other candidates. Linda Morris (Vice-Chair) formally proposed her re-election and this was approved by a show of hands.

Sheila said that Committee member and former Councillor Dudley Mead will be stepping down from attending Committee meetings after 38 years. As well as writing for the Gazette he is a font of knowledge. Committee member John Waddington has also had to step down from the Committee due to ill health. They will both be much missed.

A full Committee comprises 14 residents. The Committee now has three vacancies. Two people at the meeting Jenny Stawman and Arthur Wilson have offered to join. A third Shanta Lekh was considering joining. They were invited to introduce themselves.

Jenny said that she has lived in Selsdon for 30 years and raised her three children here, her husband has lived in Selsdon his whole life. Arthur now lives in Selsdon and wants to get involved with the Community. Shanta has lived in the area for 30 years and is interested in helping to improve the area but isn't yet sure if she wants to stand. She will come to a meeting first.

Sheila has met with Arthur and Jenny prior to this meeting to discuss the role and now proposes to elect them to the SRA Committee. Current Committee members Sara Bashford, Ernie Sweeney, Su Yates, Peter Underwood, Ian Leggatt, Phil Roberts and Yvonne Huber have also agreed to continue to stand. Sheila said that her officers Linda Morris (Vice-Chairman), Iris Jones (Treasurer) and Janet Sharp (Secretary) were also happy to continue in their roles. Sheila proposed that the Committee and Officers, as well as Jenny and Arthur be elected as a block of 12. Their election was approved by a show of hands. There remains one Committee vacancy.

If anyone would like to consider joining the Committee or can help the Selsdon Residents' Association in any other voluntary capacity in future they can contact Sheila Childs for more information.

## 11. Adoption of the Hon. Accounts reviewer

Angela Jones is now stepping down from this role. Volunteers for 2020 were asked to contact Sheila Childs.

## 12. Any other business

- a) Phil Roberts said that the Sanderstead and Selsdon Rotary have agreed to fund two defibrillators, one for Selsdon Sainsburys and the other for Hamsey Green. Sheila asked him to write an article about this for The Gazette. London Air Ambulance do special courses for 12 people at a time at a cost of £400. They also keep a map of the locations of the machines. Cllr. Robert Ward said that he has done the training several times and it is very easy to use as the machines are designed to be used by anyone with minimal guidance without formal training.
- b) Wine for tonight's AGM refreshments was donated by Wetherspoons. Their new manager Lev has arranged a Christmas Lights collection from his customers and has placed hanging baskets outside. They are trying to extend their opening hours.
- c) Update - The Selsdon Garage site was purchased by the current owners in 1997 and so far they claim to have spent £1M on it with no financial return. The site is considered 'difficult', it has concrete foundations and the Council's insistence of the inclusion of affordable housing means that they are struggling to get a bank loan to fund the project. The development plans have therefore stalled.
- d) There was a query from the floor about the other empty high street shops. Cllr. Robert Ward said that there has been applications for a Pie and Mash shop and a Beer house. A regeneration Officer from the Council went with him to speak to the local shop owners to find out what ideas they have. It was agreed that Selsdon community stakeholders should have a 'say' in any Council plans as happened in South Norwood. The local Councillors will work with the Council over the next few months to help make this happen. Metro bank were directly asked by the Councillors if they were interested in moving to the old Santander site in Selsdon but they said no. Other suggestions from the floor were having a Citizens Advice Bureau. Another suggestion was whether Age UK have an office based in Selsdon? Cllr. Robert said that Adult Social Services have a general objective to deliver services locally dependent on demographic needs. However having 'Contact' in Selsdon may mean that we are considered to be covered for this provision.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm. She thanked all who had attended the meeting and invited them to stay for a quick drink and a chat.