

MINUTES

Barden Residents Association AGM

Tuesday 19th September 2018

In Attendance

Mark Hood (Chair), Lucy Athey (secretary), Fran Long (treasurer), Matt Sargent, Gill Sargent, Megan LeGoubin, Jo Young, Felix Wenzel, Steph Wenzel, Angela Clark, Colin Clark, Julie Hadaway, Matt Marshall, Alison Cackett, Robert Cronin

Approval of Minutes & Apologies

Mark Hood (chair) called the meeting to order and the previously circulated minutes from 23rd May 2018 were agreed. Apologies from Greg Fox, Martin Latham, Warren Nel, Joff Brown, Stewart Dearsley, Jane Mata, Averil Langridge, Claire O'Shea

Presentation of the activities of the association over the past year

The last year has been very eventful again but for rather happier reasons than previous years.

We have been delighted to see the reopening of our pub The Nelson Arms and it is a stunning transformation. The refurbishment has taken a long time but I am sure residents agree that it has been worth the wait. It is a welcoming community pub and trade is picking up nicely now, Matthew and Emma have done a great job. We look forward to holding our Christmas Party there later in the year.

Similarly, we are delighted that Tonbridge Boatyard has now reopened after a long closure, work is continuing and there is a steady flow of boats heading back to Tonbridge now. We hope that the boatyard will now be a permanent feature and the threat of unsuitable development here is now behind us. We wish Tim and Katherine every success.

The saga at River Lawn rumbles on and we are waiting to see if KCC will allow the application to register all the footpaths there as Rights of Way. Similarly we are awaiting a decision about the application to register River Lawn as a Village Green.

The new Local Plan seems to have nothing of concern to Barden Residents thankfully and I expect the coming years to be much quieter for our Association.

We have been campaigning for the introduction of 20mph speed restrictions throughout the existence of the group and it seems things are now moving in the right direction.

Our facebook group has continued to grow and is a fantastic asset for residents to keep in touch and stay informed as seen recently when we experienced cuts to our water supply courtesy of a temporary water feature up by the railway bridge. We now have 338 members online but our paid membership has dropped perhaps because the access to our facebook and website platforms is open to all.

We held our latest Litter Blitz on 22nd April. We held our summer picnic in Tonbridge Park on a sweltering Sunday on 15th July and I hope that we will make this an annual event.

This is our third AGM and so we will definitely need to ring the changes next year although it is preferable that we don't change all the officers at one time for the purposes of continuity so any volunteers for positions tonight will be very welcome.

Hopefully the future is going to be kind to us and we don't have any further surprises to contend with, fingers crossed!

Election of Officers and Committee Members

Officers to be elected are Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, plus up to six committee members. **Mark Hood** was nominated and seconded to be Chair for a fourth year. **Angela Clark** was nominated and seconded for Vice-Chair – many thanks to Angela for volunteering to fill this role which has been vacant for a year. **Lucy Athey** was nominated and seconded as secretary and **Fran Long** was also nominated and seconded as treasurer. All were unanimously voted in. This will be the final year for Mark, Lucy and Fran in their current roles as our constitution states officers can only serve for four concurrent years.

Committee Members: **Megan LeGoubin, Matt Sargent, Jo Murphy, Greg Fox, Julie Lane** and **Gill Sargent** all agreed to stand as committee members. As meetings are only bi-monthly we on occasion consult with the committee when we need to make a decision urgently.

Treasurer's Report – Fran Long

Currently we have £179.74 in our account. In 2018 we collected subs from 34 households, this is down from 2016 and 2017 when we had a larger membership – our Facebook group has almost 350 members, we need to encourage more of these to become paid up members of the group. The cost remains £2 per household for the year. We have also received money from donations, a raffle and a pop-up tea stall on River Lawn. Money has been spent on a gazebo to be used in Barden events like the summer picnic, the noticeboards (plus replacement perspex for two of these after they were damaged), website fees, printing costs, two fruit trees for our mini garden on Audley Avenue and a donation to the 1st Tonbridge Scouts (who allow us to use their hut for meetings).

20mph & Dangerous Road Use

Following our 500+ petition KCC have finally responded positively to our requests (after almost three years of lobbying). They have included our area on their agenda at the Joint Transport Advisory Board on September 24th. They will carry out speed surveys and we need to make sure they use the sites which will make the best case for ourselves. They are proposing other unspecified traffic calming measures too. Residents need to pressure Cllr Bolt and Cllr Cure to support our application at the JTB. We will advertise the meeting via our Facebook group.

There have been a few accidents in the Barden Park Road area, some have suggested that it and Nelson Avenue is made one way in order to reduce traffic. This was received positively at the meeting, we will put it as a discussion topic on the Facebook group.



D1 & D2 Parking Scheme Update

Mark, Lucy and Martin Coulstock went to a meeting with traffic officers at Kings Hill (see minutes on website - https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/f79976_b5a1247958674361a9559f3b3263ba89.pdf). In summary they will not be backing down on their changes but in ten months they will survey the area again to see if there have been any positive or negative results. A resident new to the area reported that his parking permit is perpetual one and doesn't have to be renewed.

Rights of Way

Fran Long reported that there are certain footpaths in Tonbridge that everyone uses but aren't officially designated and there are only ten years for these to be registered before they could be taken away. Fran is very concerned that the footpaths around Barden Lake are not official footpaths and is looking into getting these registered (this would offer this area more protection in the face of developers). Fran will talk to Jane Lloyd as she has been involved with registering the footpaths on River Lawn as part of the Keep River Lawn Green campaign.

TMBC are resisting the application to register all three paths at River Lawn saying that due to the rebuilding of the Weir the paths haven't been in constant use.

The bridge to Tonbridge Swimming Pool is unlikely to be repaired until 2019, they have to wait until the water pipes and electrical cables that run along the bridge are removed by the relevant utilities.

New Signs

TMBC are saying they do not want signs for commercial businesses (i.e. Barden Stores and The Nelson Arms) at the Lake and we have been passed on to the third agency within KCC regarding the one at the station (which would signpost the lake). There isn't a sign at the end of Clare Avenue which we would be very useful in sign posting the high street/lake.

AOB

- There are insufficient litter bins at the far end of Barden close to the lake, we have asked on the Facebook page for suggestions where they are needed and will repeat this post for an up to date poll.
- Litter Blitz – one needed before the weather gets too cold again. Date proposed is Sunday 14th October at 11am, meet at the bridge/garages on Audley Avenue (by our wildlife garden).
- Tree pollarding – these are long overdue, apparently to be pollarded in September/October.

Next Meeting

Meetings usually alternate on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to enable as many people as possible to attend and are held at the Scout Hut in Lambert's Yard (unless advertised being elsewhere).

The next meeting is;

Tuesday 20th November 2018

Litter Blitz

Sunday 14th October, 11am

(meet at Audley Avenue)

