HEATHFIELDS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION LTD
MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date and time:	Thursday 23rd November 2017, 7.30pm
Location:	Thriplow Village Hall

In attendance - Committee: Tim Spicer (Chair), Geoff Creek (Director), Darren Mullett (Director), Martin Johnston (Secretary)

Present: Amanda Johnston, Tina Creek, Ted Sterecki, Heather Bell, Debbie, Ashard, Zoe Ashard, Vikki Smoothy, Hazel Thornicroft, Sabrina Melvin, Rowan Pashley, Tom Austin, Nick Walker Brewer, Karen Clark, Mark Hoy, Bryony Hoy, Sam Burrows, Peter Topping, Andrew Goadby, Amy Farn-Ramsey, John Farn-Ramsey, Fiona Atherton-Kemp, Dawn Atherton-Kemp, William Meadows, Mark Brogan

Proxies: No proxies were presented.

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1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Tim welcomed all those present and introduced the directors. He thanked Peter Topping for attending on behalf of SCDC. Apologies were received from Caroline Meadows

2. Minutes of the Last AGM held on 28th October 2016

2.1 Tim Spicer enquired if everyone present had seen the minutes of the last meeting. There were no comments in relation to the minutes. These were proposed by Tina Creek and seconded by John Farn-Ramsey.

3. The Report of the Directors and Audited Accounts for the Year Ending 2016

3.1 Tim Spicer said that the accounts had been circulated. Tim Spicer asked if anyone had any comments. None were received. Ted Sterecki proposed that the minutes be accepted and they were seconded by Amanda.

4. Election of New Directors

4.1 Tim Spicer said that Geoff Creek and Martin Johnston were due for re-election having both served three years on the committee; he asked for a proposer. Ted Sterecki proposed this and seconded by Karen Clark. Both persons were duly re-elected as directors.

4.2 Tim mentioned that David Schneider had recently retired as a director and he thanked him for his service on HRA. Tim also asked if anyone present wished to put their name forward as a director; there were no volunteers.

5. The Report on the Recovery of Arrears and Service Charges

5.1 Darren said that the amount owed to HRA by late/non payments had reduced. However, it was still the intention of HRA to proceed with court action as necessary.

6. Report on the Estate Maintenance, Infrastructure and Improvements

6.1 Darren Mullet started his presentation, outlining what had been achieved this year. He expanded on the accounts, referring to the business plan, which detailed all expenditure and income generated. He said that £5k had been provided to the HeART charity for the play park refurbishment and there had been some tree surgery and fence repairs. There is a difference between 2016 and 2017 with more income generated and HRA is in a stable position. He added that there was no intention to raise the service charge this year. Tim thanked Martin for his work on conveyancing, which had raised over £775 this year.

6.2 Darren continued with his presentation and the work required to improve the paths. There had not been much progress this year and HRA still has £2k remaining in the budget for path repairs. The priority was to repair the concrete path at Woburn Place. Darren reviewed the critical areas for repairs. Ted Sterecki enquired if there was a difference in price between paving slabs and concrete. After a discussion on the pricing it was agreed that the path repairs should continue in matching other paths, ie using paving slabs.

6.3 John Farn-Ramsey asked about the security of the park gate as there was a concern about unauthorised access. Darren explained that the gate had a lock and keys were held by directors. Darren also said that the new HRA sign would be erected soon.

7 Plans for the Green Spaces

7.1 At the next part of his presentation Darren updated the meeting on the plans for the green spaces with the intention of making the estate prettier. The intention next year was to plant an additional 700 bulbs. The area to the rear of Kingsway bordering farm land had been cleared of bushes and Mr Beamiss had volunteered to erect a three-bar fence along this area. A dwarf Christmas tree had also been planted on the green in Woburn Place and this will grow about one foot a year.

7.2 Darren said that the intention was to put a bench on Whitehall Gardens green with perhaps an ornament as a focal point. There was a discussion on this and it was agreed that there should be a vote on what residents wanted there. Sabrina Melvin said she will conduct a survey. Ted Sterecki also suggested that the IWM should be approached to enquire if they have any exhibits in their store that we could use on the green and Sabrina said she will do this.

8 Play Park Progress

8.1 Darren showed photos of the Park opening and said that it had been a great success, raising over £38k for the improvements. He explained the separation of responsibilities between HRA and HeART. In 2018 further money would be spent on furniture and planting. Ted Sterecki suggested that before bulb planting commenced we should wait and see who bought the Iceni building as any new owner may disrupt the hedge. This was agreed. Tim thanked all those who had helped make this happen. Sabrina Melvin added that this had brought the community together.

8.2 John Farn-Ramsey asked about what was being proposed for teenagers. Darren said that this was what phase 2 of the plan was intended for. He explained the relationship between HRA and TPC, who own the large park. A sub-committee had been set up to pursue this and TPC had insisted that a survey be carried out of all the ward to establish what residents wanted in the park. Fundraising will still continue but nothing could be installed until TPC gave permission, as they have the final say.

8.3 Darren added all this work will take longer. However, the desire to improve the facilitates was still there. Other consideration was for tutors to use the park in the holidays to help children.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Peter Topping said that he had been approached by an automotive company who had purchased the Citroen garage and enquired about also purchasing the Iceni site; he had directed them to the planning department. Tim said that this may have been EMG motor group. Ted said that if they proceeded they may do something for HRA.

9.2 Ted Sterecki asked if the bollards at the corner of Kingsway opposite his house could be moved back to allow for up to 4-6 car parking spaces and matting could be put down to protect the area. No decision was taken on this but it will be considered at the next HRA monthly meeting

9.3 Amanda Johnston said that bollards had been erected to protect all the open green spaces on the estate but not on the green at the end of Kingsway (proposed orchard site). Could this be done to prevent unauthorised parking. This was agreed.

9.4 Amanda also asked if the yellow lines could be painted on the kerb around the parking at Whitehall Gardens. Although parking here was not specifically allocated marking the spaces would help drivers to park better. There was a discussion on the merits of this and it was agreed.

9.5 Hazel Thornicroft asked if a street light could be erected to light the path from Kingsway through to Whitehall Gardens. This will need to be referred to TPC clerk for action.

9.6 Sabrina Melvin said that at the last HeART meeting it was proposed that a pedestrian crossing be installed at the top of Kingsway as a safety measure for children crossing there to go to school. Tim said this was on the agenda at the HRA monthly meeting and would be progressed. Amanda Johnston added that there was no lighting between 109-101. Many children also walked long here to school and it would help if lighting could also be provided. Darren said he will review this.

9.7 Karen Clark asked about speed humps to restrict speeding vehicles. Darren responded saying that this had been discussed previously and was an emotive issue as no-one wanted humps outside their houses. It was suggested that a speed hump could be erected just past the roundabout near Queens Row. This was discussed and it was agreed that a temporary hump would be installed to gauge effectiveness.

9.8 Peter Topping suggested that all these traffic issues could be taken up with the Highways engineer. He is arranging for the white lines to be repainted at the entrance to the estate and will ensure the he brings the engineer with him to view the potential traffic calming measures. This was agreed.

9.10 Fiona Atherton-Kemp asked for an update on the proposed orchard. Martin said that he had been dealing with this. He had been in contact with SCDC about obtaining assistance from them. Someone from SCDC had attended and viewed the area but they had subsequently moved from that department and the new person in place had not responded to his emails. He had raised this with Peter Topping.

9.11 Amanda Johnston said that the trees in this area needed pollarding as they were overgrown and were a potential hazard and blocking the light. Geoff said he will make enquiries to get this done.

9.12 Karen Clark said that Brandi Davy has just posted on Facebook asking for drain cleaning and the new HRA sign to be raised at the meeting. Tim said that the drains are the responsibility of contractors and that the sign had already been agreed at the last AGM.

9.13 There were no other business and Tim Spicer thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Chairman…………………………………………………………………

Date…………………………………………………