

# **Pixham Residents Association (PRA) AGM**

**10 June 2022**

**Start 8 pm**

**Attendees – 35 member residents**

## **Apologies**

Apologies from Debbie Whitton, Tina and Liam Burns, Shirley and Jackie Smith, Sal and Michael Burgess.

## **Chairs Welcome and Report on Pixham**

A huge thank you to the PRA Committee for all their hard work over the past year.

Sad to say that Michael Anderson is resigning as Membership – he has contributed a lot to the PRA and will be missed.

Sue Mill is also resigning as Treasurer but will hopefully remain on the Committee. Sue has done a fantastic job managing all the PRA accounts and banking.

Call for a volunteer with accounting experience to take over as Treasurer. Without a Treasurer the PRA cannot run.

Call for new committee members – young people and residents with families are encouraged to join to ensure we have a committee that represents the local community.

Call for new Street Stewards.

Currently only 72 households are members of PRA – we would like to see more – it is only £5 to join for the year.

Big thank you to the Events Supergroup for all their input into events including Jubilee Picnic, Halloween Little School of Horrors, Quiz nights and Summer Fete (upcoming Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022). Lots more is planned...

Website and Pixham Post – thank you to Brian Downing and John Hammond for their regular input.

Speedwatch – speeding is an issue in Pixham Lane - please speak to Sue Mill if you would like to take part in this voluntary role to help record and reduce speeding in Pixham.

Other events hoping to restart later this year include the Shiny Side Down Film Club and Table Tennis club – if you're interested please get in touch.

The PRA are disappointed to hear that the Directors of Old Pixham School (OPS) are still waiting on the Diocese for a lease and recognise that the OPS Directors are doing all they can to push this along. The PRA are happy to provide financial support for OPS improvements, but these will not relate to the structure of the building whilst the lease is not in place. PRA have asked the Directors of OPS for a list of where PRA may be able to contribute in the meantime.

A huge thank you to Mary Peckham who is retiring from her voluntary role at OPS for all her support and input to OPS bookings and events.

The PRA are considering registering as a Community Interest Committee –this is to be discussed. There are pros and cons to this, expect a future meeting and member vote on this.

## **Treasurers Report**

Refer to Treasurers Report for full details of profits and expenditure, including donations and events.

Accounts have been audited by Charlotte Pentecost – with thanks from PRA for her support.

*\*Auditing proposed by Sarah Slade, seconded by Joy Proffitt.*

Account balance equals £8354.23 (£282.99 of this belongs to Shiny Side Down Film Club)

Total: £8071.33 to end of December 2021.

PRA have agreed to donate £150 to Mary Peckham's retirement gift, with personal donations also welcome.

**Question** – *it is not clear to some residents that OPS and PRA are different entities. How is this made clear and what is the difference?*

**Answer** – *we do make this clear when we can but we can certainly put this on the next Pixham post too. A joint leaflet with OPS about the differences and what donations to each are specifically going to would be helpful and we will look into this.*

**Question** – *PRA do a great job, but we don't hear anything from OPS management about their points and what they are doing so this needs to be done.*

**Answer** – *thank you – we will approach OPS Directors about this.*

**Question** – *is there anywhere where we can see what the plans are for spending?*

**Answer** – *not specifically but if you have anything you wish to see done to improve the community please let us know. We will put a list of what we are spending on in the Pixham Post so residents can see how their donations are being used.*

*\*Accounts proposed by Brian Downing, seconded by Jess Donnison.*

## Approval of previous AGM Minutes

No questions.

*\*Proposed by Brian Downing, seconded by Susie Hurst.*

## Elections – Chair, Treasurer and Committee

Chair to remain as Pat Smith – *proposed by Roger Hurst, seconded by Jess Donnison*

Treasurer – TBC

Committee as present – *proposed by Mike Simmons, seconded by Joy Proffitt*

## Thames Water and Sewage Issues

Dorking Sewage Treatment Works (owned by Thames Water) were responsible for the largest number of unpermitted sewage spills in 2020. There has been a lot of media attention around this and residents have lobbied for transparent communication and action from Thames Water with a view to changing the future conditions at the site and of the River Mole.

In March 2022, Friends of the River Mole (FORM) action group formed to help analyse river quality and raise attention of the issues amongst the local community. Concerning levels of *e-coli* have been identified during recent water quality testing.

5 PRA Committee members met with Thames Water on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 with 3 representatives of FORM also present.

Thames Water have said that there are plans to modernise and improve Dorking Sewage Treatment Works to accommodate the increased local development. Thames Water plans include reducing the number of unregulated spills and planning improvements should be in place by 2025.

FORM are looking at getting the Stepping Stones registered as a site of Designated Bathing Water Status due to the large number of visitors who use the area and swim in the water. This would have a positive knock-on effect on the water quality required in the area.

The PRA call on all residents to keep a log of any tankers, sounds or smells that are experienced.

**Question** – *Pixham Beach is not a designated swimming area? Can we make this a designated bathing area too? Also, can we put signs up at the Stepping Stones to warn people about the water quality?*

**Answer** – *the Stepping Stones are a National Trust site so they would have to agree. We are waiting on input from the Environment Agency too.*

## **Tree Felling at former Aviva site (Pixham End).**

The Pixham End site has recently been leased by Surrey County Council to Stonegate Development.

Felling of more than 35 mature trees, including some older than 200 years, took place in May 2022 (on a weekend) without licence, during the bird nesting season, and with no known surveys carried out for bat roost potential.

According to Stonegate Development, the trees were apparently diseased or unsafe from a health and safety perspective and a survey was conducted to ensure no active nests were present. Stonegate have been unable to provide any written evidence of this.

An official investigation and report by Arb Consultancy Ltd has found no evidence of disease in the remaining stumps. The ecosystem service value of the trees felled was found to be in excess of £850k. The report details Tree Protection Status and other legalities – a copy can be requested by contacting the PRA.

A huge thank you to Councillors Hazel Watson and Elsie Rosam for their quick actions in getting an emergency Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the remaining trees at the site so they cannot be felled without appropriate survey and licence.

**Question** – *can we ask the council for any future plans for tree felling at other sites? Rather than waiting for it to happen and then trying to deal with it.*

**Answer** – *a very good plan - we will look into this.*

The PRA would like this matter to be taken further – we are expecting more press coverage, but we need to be sure the PRA are acting in accordance with community wishes.

Vote 26 in favour, 1 abstain.

Residents would like to record a vote of thanks to Arb Consultancy Ltd who carried out the investigation and to the anonymous donor who paid for the report.

## **AOB**

**Question** - *Excessive speeds on Pixham Lane – cats have been killed and a resident has been clipped by a passing lorry. A twenty is plenty campaign is needed. Can we have another survey of residents to see if we can pass this?*

**Answer** – *response by Councillor Hazel Watson: SCC is responsible for new speed limit restrictions but the police are responsible for enforcing current ones. Traffic calming is expensive and there are concerns about an adverse impact on the bus service on Pixham Lane. There has been a previous meeting of residents and proposals were put forward but there was no agreement and no consensus. There is however a need for something else to be done on Pixham Lane. I (Hazel) have put forward Pixham Lane as an area for the Community Infrastructure Plan and hopefully some money and*

*traffic calming will be put in place but the reality is there are a lot of hurdles to overcome.*

***Answer – There is potential to do some children “20 is plenty” signs to raise awareness.***

With huge thank you to Sue and Michael for all their help and support with the committee – it is hugely appreciated.

Thank you from residents to Brian for the regular and accessible Pixham Post.

Final thanks to Pat Smith for all her actions as PRA Chair.

Meeting closed: 21:20.

Notes recorded by Jess Donnison.