



Minutes

Meeting: Hills Amenity Society
Annual General Meeting

Date: 21 May 2012

Time : 7.45pm

Venue: Gardeners Arms

Present:	Wendy Fisher	(WF)	Chairman
	Parag Shah	(PS)	Deputy Chairman and Community focus
	Brenda Harris	(BH)	Planning
	Peter Wynn	(PW)	Honorary Treasurer
	Ian Locks	(IL)	Newsletter & Character Appraisal
	Stephen Cohen	(SC)	Community focus
	Lisa Godsolve	(LG)	Neighbourhood Watch
	Lawrence Gray	(LGr)	Neighbourhood Watch
	Martin Margrie	(MM)	Honorary Secretary
Apologies:	Will Hambling	(WH)	Committee Member and Support
	Lee Lubbas	(LL)	Neighbourhood Watch
	Marcus Warren	(MW)	Committee Member and Support

Action

- 1. Minutes of the last AGM on 9 June 2011**
The minutes from the last annual general meeting were agreed.
- 2. Apologies**
Received from **WH** and **LL**.
- 3. Chairman's report**
WF reported that the last year had been interesting with a lot of activity taking place within the Hills. The **hog roast** which had been held in the grounds of the Foresters Arms in June 2011 was a success despite the unseasonal weather. The event which included maypole dancing was reasonably well received and attended by Caroline Pond, Mayor of Loughton. Financially the event did not make a profit however it was a good opportunity to meet local

residents and neighbours.

In July 2011 representatives from the Committee judged the **best front garden for 2011** and a resident of Baldwins Hill had been awarded the 2011 Hills Garden shield.

The 2011 annual **autumn lunch** had been held in November 2011 and was hosted by **WF**. It was attended by neighbours and local residents and included the presentation of the Hills Garden Shield.

The Hills' **Newsletter** is now sponsored by Apple Estate agents. Particular thanks went to **MW** who very kindly prints the Newsletter in colour and at no cost.

The **Hills Amenity Society celebrates its 40th year in 2012** and to commemorate this achievement consideration had been given to erecting a community based information point. Due to the aspect of the Hills, it had been suggested that a panoramic plaque depicting all of the notable places of interest across the skyline could be erected on the green by the Pump. However and with much disappointment, objections to this idea have been received by conservators and Epping Forest District Council. **WF** asked that if any members of the AGM had suggestions for an alternative placement for the plaque or commemoration that they inform the committee.

Permission has been granted for a **Jubilee picnic** to be held on the green opposite the Gardener's Arms during the afternoon of Monday 4 June 2012. This will be an ideal opportunity for the local community to get together and celebrate and get to know each other.

The 2012 **autumn lunch** will be held between 12noon and 2pm on Saturday 10 November 2012. At this time the venue is to be confirmed.

Finally **WF** expressed her thanks to all members of the committee for their commitment and contributions during the last year.

4. **Honorary Treasurer's report**

PW reported that he had received annual subscriptions from 90 households. A loss was made at the hog roast but this had been balanced slightly due to the newsletter now being printed at no cost. The audited accounts are available for public viewing. There were no questions.

5. **Neighbourhood watch scheme**

LG reported that whilst obvious activity had been reduced the commitment remained to ensure residents received information from Essex Police and in electronic format as and when it was received and appropriate to forward on. There is always an article in the Newsletter and the website has information.

Residential crime has reduced considerably since this time last year and whilst it is believed residents are more vigilant and security conscious it is hoped that the updates in the Newsletter and on the website has contributed to this.

LG reminded the meeting of the new number to call in the event a local resident wishes to report a non-emergency incident to the police. The number is 101 and all callers are anonymous. Residents are encouraged to use this facility as opposed to tackling local anti-social behaviour and petty crime themselves as this ensures crime is reported, dealt with properly but has also had a positive impact on reducing local crime.

6. Diamond Jubilee celebrations

SC updated the meeting on the event that will take place on Monday 4 June 2012 between 12 noon 4pm to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. A Jubilee picnic which is open to residents in the conservation area only will take place on York Hill Green between 12 noon and 4pm. The event which is in collaboration with the Gardeners Arms has received approval and the police are aware.

To ensure the safety of those picnicking, permission has been granted to close the top of York Hill between 12 noon and 5pm. This means that residents, particularly at the top of York Hill, should make the necessary arrangements to ensure their vehicles are parked in alternative places should they require the use of them during the period of the road closure.

SC asked that consideration be given to providing entertainment for the children and that prior to the picnic and directly afterwards volunteers be available to help put up bunting and clear the area (particularly the Green) of any rubbish and debris that is left.

It is hoped that the picnic will not only be enjoyable and the weather fine, but that this is a good opportunity to meet local neighbours and jointly help celebrate the Jubilee.

7. Commemorating 40 years of the Hills Amenity Society

This is minuted in the Chairman's report.

8. Character appraisal

IL provided the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation on the achievements of the Hills Amenity Society during recent times. In terms of the character appraisal which was started in 2007, despite sterling work and commitment from the Committee and other local stakeholders it is with regret that it is still to be approved by Epping Forest District Council.

This is an on-going agenda item which is regularly discussed by the Committee and it is hoped that eventually the character appraisal will

be approved by Epping Forest District Council.

9. Election of Officers and Committee for 2012/2013

WF informed the meeting that **LG** and **MM** would be standing down albeit this would be on a temporary basis but for the foreseeable future. This does mean that the Committee no longer has a secretary. **MM** would ensure the AGM minutes were produced and as previously agreed would upload these and abridged versions of all previous minutes onto the website to inform residents of the types of discussions and decisions that are made by the Committee throughout the year. **MW** had spoken with **WF** because due to work commitments he was unable to commit fully to the work of the Committee and therefore had tendered his resignation. **WF** had agreed with **MW** that instead of accepting his resignation he would continue as a Committee member and attend meetings as and when he was able. **WF** also commended **MW** for his support in relation to the printing of the Newsletter.

The Committee, elected for 2012/2013 is:

Wendy Fisher	Chairman
Parag Shah	Deputy Chairman and Community focus
Brenda Harris	Planning
Lisa Godsolve	Neighbourhood Watch
Peter Wynn	Honorary Treasurer
Ian Locks	Newsletter and Character Appraisal
Stephen Cohen	Community focus
Will Hambling	Neighbourhood Watch
Lee Lubbas	Committee Member and Support
Marcus Warren	Committee Member and Support

10. AOB

New terrace at 15 (formerly the Wheat sheaf)

Concern was raised by local residents following the plans submitted by 15 to turn the garden opposite the public house into a car park. This follows the approval granted by Epping Forest District Council to change the front of the pub from a parking area into a seated terrace.

The concerns specifically related to:

- i) The fact that the garden is in the conservation area and by changing it will not be in keeping with the local street scene;
- ii) The building of the terrace has reduced the footpath by the public house as cars are now parking on the street and outside the pub. This is dangerous to those who commute by foot and in particular children who go to Staples Road School;
- iii) That 15 is no longer a pub but has become a bar similar to the NU Bar which is at the other end of Loughton High Road. This has completely changed the character of the pub and now causes a higher level of disturbance due to the loud music and

the number of people wanting to frequent this type of establishment.

The Committee had already written to Epping Forest District Council to raise the concerns but will also compose another letter opposing to the plans submitted in relation to the car park. It was also suggested that if as many local residents as possible wrote individually to Epping Forest District Council this would help considerably.

Queens Road

The residents of Queens Road will be holding their Jubilee street party on Sunday 3 June 2012; the road will be closed between 10am and 4pm on that day.

Subscriptions

PW reminded the meeting that forms are available should residents wish to pay their subscription.

Other

The meeting closed at 8.15pm and was followed by a presentation from Vic Knope, Chairman of the Friends of the Copped Hall Trust who led a talk on the history of and the developments at Copped Hall.