



RICHINGS PARK Residents' Association

RICHINGS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held on Thursday 27th April 2023, 7.30 pm at Richings Sports Park

*(KEY: BC Bucks Council; IPC Iver Parish Council; RPRA Richings Park Residents' Association;
RPVAG Richings Park Village Action Group, Q Questions from the floor*

PRESENT: Cllr. Graham Young (Chair), Ged Weston (Vice chair), Stafford Salt, Helen Pennie, Nick Jones, Jim Skinner, Gurmail Dokal, Tina Heath, Cllr Wendy Matthews, Kam Khatker

IN ATTENDANCE: Approximately 25 residents and members of the Residents' Association,
Chair, thank you for coming this evening.

On the agenda, you will notice that we had an item for Joy Morrissey to talk at the end. However, Joy's timetable today has changed. And so, I'd like to put Joy on first to talk about what she's done locally in terms of the local issues and give you the opportunity to ask some questions on that. Can I welcome Joy, then we'll do the formal meeting and after that.

My name is Joy Morrissey. I'm your local member of parliament. It's wonderful to see you on this rainy day. Just to update you on what we've been doing locally. I've been working very closely with your Residents association, and your Unitary and Parish councillor Wendy Matthews. We work together and have meetings called the Iver Action group where we've united all of the items. So, we have Richings Park, Iver Heath and Iver together to lobby the rest of the Council for the issues that matter locally to the Ivers.

Issues we have addressed have included Pinewood Studios, concerns with TFB about some extended issues with parking and transport and the roads, and of course the potholes. I am working with Pinewood and others to try to make sure that they're paying their section 106 money. I'm standing up for the issues that matter locally, working with your local councillors, your parish councillors, your Residents' associations. I've also been doing quite a lot with L&Q housing, trying to help with repairs, making sure that those are taken care of, and families have the maintenance they need for the local community.

Thank you for having me here today.

Any questions for Joy?

Q What about preserving the Green belt?

I have been working with Colne Valley regional park. I've pretty much campaigned nonstop and trying to protect the bits of Greenbelt that we still have in the green spaces. I'm not looking very keenly on anything that's going to destroy that. So, I will probably be raising an objection to any proposed building on Green Belt.

Q What about the pavements and road around the park, many of which are unsafe?

I can understand that Bucks Council don't have money for non-essential services and that this probably isn't going to be high on their radar. Is there any way that we can try and push this because I think one of the roads that's been done looks lovely.

The council request the roads and then the Council in general puts them on a list of when they're going to do them, so Wendy and I have lobbied fairly hard for this area and continue to just ask them, and I don't know how much our consistent nagging has to do with when the roads get done. But I think it's important that we just keep lobbying the council because what happens oftentimes, is many roads are done in the north but not here. We're trying to focus on the pavements for the roads and trying to make sure that we get those resurfaced and the potholes fixed.

Wendy commented – Several streets have been done so far. Bathurst Walk East was done three years ago, Somerset way was a few years ago. They'll be doing other streets at some point. Wellesley Ave should have been done by now but because of all the digging up, it's been put on hold until that has been finished, but then it will be done. But again, if there's any specific issues that you have on any parts of the path, use Fix my street, because the more reports there are, the more chances we have that something will happen.

According to TFB it was too dangerous to clean the bollards but we now have a new contract in place. It's an enhanced service as opposed to a contracted-out service and we are hopeful that down the line we will get things repaired but obviously the priority at the moment is just fixing the potholes. But a new service took over on the first of April. So they've got a lot to catch up on.

Any other questions?

Q What about the proposed development at Fourells paddock?

We submitted an objection on behalf of the Residents Association in writing some weeks ago, and I was invited to make an objection. I've written a statement studying the papers involved and I think I put together an argument which I hope will work, so I'll be doing that on Tuesday.

Q What about the potholes and the drainage around the shops and the lake that has formed?

We have an ongoing assessment of the drainage and are making steady progress and getting the drains cleared in public land areas where we run into trouble. We have the most trouble when we run into the side of the roads in some of the badly flooding areas and anywhere where there's a privately owned bit of land that goes over the drain. We have no jurisdiction there and with some of the drains we've been trying to work with the landowners. We found they've run electric cables through the drains which is extremely dangerous. I was quite surprised. There's been some interesting and creative uses of those drains.

Q Do you think that why is it certain parts of it are just completely flooded?

If there's a part of it that's privately owned unless we get consent from them, we can't even clear those drains. And that's where we're seeing the real overflow and the sort of breaking point of certain verges. Trying to negotiate long term with a lot of the private landowners on the verges is quite important to make sure that we can continue to access the drainage and making sure that everyone if they're building a new home or expanding is putting in the proper kind of soakaway areas and things like that. They are quite important because we have an older system for drainage so just making sure that we have that under control and constantly asking Bucks to monitor. We've had had some success with Defra as well in getting some flood defences into the Ivers and into Marlow. So that's what we've been doing. Wendy added I think the challenge in those drains is, it's a design job, because the drain system up around that crossroads was never designed to be of sufficient capacity. Take the water that's generated from the roads; in essence, it's too small, because the only drain there is in the middle of the crossroads. You'll see a round manhole cover and that is the access to what they call the soakaway, and it's far too small. So unfortunately, that means it's going to be Capital works. It's going to have to go on the design team list to come and look at it and try and decide what they're going to do. And whether they're going to dig up the hole around just the drains or what, I just don't know.

We will now go back to the main part of the agenda.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Joyce Young (Secretary)

Joyce would be normally taking the minutes here tonight. What I've done instead I've got this recording on here. And I've got one of those artificial intelligence things that he's attempting to transcribe it as we go.

Apologies from the Treasurer Shantanu Tandon who can't make it tonight as he has a work event that he has to attend, and apologies from Arun Gaur.

2 Minutes of the last meeting the minutes have been on the website of the AGM we had in 2022. I've had no comments on that or about any changes. I'll be happy to adopt those as being a true record. This was proposed and seconded.

3 Matters arising There are no matters arising.

4 Statement and adoption of accounts, which you have copies of. I can see subscriptions are slightly down, but we did not have a lot of grant income over the last year because we had less projects going on. The grants we get are not just general top up grants, they are basically around projects. Kingfisher gardens had a disparity between the expenditure and the years because the job wasn't finished in the year it started.

The cost of £1016 pounds was for the Centenary exhibition. It was opened by the High Sheriff. We received a grant of £1000 from Heathrow, so just £16 of the Residents association money was used. We are reasonably comfortably off with £3000 pounds in the bank. So, there's no need to look at things like changing subscription levels. In fact, when we looked at some of the history, the level of payment for a subscription back in the 1930s was five shillings but if you upgraded that in the normal way it comes to the equivalent of five pounds now, so we've managed to keep prices down.

The accounts were proposed, seconded and adopted.

5 Election of Officers Selection of the committee is done by the committee as per our constitution. How it works is that each road has a road steward, and they attend committee meetings. The officers of the committee are the Treasurer, the Secretary and the Chairman and they are elected within that committee, so the committee elects itself.

I believe everyone on the executive is happy in their role and I don't think we've got any vacancies now. But if anybody wants to join in, they can because that could help lighten the load. The main task during the year is distributing leaflets through the door so it makes it a bit easier on that. So, if you'd like to join us you are more than welcome to come to the meetings. If you would like to join the committee, I don't see this as being a competitive area whereby we vote one against the other. Just talk to us at the end and see if we can find a space for you.

6 Local neighbourhood police team report. In this instance, this is already on the internet. There is a website called the Chiltern and South Bucks Police Forum. And this contains a lot of information relating to police activity throughout the whole of South Bucks and the Chilterns including the Iver and Stoke Poges and George Green reports from the police. They're quite long and they're full of information. I would suggest that you probably read those on the internet. We will put a link to it on our website so you can see what's been going on. And you've got statistics on there about burglaries. For instance, in the last quarter of 2022 there was a reduction of burglaries of around about 55%, sounds a lot, but nine down to four. There were various proactive operations in terms of antisocial behaviour in the Recreation ground. If you want up to date information monthly, I urge you to join our watch.org which is the Neighbourhood Watch website, and they will then send to your inboxes various emails from the police about things that have happened recently and reports and stats.

7. Questions on Parish and Unitary council. The Parish has kept its rate increase down to 0.5% this year as opposed to the first suggestion of 20% and the second of 5% and that was finally voted through to reduce the amount of the reserves so it's not to put a burden again upon the residents.

Ivers Neighbourhood plan is being reviewed – we welcome changes.

Community Board – meetings about air quality and HGV traffic, trying to improve both. Looking for volunteers. Please let us know if you want to be involved.

Centenary Event We have facsimiles of the original sales docketts from when they were produced, not on old paper but looking like old paper. These are £10 pounds. If you would like a coffee table book, as it were, please ask me. We've digitised the whole exhibition, and that is on our website, and it appears as a book that flips open So that's something good to play with on a wet day.

We've got two more events this year to finish it off. There will be a family Sports day in July, where we're hoping to have some silly fun and games and even races, hopefully that'll be a good laugh. Watch out for posters advertising that. Our last event for the year for the Centenary when we will burn out completely will be a World Food Festival and that's on the August bank holiday. This is something where we'll be hoping to have several food stalls and entertainment music, etc.

That's all I have got to say. Are there any other points that people would like? To raise questions about? Now's your time.

Q What about parking at the motorcycle shop?

There is shared ownership of the pavement area. You will notice there is a difference in patterning of the pavement blocks between the part of the pavement that's right onto the road and the part that's up against the shops. The shop part belongs to them. Technically they should not drive over the public pavement to get to it. But if they can, they can stay there.

Residents need to write to fire officers about safety if you are concerned about the fire risk with petrol stored on site and in the tanks of the bikes kept in the shop overnight.

Write to motorcycle shop owner. Think this was down to the RA

Double yellows needed opposite Costcutters. We will put it on a future Agenda

Q Business links

Comment from Kam Khatker – she would like to set up a Business Association in Richings Park. We did try before and Bucks Business First were supportive, but it did not take off. I am sure they will be willing to help again.

Q What about the parking restrictions?

The parking zone restriction says you are not supposed to be there between 10 and 2, but unfortunately there does not seem to be the will within Bucks to enforce the parking zone restriction. The whole thing about the parking is, it is a mess, and we don't know quite what we're going to do about it.

Residents Association will write to Steve Broadbent about enforcement.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming.