

Minutes of Herbert Collins Estates Residents Association Annual General Meeting

Held in St. George Catholic College, Leaside Way
Tuesday 15th October 2024 at 19:30

Welcome: Chair Ray George welcomed everyone to the meeting in the main hall of St. George Catholic College and dealt with the meeting admin. 28 residents signed the attendance sheet.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mike Farrelly

Reports: The minutes of the 2023 AGM, together with all the reports presented at the 2024 AGM were made available on the HCERA website in advance of the 2024 AGM and in hardcopy at the meeting.

Presentation: It had been planned that the business of the AGM would be preceded by a presentation by Robert Williams, entitled, "What is a Collins House?". Unfortunately, despite Ray George's preparation to avoid technical glitches, the AV facilities did not work and no one was available from the school to assist, so the presentation had to be abandoned.

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting for 2022-2023 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the AGM for the year 2022-2023, held on Tuesday 17th October 2023 at St. George's Catholic College, Leaside Way, were proposed by Verity Robson, seconded by Robert Williams and accepted. There were no amendments.

There were no matters arising.

2. Chairman's Report for 2023-2024

The full version of Ray George's Chairman's Report is attached. He also announced there would be a litter pick in November and it was proposed to have a scarecrow competition next year at the same time as the Open Gardens. There were no further comments.

The Chairman's Report was proposed by Verity Robson and seconded by Annie Howard.

3. Treasurer's Report for 2022-2023

The full version of the Treasurer's Report is attached. Jackie Donnina presented the report and emphasised the followed points:

- a. Attention was drawn to the new financial year end of 31st March for HCERA, now aligning with the tax year.
- b. Year to date, 76% residents had paid their HCERA subscriptions, representing a 4% increase. BGR was the winner in terms of residents paid-up
- c. The cash balance had been fairly stable across the association

Verity Robson thanked Jackie for fulfilling the role of Treasurer and also asked what percentage of residents had not paid their EA road fund. She opined that perhaps more effort was need to persuade residents to pay up sooner.

The proposer and seconder for the Treasurer's Report were unrecorded.

4. Annual Subscription for 2024-2025

It was proposed that the annual subscription should remain at £5.00 and that the EA road fund payment should remain at £35.00. There were no objections.

5. Ethelburt Avenue Road Improvement Group Report

The full version of Dan Hopgood's Road Improvement Group Report is attached. Dan noted some additional points:

a. Volunteers

There was still shortage of volunteers to participate in the road working parties and Dan urged EA residents to note the dates given in his report. He also appealed for volunteers to provide volunteers with refreshments.

b. Financial Considerations

Dan noted that there was currently some £15k in the road fund.

c. Cross-funding of Tree Work

A question was raised about RIG funds being used for tree work. Ray George confirmed that there was no intention for the RIG to fund tree work in other parts of the estate.

d. 50m At Bottom End of EA

Along the 50m stretch at the bottom of EA, the RIG had been maintaining the verges. However, the volunteer can no longer do the work, so a new volunteer is needed, or else the work will not get done. Also in this area, the tarmac has deteriorated, creating potholes which have been filled with gravel. A simple repair might cost about £4k and Dan opined that the roadway was not eroded enough to warrant spending this money. Dan was asked to obtain quotations for the work.

e. Southern Water

Dan reported that Southern Water say that they are not responsible for surface water from the gullies in the road anywhere in EA. Angela Cotton suggested that, if they do not accept responsibility for surface water, then there should be a reduction in charges. Southern Water also said that they have no interest in the main drain in EA, so the RIG could make changes without any comeback. David O'Connor questioned whether Southern Water is avoiding their responsibility by claiming that it is not their drain. It was noted that the mains outlets are about 100 years old, so would be expensive to repair.

The RIG Report was proposed by Verity Robson and seconded by Elizabeth German.

6. Tree Group Report

The full version of Robert Williams' Tree Group Report is attached. Robert presented the report as he is still standing in for Uta Kohl, for a further year.

He noted that John Dixon and John Scoates had kindly disposed of a dead tree in EA and that more trees would be planted. Matthew Bambury asked whether he should contact the Tree Group to propose the planting of a tree. Robert clarified that Abri manages the trees on the greens in EA and pointed residents to the HCERA website for guidance about trees.

The Tree Group Report was proposed by Elizabeth German and seconded by Angela Cotton.

7. Facebook Group Report

The full version Michelle Hickling's Facebook Report is attached. It was noted that there now 233 members and the group was functioning well. There were no questions.

The Facebook Group Report was proposed by Jackie Donnina and seconded by Angela Cotton.

8. Election of Honorary Officers

Ray George reported that no additional nominations for honorary officers (chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, secretary) had been received and none of the current officers wished to stand down. The current officers were re-elected en bloc, with no votes against. The proposer and seconder were unrecorded. The honorary officers resulting were:

Chair:	Ray George
Vice-Chair:	vacant
Treasurer:	Jackie Donnina
Secretary:	Denise Fenwick

9. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Ruth Hogben kindly offered to continue as honorary auditor. The proposer and seconder were unrecorded.

10. Election of Street Representatives and Helpers

Ray George reported that no additional nominations for committee members (street reps) had been received. Equally, none of the remaining street reps planned to stand down and Matthew Bambury kindly volunteered to stand as the third EA street rep.. The current street reps were re-elected en bloc, with no votes against. The proposer and seconder were unrecorded.

Street Rep EA 1:	Verity Robson
Street Rep EA 2:	Robert Williams
Street Rep EA 3:	Matthew Bambury
Street Rep SL:	position vacant (Martin Buckley will kindly do deliveries)
Street Rep BGR:	Mike Farrelly
Street Rep FC:	Elizabeth German
Street Rep LW:	Val Laurent
Street Rep SG:	Angela Cotton

Other current helpers include:

EA deliveries: Wendy Boulter, Annie Howard, Jackie Williams

RIG: Dan Hopgood

Tree Group: Uta Kohl, Robert Williams

11. Election of Director of HCEL

Ray George reported that no nominations for this position had been received.

12. Report of Herbert Collins Estates Limited

The full version of David O'Connor's HCEL Report is attached. David added the following points:

- a. Robert Williams can advise about the suitability of materials for alterations/repairs
- b. HCEL is not directly involved in tree matters on the estate
- c. HCEL's income is very low (£1,412 in 2022-2023) and this needs to be addressed in the

longer term

- d. He thanked Ray George and Robert Williams for their work for the company

David went on to remind residents that HCEL was established some 7 years ago to preserve and enhance the estate, and it was important to guard our status as a conservation area.

Angela Cotton referred to minute 12 of the AGM minutes from 2023 and asked what the outcome was of the HCEL meeting in October 2023, in which the matter of solar panels was to be discussed. David responded that there had been no change to the guidance i.e. solar panels could be installed on outbuildings but not on the main dwelling.

Dan Hopgood offered thanks to John Green, who intended to step down once another director has been appointed, and to John Dixon who had already resigned as a director of HCEL. Again, it was pointed out that the directors were “all getting older” and new blood was sought.

Returning to the matter of funding HCEL, David observed that HCEL could not achieve much on the current level of income. The funding model for Glebe Court had been examined, however HCEL does not have much scope for generating funds beyond the ground rent and other small items. Matthew observed that the estate is heading for 100 years old, so this would be a good time to address a greater investment into it, perhaps via a service charge. David reinforced that residents could not afford not to support the company and that everyone needs it to keep doing what is it doing.

Fiona Adams asked why some residents do not pay their HCERA subscriptions. Verity Robson responded that residents forget, especially as there is no specific payment date. Some houses are owned by landlords and other residents do not see paying subs as “their problem”. David O’Connor supported payment by standing order.

13. Any Other Business

There was none.

The meeting closed at 20:34

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