

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF OHSCA INAUGURAL MEETING

Tuesday 29th November 2016, Lower Room, Baptist Church, Canterbury

Welcome by David Kemsley and Tim Carlyle

1. Apologies: Fred Whitmore.

2. Election of Officers and Committee Members

Chairman – Dick Vane-Wright was elected Chairman of OHSCA, proposed by Alison Culverwell and seconded by Francis Green.

DVW thanked the outgoing Committee members of OHDS and SCRA and also those on the working group who had prepared the new Constitution.

There were nominations for two Vice-Chairs: David Kemsley and Tim Carlyle.

There were nominations for the following Officers: Treasurer – Alison Culverwell-Green; Hon Secretary – Marion Bell; Membership Secretary – Sophie Scott

The working Constitution allows for max 14 Committee members and the following had put their names forward: Pat Edwards, Helly Langley, Denis Linfoot, Keith Rishworth, Chris Tucker, Fred Whitmore, Graham Wood (Local History Group)

All the above were unanimously elected by a show of hands.

DVW explained that we have a new Constitution which we may have to deviate a little from during the first year, not from the spirit but in a few of the 'letters'. This included the election of two Vice Chairs which is not uncommon.

3. Refreshments

4. Introduction by the new Chair

DVW paid tribute to the outgoing committees and thanked those who had organised the evening's refreshments. He said a few brief words about his past roles on SCRA and OHDS and explained how the two very different Constitutions had been brought together by the working group. He thanked Denis Linfoot for his wise counsel in this task.

There were no questions with regard to the new Constitution.

DVW spoke about how he saw OHSCA moving forward. First and foremost, we are committed to helping the local community in three strands of activity – supportive (keeping active our valuable traditions, enthusiasm and history), reactive (react helpfully and positively when unexpected opportunities or unwelcome surprises occur), proactive (be a force for progress whether it is campaigning against things we do not approve of or being in favour of ideas and proposals within our own membership and area).

In light of the above the following Ideas and Suggestions came from the floor:

1. Active involvement with cleaning graffiti from 4 railway bridges in the area – Cathy Sales. Our Public Liability Insurance policy would need to be checked to ensure volunteers are covered.

2. Push for removed letter box to be reinstated at St George's Place.

3. Additional benches in ODR. SSc suggested a planter at the end of Puckle Lane, one with a raised edge for sitting on. We do not want to encourage drug takers to hang around a bench. There is a new bench on the corner of St Lawrence Close.

4. Graveyard at end of Albert Road is a busy drug area and has a litter problem.

5. Improvements to ODR pavement.

6. Lamppost on corner of St Lawrence Close is missing.

7. Pavements in Puckle Lane and Raymond Avenue have been damaged by lorries – should be made good by contractor when building work has been completed. Nick Eden-Green encouraged members to write to CCC and KCC about broken pavements.

8. Two dead trees in Longport – one is to be replaced this winter. KCC has two planting seasons to replace dead trees in conservation areas.

9. Recreation Areas – there are proposed recreational facilities in the Ridlands Farm development scheme. Some view these play areas as problematic but we can work with the Council on this. London has enclosed areas – squares and parks – which are locked at night but this would be too costly.

10. Engagement with a wider, younger group through Facebook or Twitter.

11. Introduce an Open Garden Scheme in summer. Plant and produce swaps are already planned.

12. Would OHSCA promote the Bee Society?

13. Introduce events to attract families - like Father Christmas.

14. Buses parked overnight in Nunnery Fields – can only be removed if illegally parked.

15. Push for air quality readings to be made public. Maybe this could be a University student project.

It will be the aim of OHSCA in due course to deal with the above over the next year if possible.

The meeting closed around 9 pm

Marion Bell, Hon Sec