



Minutes of Graven Hill Residents' Association (GHRA)

Annual General Meeting (via Zoom)

Wednesday 15th September 2021 @ 19:30 hrs

Attendance:

Chair:	Philip Sore (PS)
Secretary:	Christine Clynes (CC)
Treasurer:	Sam Omotayo (SO)
General Committee:	Helen Baker (HB)
	Stephen Aggett (SA)
	Simon Kirkman (SK)
	Max Dias-Gunawardena (MDG)
	Eleanor Smith (ES)
	Karen Sims (KS)

In addition to the committee, there were 26 resident log-ins

1. Welcome

PS welcomed the meeting participants

2. Apologies:

None

3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 23rd September 2020 and Extraordinary General Meeting held on 1st September 2021

Agreed as true records

4. Chair's / Committee Annual Report by Philip Sore

Attached as Appendix 1

5. Treasurer's Annual Report by Sam Omotayo

Attached as Appendix 2

6. GHRA Events Group Co-Chair's Annual Report by Alex Lui and Helen Baker

Alex Lui presented a slide show of all events organised by the GHRA Events Group from September 2020 to date. They were

- Halloween, socially distanced
- Remembrance wreath laying with no residents present due to Covid restrictions
- Living Advent Calendar
- Christmas Carol service, socially distanced
- Winter Trail, socially distanced (filmed by Grand Designs and sponsored by Orchard Baptist Church)
- Quiz Night in February via Zoom
- Twisted Wine Tasting via Zoom which was sponsored by various organisations and raised £1,182 to support future GHRA events
- Easter Egg Hunt with chocolate Easter Eggs provided by Orchard Baptist Church
- "Graven Hill through the Seasons" Photo Competition launched and judging has started



- A Mini Olympics event was planned but had to be cancelled due to extended Covid restrictions. A Flag Trail was organised instead which included flags of all the nationalities represented at Graven Hill
- Summer BBQ with the Red Cow Pub selling drinks. The event included face painting, a tombola and cake stall. In total, over 100 adults attended during the day.

Alex Lui further mentioned that in addition to the GHRA and the Events Group, the following clubs and groups were also active at Graven Hill:

- Book Club
- Gardening Club
- Toddlers' Group
- Community Choir
- Buy and Sell Facebook Group
- Dog Walking Group
- Pets Facebook Group
- Football Team
- Fantasy Football League
- Strava Running and Cycling Group

Alex Lui, HB, PS and KS thanked the many Events Group volunteers who give their time to plan and organise events on behalf of GHRA. Helen Baker explained that the Events Group was an informal group that was open to all residents to join.

7. Community Ministry Update by Rev. Helen Baker

HB introduced herself as Community Minister for Graven Hill, employed by Orchard Baptist Church on behalf of all the Churches in Bicester. HB explained that her job was to serve the community, to provide a Christian presence and to support and listen to people. To this end, she has set up activities such as the Toddlers' Group, the Gardening Club and the Community Choir to enable residents to meet and get to know each other from across the development. HB mentioned that she was also in the process of setting up a Mental Health Wellbeing Café which should be operational by the beginning of the year. HB invited anybody who wanted to have a chat to visit her in her house in Read Place or contact her through Facebook.

8. Proposed Amendment to GHR Constitution

PS explained that we had a request for an amendment to Section 4 of the Constitution proposed by CC and seconded by KS. CC explained that the current Constitution stated that "the Committee will meet no less than 4 times a year, in addition to the AGM". The proposal was to reduce the frequency of Committee meetings with residents present from four to three plus an AGM. The Committee members present unanimously voted to accept the proposed amendment.

9. Update on Pub Site and Nursery Site

PS explained that this item had been included on the agenda as there was a lot of discussion on this subject at the last residents' meeting. Subsequent to that meeting, GHVDC retracted their planning applications. There were concerns that there had been a lack of consultation with the residents and representatives of GHRA met with staff from GHVDC (including Karen Curtin and Adrian Unitt) on the 25th August. PS advised that the Minutes of this meeting had been published on the GHRA Facebook page outlining the key points discussed and actions to be taken by both parties. PS also referred residents to two open sessions arranged by GHVDC, to be held on 23rd and 25th September, to view their latest masterplan for the finished development design.





Chair's annual report on behalf of the RA Committee – September 2021

The Graven Hill Residents' Association came into being in September last year.

This annual report is to go through a brief summary of the activities of the GHRA Committee over the past year.

I will not be including Finance or Events as these will be covered in detail under items later in today's agenda.

I would however say a big than you to Sam, our Treasurer, for all his hard work; and the members of the Events Group who have done great work over the past year, especially considering all the Covid restrictions that have been in place.

Obviously Covid has had a serious impact on how we have been able to operate.

Before going any further, I would like to say a big thank you to Paulius Aganauskas whose company he runs, Aviamart, funded the Zoom account for the Residents' Association over the past year.

This has been invaluable and very much appreciated.

This Zoom account has also been used by the Association Events Group, the Self-Builders' Group, Managed Areas Group and the Graven Hill book club for their regular meetings.

I would also like to thank to Stephen Aggett who set up the Residents' Association web site, and Susan Weston who has got the Association newsletter "Village Voice" up and running.

Over the last year the committee has arranged four residents' meetings which local councillors have also attended, and also, early on, carried out a Facebook Poll of residents regarding what is seen as priorities for the Residents' Association committee which was taken on board by the committee.

The committee have been actively involved in various consultations over the year, including:-

Oxfordshire CC consultations relating to:-

- proposed Pioneer Roundabout on the A41,
- the A41 corridor consultation
- London Road proposed speed reduction
- A41 footway – Graven Hill to Esso roundabout
- Graven Hill proposed speed limit and parking restrictions

Cherwell DC relating to:-

- London Road proposed cycleway and footway improvements
- Proposed Graven Hill Community Hall

Representatives from the Committee have also held liaison meetings every two months with the Graven Hill Village Development Company, covering a wide variety of topics, and posting minutes of the meetings on the RA web site and Facebook page.

Subjects have included:-

- GH threat of car parking enforcement
- Chasing the opening of the play areas
- Provision of a post box
- Provision of glass recycling
- Possible village green enhancements
- Proposed retail units
- Landscaping issues
- Provision of electric vehicle charging points
- Litter and road debris removal issues
- Blocked sewer concerns
- Exploring the possibility of a village green “mini-market”
- Speeding vehicles where the committee have also carried out speed check surveys and gained the support of the Community Speed-watch initiative. Currently Graven Hill are considering a request that additional 20mph road marking roundels be painted on East Circular Road.

The committee is also currently negotiating a possible sponsorship arrangement with Graven Hill in return for a funding commitment.

Most recently, representatives from the committee held a meeting with Graven Hill regarding the need for consultation with the RA and residents in future in particular with regard to matters such as the proposed re-purposing of the nursery and pub sites.

Also, a reminder – “An Audience with.... Karen Curtin” will be taking place on Wednesday evening, 29th September probably via Zoom. More details are to follow via the Graven Hill Residents’ Facebook Group.

That is about it for the RA’s first year. As I say, reports are to follow with regard to finance and events.

It only remains for me to thank my fellow committee members for their time, support and input over the past year; and to wish the new committee and all Graven Hill residents well for 2021/22.

Philip Sore

GHRA Chair 2020/21



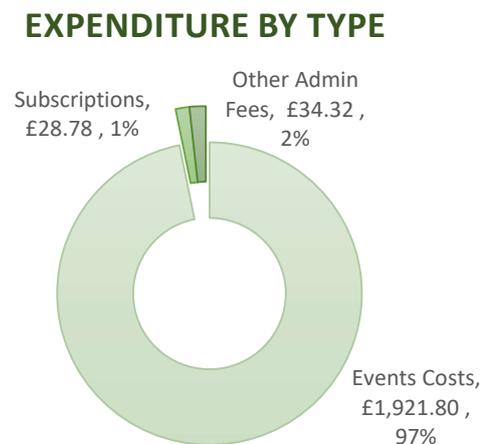
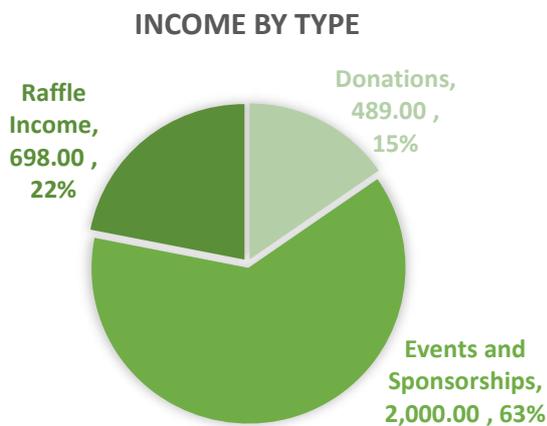
Treasurer's Report – 6 Months to 31 March 2021

The financial year of the Association ends on 31st March. The information on this report is related to the accounts for the six months ended on 31st March 2021.

Summary of the financial statements are:

	£
Total Income	3,187.00
Total Expenditure	(2,001.98)
Surplus for 6 months ended 31 March 2021	1,185.02
Funds Brought Forward at 01 October 2021	134.42
Funds Carried Forward at 31 March 2021	1,319.44

Income for the period was made up of Events and Sponsorship (63%), Raffle Income (22%) and Donations (15%). Events Costs accounted for 97% of total expenditure.



The funds of the Association on 31 March 2021 is made up of Cash in hand of £655; Debtor, which was the donations amount held in our Just Giving page was £760; Creditors falling due within one year was £34 which represented platform fees payable to Just Giving.

Post balance sheet date, the Association's bank account was opened with HSBC. A community current and a savings account are now in operation.

Due to the minimal number of transactions, the committee elected not to have an audit of the accounts for the six months ended 31 March 2021. Records are however available from the Treasurer.

Finally, my thanks to all committee members who served the Association in the inaugural year.