

## **Harding's Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Harding's Pits Community Association held at Hillington Square on June 10, 2010**

**Apologies:** Jane Dearling, Jeremy Dearling, Margaret Worledge, Suzy Hemsworth, Carol Tupper, Lee Stevens, Sally Smith

Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting were read and accepted

**Annual report and accounts:** Presented by the secretary. Proposed by Barry Tice, seconder Malcolm Summerfield, accepted

**Election of directors of the HPCA Ltd.** Jane Dearling (chairman), Messrs Hawkes, Loveless, Morrish, Wilson and Turff re-elected en bloc

**Election of the management group:** Margaret Worledge, Leslie Barnes, Brenda Croucher, Barry Tice, Malcolm Summerfield, Mike Nobbs and the directors of the HPCA Ltd listed above were elected en bloc

**Election of a vice chairman for the board of HPCA Ltd:** Proposed by Dave Cooper, seconded by Davy Wilson that Rick Morrish be asked to take this post. (NB: Rick has subsequently agreed to take on this position).

### **Other business:**

**Secretary:** Roger reminded the meeting that it was his intention to retire from the post of secretary at the 2011 annual meeting. The association had 12 months to find a replacement. He did not intend to sever his connection with the association or with the Doorstep Green but felt that after 15 years (dating from the original plan to turn Harding's Pits into a supermarket in the mid-1990s) he felt it was time for someone else to take on the work. The post was an important one and without a secretary to manage the administration it was difficult to see how it could continue. So far, no one had shown any interest in taking on the job. He said that it was not particularly onerous, normally amounting to no more than the equivalent of one day a month. The need to resist the desire of the borough council to take back the Green to carry out its marina plans had greatly increased the secretarial workload but with the delay – possibly permanent in the marina development due to current financial constraints, this pressure had eased. Margaret Worledge had now volunteered to take on the role of treasurer – Margaret has always acted as a valuable backstop to Roger's hazy grasp of

figures – and the establishment of a site foreman (see below) would also lighten the administrative load. The job does require basic IT skills which, if necessary, are easily learned so that reports, letters and email communication can be carried out. The association was in a position to provide the necessary equipment – word processor, printer etc.

**Site foreman:** Roger said he would be prepared to take on this work, which would involve responsibility for routine maintenance on the Green and the equipment owned by the association, the organisation of work parties and other volunteer input.

**Annual subscription:** The association has so far not asked for financial support from the public. Careful management of the association's initial financing through grants had made this unnecessary but it could be expected that a time would come when it would be necessary to raise money to meet normal running expenses. Roger estimated these at no more than £500 a year, largely for fuels, equipment maintenance, replacement of hand tools and such administrative costs as postage, telephone and rent for the allotment and for occasional meetings of the management group and the annual meeting. The association had a list of around 100 supporters who he thought might be prepared to subscribe if approached. Davy Wilson queried who would be responsible for the collection and accounting of subscription funds. Roger thought this would be the responsibility of the secretary and treasurer. John Loveless suggested that a regular appeal for funds on an annual basis, rather than a formal subscription policy, might be a better way of raising money and would not limit individual contributions to a specific amount. There were people who would find £5 a year difficult to find and others who could, and would, be willing to subscribe more. David Collis said it would be sensible to establish the concept of financial support from people who use the Green and suggested that the association should try always to have at least one year's expenditure in hand. Roger said the present financial position would allow for this. It was agreed that while there was at present no urgency to raise funds in this way further consideration should be given to the issue.

**Application for registration of the Green as a common:** David Collis asked about the current position regarding this proposal. Roger said that some 20 witness statements to support such an application were now with the solicitors who had agreed to advise and oversee it. He was awaiting this advice. David said he thought it important that the application be progressed

during the current quiet period in borough council plans for redevelopment of the Green. Roger said that information coming from the Open Space Society, of which HPCA Ltd is a member, indicated that the judiciary was interpreting the latest Commons Act in a manner more favourable to applicants than hitherto.

**Incinerator:** Hugh Rout advised the meeting that a public meeting was to be held to discuss the construction of a waste incineration plant close to the power station at South Lynn. This would be at the Methodist Church Hall on June 18 at 8.00 pm. Dr Ian Gibson, lately MP for Norwich North, would chair the meeting and Henry Bellingham MP would attend. John Hull, project director for Norfolk County Council, which was planning the incinerator, would explain the reasons for the development. John Beresford of Nottingham Against Incineration and Landfill would speak against the proposal. There would be the opportunity for questions from the public. Hugh urged everyone who could attend to do so. Further information was available on the Harding's Pits website at [Hardings-Pits.org.uk](http://Hardings-Pits.org.uk) The development could have major implications for the town, particularly as the proposed site was immediately downwind for the prevailing south-west wind blowing over the town. David Collis remarked that public attendance was important but he feared that it might be limited by a World Cup football match on television at the same time.