



Stoughton Community Association

including the Stoughton Community Centre Project (SCCP)

www.stoughtonca.org

Financially assisted by



Minutes of the First SCA Annual General Meeting ~ Monday 24th January 2005 at Emmanuel Church, Stoughton, 19:30 - 21.30

1. Meeting started at 19:30pm with Cllr Fiona White as Chair of the meeting and Ian Godfrey as Secretary. Quorum was confirmed with over 65 residents signed in.

Introductions

2. **Cllr Fiona White** introduced herself as the Chair for the meeting and she had volunteered because an independent chair was desirable for a first AGM and the original invited chair was unexpectedly unavailable and gives his apologies.
3. Members of the existing committee were introduced:
Maureen Bell – Acting Chair and Treasurer
Ian Godfrey – Acting Secretary
Cllr Pauline Searle – Acting Vice-Chair
Peter Gunner – committee member
Nigel Horton – committee member, also chair of Stoughton Action Group (STAG)
John Allford – committee member, previous acting Secretary
Dinah Bisdee – co-opted committee member
Special thanks were given to founder members **Nigel Horton** and **John Allford** for the work they have done and time so willingly given during their involvement with SCA and STAG, as they are not standing for re-election, and STAG being disbanded.
4. Thanks were also given to **Cllr Dr John Hobrough** who had arranged vital funding from Surrey County Council over the past two years.
5. It was explained the order of events would include time for questions and answers and the following explanation was given why everyone was invited to be present.
“This is residents’ opportunity to create an umbrella network of groups and residents throughout the area. This is your opportunity to speak with one voice. As one of the most densely populated areas you contribute a major amount to the GBC coffers and therefore should have your say. I know you want to make Stoughton a more attractive place to live and to make residents proud of their Stoughton address.”
“Tonight is mainly about the formal AGM and elections. Apart from getting more people involved, as SCA intends to be a Charity, it must be regulated and perform in a positive and accountable manner. This entails annual AGMs and elections. The existing Committee is required to stand down and a new committee elected. Each committee will stand down annually with annual elections to ensure that the right people are on the committee to represent residents in the way they wish to be represented.”
“After the AGM there will be a general Q&A session covering other topics.”
6. It was explained that signing in was necessary for:
 - Election – voters must be over 18 and live in SCA’s area of benefit.
 - Newsletters and emails.
7. The audience was asked what areas of Stoughton they were from, which showed they were from many parts, some who had seen posters, others had seen the letter-drop delivered to approx. 4,600 homes, and some had seen articles in the local papers.

Receive the Annual Report and Accounts

8. **Maureen Bell**, introduced herself and read out the General Committee's Annual Report [attached].
9. **Edward Tudor** read out a statement of the preceding years SCA's accounts (to June 30th 2004) that he had audited, and asked for them to be accepted.
10. **Cllr Fiona White** asked if there were any questions or objections. There were none.
11. **Fred Johnson** proposed the acceptance of both Annual Report and Accounts, and **Nigel Horton** seconded. There was general approval with no votes against, and a few abstentions.

SCA Objectives

12. **Cllr Fiona White** explained that because this was the first AGM it was important to ask residents if they understood the association's objects and had any questions about the constitution. The objects were then read out.
The audience was then asked if there were any questions or objections. There were none.
The audience was then asked "**Do you agree with SCA's objects and what it is trying to do?**" On a show of hands a majority was in agreement.
The audience was thanked.

Appointments and Elections to the General Committee

13. **Ian Godfrey** introduced himself and gave a detailed explanation of the election process.
Only the Honorary Officers and Full Member Representatives are elected, while Statutory Authority Representatives, Representatives of Affiliated Bodies and co-opted members are named appointments. There is currently no requirement for elected Associate Representatives because there are no membership subscriptions yet.
All general committee members are trustees, which is an important but not an onerous responsibility.
The audience asked a few questions. The number of meetings and level of commitment was described.
14. The following were appointed as named representatives:
Cllr Jayne Marks as Statutory Authority Representative for Guildford Borough Council.
Cllr Dr John Hobrough as Statutory Authority Representative for Surrey County Council.
PCSO Sheila Willis as Statutory Authority Representative for the "Safer Guildford Partnership".
Alan Noakes as Affiliated Group representative for Grange Road Neighbourhood Watch.
The audience was asked if there were any questions or objections. There were none.
The audience was asked if any other group wished to be affiliated. There were none.
15. The audience was asked if anyone else wished to stand as Honorary Secretary or Treasurer. There were none. The following were elected uncontested by a majority show of hands with no votes against and few abstentions.
Ian Godfrey as Honorary Office of Secretary.
Maureen Bell as Honorary Office of Treasurer.
The audience was asked if there were any questions or objections. There were none.
16. It was explained that 8 residents had submitted nomination forms wishing to stand as a Full Member Representative. The audience was asked if anyone else wished to stand. Cllr Olaf Kolassa came forward. Each nominee was asked to briefly explain their reason for standing.
The audience was then asked if there were any objections to all nominees being elected despite the limited number of elected places. There were no objections. The following 9 were duly elected by a majority show of hands, with no votes against and few abstentions:
Fred Johnson, Kirstie Wainwright, Dinah Bisdee, Mark Lavender, Phil Knapp, Peter Gunner, Cllr Pauline Searle, Jim Alford and Cllr Olaf Kolassa.

Appoint a qualified auditor

17. **Edward Tudor** was appointed as auditor.

Remaining AGM Business

18. As there was no further formal business the AGM ended at 21:00.

Acronyms

AGM	Annual General Meeting
GBC	Guildford Borough Council
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
SCC	Surrey County Council
STAG	Stoughton Action Group

Minutes prepared by Secretary of the meeting Ian Godfrey.

Approval of these minutes was:

Proposed by Dinah Bisdee

Seconded by Pauline Searle

Approved at the 3rd Annual General Meeting held at Emmanuel Church

On 5th March 2007

After the AGM, there was a half hour Q&A session where members of the audience asked questions of the new committee about the traffic report, the community centre and other local issues.

Further news and information is available on the web-site www.stoughtonca.org

Note: These minutes were drafted but not submitted for approval at the 2nd AGM in 2006. As it is necessary they are approved at a General Meeting they were submitted for approval at the 3rd AGM on 5th March 2007.

Attachments: SCA Chairman's Annual Report

SCA Chairman's Annual Report

As this is our first AGM, a little history and background is required to understand our objectives:

SCA was constituted in November 2003 by a committee of 7, who were elected in May 2002 by circa 120 residents of Stoughton at a public meeting held at Northmead School, and organised by STAG.

Stoughton Action Group, better known at STAG, was originally formed to liaise with the developers of QE Park and to monitor that development, making sure that local residents suffered the least inconvenience from having a major housing development built in their midst. Although the development is not yet finished, STAG will disband tonight when its role is absorbed into SCA as part of a wider planning oversight.

The Northmead School meeting was about getting a community centre built, and this project has had continuing ongoing problems and difficulties with the developers. Late in 2003 as the work became more cumbersome, the functions of STAG and the community building were separated, and I chaired this group – **Stoughton Community Centre Project**, better known as **SCCP**, also to be absorbed from tonight as a sub committee of SCA. Currently, despite many hours of hard work and much frustration, we are no further forward with the community building project than we were in November 2002.

The developers, Laing and Linden, submitted a planning application in April 2004 to place the community building on the open space in QE Park, which attracted many objections. This application was then withdrawn, and a new application is about to be submitted – Dave Barton confirmed today that the architects have promised the application will be complete by Friday.

To seek the funds to complete and commission the building, SSCP needed to become a charity. We therefore constituted the organisation for the community building project, which would have a limited life span, (ceasing when the building is commissioned) with a model constitution, which also allowed for the development of a Community Association.

(If you want to know more about the community centre, come along to the next Stoughton Community Action Plan public meeting on the 28th February)

The formal objectives of SCA are simple – 'to promote the benefits of all residents, to build and run a community centre and any other appropriate charitable acts'. In other words, to make our area a more attractive and happy place to live, and to be proud of.

It is hoped that SCA will provide an umbrella structure for other community groups, such as Residents Associations and Neighbourhood Watches. It is even possible for businesses to be represented - if they create non-profit making associations. It is important for residents to be both involved and kept informed. Together we can make changes for the better. Using one voice collectively, we are stronger and will have greater impact.

SCA has already been working together with local borough and county councillors and officers, and have organised various public events, such as an open day in April 2004 and the recent series of Community Action Plan workshops, the next being on the 28th February. During the first week of this month, with vital assistance from a few volunteers we produced, printed and delivered over 4,600 pamphlets to announce this and a previous meeting to every home in the area.

At our last public meeting, we discussed the high population density of our area and how through our Council Taxes we are major contributors to the Guildford purse. A tour round our area would belie that fact, as much could be done to make it much cleaner, tidier and more attractive. The Salt Box Road entrance into Stoughton, which looks like a tip, is an example of the lack of care given to our area.

Local residents are in agreement that Stoughton has little sense of community and a poor sense of identity, which we feel sure we can improve if we work together, so we can all be proud of the environment in which we live.

I hope you will all support Stoughton Community Association in its efforts to improve Stoughton for everyone who lives and works here.

Maureen dh Bell
Acting Chair
24th January 2005