

Stoughton Community Association

including the Stoughton Community Centre Project (SCCP)
web-site: www.stoughtonca.org
e-mail: email@stoughtonca.org

Minutes of SCA's 3rd Annual General Meeting Monday 5th March 2007 at Emmanuel Church, Stoughton, 19:30 - 21.30

1. Meeting started at 7:40pm with **Paul Kassell** as Chair of the meeting and **Ian Godfrey** as Secretary. Quorum was confirmed with at least 30 residents signed in.

Introductions

2. **Paul Kassell** introduced himself as the current Chair of Stoughton Community Association. Thanked everyone for coming out in poor weather, explained the reasons why everyone was present, why they needed to sign in and outlined the agenda.

Previous minutes

3. **Paul Kassell** explained the first item on the agenda was the minutes for the 1st and 2nd AGM. The first set of minutes had been overlooked at the previous AGM. There were no outstanding actions from either set of minutes so the only requirement was to confirm their accuracy.

Bill Perkins proposed an amendment to item 12 of the 1st AGM to change 'unanimous' to a 'majority'. Seconded by **Paul Kassell**. Approved.

Dinah Bisdee proposed acceptance of the minutes as an accurate record of the 1st AGM 24th January 2005. Seconded by **Pauline Searle**. Approved by a majority show of hands.

Edward Tudor proposed acceptance of the minutes as an accurate record of the 2nd AGM 24th April 2006. Seconded by **Maureen Bell**. Approved by a majority show of hands.

**Secretary to
post on
web-site.**

Receive the Annual Report of the General Committee

4. **Paul Kassell** read out the General Committee's Annual Report [see attached on page 4]. He asked the audience to complete the questionnaire [see attached on page 6 with results on page 7], thanked the audience and asked if there were any questions.
5. There were several questions and comments about anti-social behaviour in the area. There were differing views on how helpful the police were and how quickly they responded.
Sue Doughty stressed that any incident however minor should be reported to the Police, so at least a picture of the problem can be developed and something done.
Cllr Pauline Searle noted concern about crime and nuisance was rekindled in Woodbridge Hill because of an appeal by the La Shish kebab shop to extend their trading hours beyond midnight.
6. **Bill Perkins** asked why SCA had chosen not to object to the proposed housing development in Barrack Road when SCA's policy is to object to all new housing developments [refer Report page 4]. **Paul Kassell** responded that residents in the road had specifically asked for this to be approved because they were fed up with the current situation.
7. There were several compliments to the committee for the work they have done.
8. **Wendy May** proposed acceptance of the General Committee's Annual Report, seconded by **Cllr Jayne Marks**. Approved by a majority show of hands.

Receive the accounts of the Association for the preceding financial year

9. **Malcolm Kimber** introduced himself as current Honorary Treasurer and explained the Association's accounts were for the year ending on June 30th 2006, and proceeded to give a summary of the accounts [attached].
10. **Cllr Jayne Marks** proposed acceptance of the Association's Accounts, seconded by **Dinah Bisdee**. Approved by a majority show of hands.

Appoint Independent Examiner of the Accounts for the next year

11. **Edward Tudor** is the appointed Independent Examiner of the Accounts for the next year.

Note the names of Appointed Representatives (authorities, groups, sections)

12. **Ian Godfrey** explained the reason the constitution elects only the secretary, treasurer, and four full member representatives is that the intention is for the Association to be an umbrella organisation made up of representatives of other community organisations such as residents associations, and neighbourhood watches; to form a network of local community groups. Other members of the committee are appointed representatives of statutory authorities such as the councils and police.

Ian asked if there were any community groups that wished to be affiliated or be a section. There were none.

13. **Cllr Jayne Marks** is the appointed statutory authority representative for Guildford Borough Council.

14. **Cllr Fiona White** is the appointed statutory authority representative for Surrey County Council. *[Cllr Fiona White was not present and sent her apologies.]*

15. **Maureen Bell** is the appointed section representative of the Stoughton Community Centre Project.

Election of Honorary Secretary

16. **Ian Godfrey** was elected the uncontested post of Honorary Secretary. Approved by a majority show of hands.

Election of Honorary Treasurer

17. **Malcolm Kimber** was elected the uncontested post of Honorary Treasurer. Approved by a majority show of hands.

Election of Full Member Representatives

18. **Ian Godfrey** explained that only four nominations had been received for Full Member Representatives from **Paul Kassell, Cllr Pauline Searle, Dinah Bisdee** and **Wendy May**.

He thanked **Peter Gunner** and **Cllr Olaf Kolassa** for their work over the past year, but they were unable to attend and had sent their apologies for not completing their nomination forms.

Ian explained that in previous years there had been more nominees and these had been elected without a contest. Normally we like to ask if anyone else wishes to stand, but last year there was some concern that electing so many was unconstitutional. Instead, we suggest that if anyone wishes to volunteer to actively participate in the running of a sub-committee that they come and see us afterwards.

The audience was asked if it had any questions. There were none.

The audience was asked to elect **Paul Kassell, Cllr Pauline Searle, Dinah Bisdee** and **Wendy May**. Approved by a majority show of hands.

All committee members to receive a copy of the constitution and sign the minute book - Clause 10(f)

Remaining AGM Business

19. **Ian Godfrey** stated there was no further business; and the formal AGM ended at 8:10pm.

Minutes prepared by Secretary of the meeting Ian Godfrey.

Approval of these minutes was:

Proposed by

Seconded by

Approved at the 4th Annual General Meeting held at

On

After the AGM there was a raffle organised by Dinah Bisdee which collected £45.00. Prizes were donated by members of the General Committee.

Dr Nic Driver led a discussion on the potential closure of the Royal Surrey County Hospital or it's A&E or Cancer wards. Further news and information is available on the web-site www.stoughtonca.org

Attached below:

General Committee's Annual Report.

Copy of questionnaire and results.

SCA Accounts.

SCA General Committee's Annual Report
Read by Paul Kassell, Chair at AGM 5th March 2007

1. General

When I stood for election last year I said that I had two aims – firstly to unite the factions that had split over the community centre and secondly to work on common problems that affect Stoughton Residents. I said that there were enough problems in this area without arguing amongst ourselves

Feed back that I had received was that the major concerns were those of Traffic and over development in this ward. Additionally throughout the year the problems of Anti- social behaviour have increased.

The committee set off at the start of the year with high hopes, but, in terms of my own expectations, I would mark ourselves out of 10 as follows:

- Uniting the factions that split Stoughton. For effort 7 results 2.
- Combating the problems of traffic in this area. Effort 10 for results 3.
- Combating the effects of over-development. Effort 10 results 6.
- Progressing the Community Centre. Effort 12 results 2.

This seems a very downbeat assessment of your committee's progress – I think that this is realistic. My expectations were far too high as to what can be achieved in a relatively short time – after all these problems have been building for many years and it could take many years to overcome them.

So what of the positives? I have worked with the committee for a year. In truth it is like any other committee – a few individuals get through an awful lot of work, giving up swathes of their own free time for the good of this community.

We have also raised the profile of the SCA in Guildford. Most local people I speak to have heard of one or more of our campaigns.

We have had over a dozen articles or letters published in the local press over the past year each trying to raise the profile of our Ward in the consciousness and conscience of our councils. Additionally we have given 4 radio interviews.

2. Constitution

Following last year's AGM, several members of the committee wanted to revise the constitution, even though this used the standard framework used by many community and residents associations.

After 7 months with absolutely no suggestions of changes, the committee adopted the original constitution by eleven to four and the four dissenting members resigned. We needed to agree the constitution if we wanted to apply for charity status, and I personally felt we had given everyone enough time.

3. Traffic Group

At the last AGM I presented the findings of the traffic report. Following this 86 of those that attended, filled in a survey / questionnaire.

The results were as follows:

1. We must have a pan-Stoughton Traffic Survey and Plan - 94% strongly agreed and 4% agreed.
2. Until this is produced – no more development - 88% strongly agree and 6% agree.
3. Suggest Closing Roads – 52% Strongly agree and 21% agree

The results and specific comments that you made were included in the report – which is available on our website.

This report was presented to SCC and GBC. The group has spent most of the past year fighting to get this report actioned. We have had meetings with Northmead School, SCC, GBC, Surrey Police and Arriva. It has been left to us to visit each of the authorities.

We are also setting up a community speed-watch group. Our aim for the next year –

1. Get the community speed-watch off the ground.
2. Continue to raise awareness of traffic problems in Stoughton.
3. Continue to put pressure on council for a pan Stoughton Traffic survey and plan.

4. Planning

We have worked with other North Guildford action groups to object to the strategy adopted by GBC to allow development to continue, whilst attempting to protect the endangered species on Whitmoor common. We are a leading member of the North Guildford Alliance.

The strategy is to object to planning of further residential developments, by forcing all such applications to go through the council committee. This will draw attention to the flawed strategy of GBC in terms of protecting environmentally sensitive areas such as Whitmoor Common from excessive public use. We fear that allowing more development without local compensatory open space will lead to a restriction of access for us all, to pleasant and valuable parts of our environment.

No new planning applications have gone through that increase the number of dwellings in Stoughton since this time last year.

Our objectives for the coming year:

1. Continue to raise awareness of over-development in North Guildford
2. Continue to slow the process of planning applications that may lead to restriction of access to Whitmoor Common
3. Continue to object to inappropriate overdevelopment.

5. Community Centre

Yet again this drags on. Although a planning application was approved on April 4th, the Community Centre is no further forward as serious problems have emerged preventing building of the centre as proposed in the plans that were passed. A lot of time and a huge amount of effort has been wasted and two years of progress. There is very little we can do until we determine what sort of building can be built.

So I am afraid there is little to report apart from the fact that we have applied for charity status as would like to be considered as a suitable group to run the centre once built.

We have also agreed with QEPRAs that we will work to remove the onus of maintenance from the residents.

So In spite of a lot of hard work, little progress has been made.

Our Objectives for the coming year:

1. Gain charity status
2. Continue to engage with the council to find a way out of this mess.

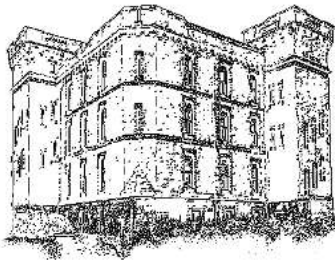
6. Anti-Social Behaviour

Members of SCA are working with Queen Elizabeth Park Residents Association (QEPRAs) on this subject, tackling all forms of anti-social behaviour in Stoughton.

7. Other Initiatives

At the moment we are trialling a help the elderly initiative where members of SCA visit or arrange visits from the elderly to their homes.

I will be honest that I am loathe to spread ourselves too thinly – we can take on too much. The answer is to get more volunteers to enable us to spread our activities further. So I ask you to step forward and see a member of the committee after the AGM and offer your help!!!



Stoughton Community Association

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 web-site: www.stoughtonca.org
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Thank you for attending the Stoughton Community Association AGM. We are always looking for ways to improve the work of your association, so please take a few minutes to give us some feedback. Please complete this questionnaire and leave it with one of the committee or leave it in the box by the door.

Association activities

The committee has worked on the following areas in the last year, did we get it right?

	It was a good thing to do	Not sure	Not right for SCA
Traffic study for Stoughton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Setting up a charity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning for the Community Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring planning applications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other activities

What other things should we be doing?

	Yes	Not sure	No
Social events?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you attend social events if they were arranged?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Others? Please let us have your ideas:

I would like to help Please keep me informed

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Details will be kept strictly confidential and only for contact about SCA activities etc.

Questionnaire Results

19 questionnaires were returned at the AGM, 3 were returned separately, total 22 responses.

Association activities				
The committee has worked on the following areas in the last year, did we get it right?	It was a good thing to do	Not sure	Not right for SCA	Not answered
Traffic study for Stoughton	91%	9%	0%	0%
Setting up a charity	45%	36%	18%	0%
Planning for the Community Centre	64%	18%	18%	0%
Community safety	91%	9%	0%	0%
Monitoring planning applications	100%	0%	0%	0%
Other activities				
What other things should we be doing?	Yes	Not sure	No	Not answered
Social events?	36%	27%	0%	36%
Would you attend social events if they were arranged?	36%	27%	0%	36%

Stoughton Community Association

Balance Sheet

	<u>Note</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
		30th June 2006	30th June 2005
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at Bank:			
Nat West Current Plus		787	608
Nat West Bonus Saver		-	347
Nat West Curr acct SCCP		<u>1,128</u>	<u>1,749</u>
Total Current Assets:		<u>1,915</u>	<u>2,704</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accruals		<u>379</u>	<u>785</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>379</u>	<u>785</u>
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		1,536	1,919
TOTAL NET ASSETS:		<u>£ 1,536</u>	<u>£ 1,919</u>
ACCUMULATED RESERVES			
General fund: Surplus/(deficit) for year	1	(383)	204
General Fund: Brought Forward	1	919	715
Restricted Funds	2	1,000	1,000
TOTAL RESERVES		<u>£ 1,536</u>	<u>£ 1,919</u>

Approved by the committee on 1st March, 2007 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
P. Kassell - Chairman

.....
M.D. Kimber - Treasurer

Note:

1. General Funds are designated:

Stoughton Community Association	(91)	161
Stoughton Community Centre Project	627	758

2. Restricted Funds:

Exhibition space S C C P	1,000	1,000
	<u>£ 1,536</u>	<u>£ 1,919</u>

Stoughton Community Association

Statement of Financial Activities

	Year end 30th June 2006	Year end 30th June 2005
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds:		
Voluntary income	62	59
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities:		
Grants	-	1,000
Investment income:		
Bank Interest Receivable	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
Total Incoming Funds	<u>67</u>	<u>1,065</u>
 Resources Expended:		
Charitable Activities:		
Room Hire	134	273
Printing and Stationery	-	528
Telephone & internet	29	-
Post and Packing	-	-
Bank Charges	5	26
Newsletter	-	13
Subscriptions	20	20
Legal Fees	262	-
Architects fees	-	-
Total Resources Expended	<u>450</u>	<u>860</u>
 Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources for the year	 <u>£(383)</u>	 <u>£205</u>