

Mytchett, Frimley Green & Deepcut Society

MINUTES of ANUAL MEETING MEETING 25 April 2014

1. WELCOME

President Sue Cartwright welcomed the Guest Speaker, Local Officers and approx. 45 members and visitors.

2. SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION

David Wilson, Trustee of Farnborough Air Sciences Trust Museum (FAST) gave a very entertaining presentation entitled "Early Flying at Farnborough". The talk centred on Samuel Cody, a Mytchett resident, who made the first heavier-than-air sustained and controlled flight in England from Farnborough in 1908.

The museum is open to the public at weekends & bank holiday Mondays, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Entrance is free, but donations are always welcome.

David also indicated that they are in need of volunteers to work at the museum.

3. TEA & COFFEE BREAK

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As Kevin Daley is ill and unable to attend this evening's meeting, Sue introduced Society member Duncan Clark to give the chairman's report. She also used this moment to once again ask for volunteers to join the committee. Some of the issues the society has worked on, on behalf of the community, were:

4.1 A Parish Council?

At the last public meeting, the topic of whether our three villages would benefit from being a Parish Council was raised by Cllr. Chris Pitt

In response to this, the Society agreed to investigate how a Parish Council could be created and our chairman contacted the Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils. In February your committee and local councillors hosted a meeting with Trevor Leggo, the Chief Executive, who explained how a Parish Council could be created and what it could then achieve.

Your Society has offered to host a public meeting in the summer on the topic but requires the support of our councillors to help publicise this and then to drive this initiative forward.

The society needs to remain neutral on the topic but will act as a facilitator so that residents can better understand the positive and negative implications of becoming a Parish Council. If residents then want to take this forward as a campaign group, the Society would then help as much as possible.

4.2 Meeting with Nikkie Enticknap, Community Partnership Officer for Surrey County Council:

Your committee met Nikkie in February to receive an update on current local government initiatives affecting our area and gave feedback on various local matters. In particular we focussed on the future of local services such as the youth centre, library and the poor state of local roads following the adverse weather.

4.3 Mytchett Community Centre Garden Project:

A great deal of work has been undertaken by chairman Kevin Daley and committee member Sarah Kingsley. Funding applications have been submitted and approved in principle, designs and quotes for work received. Sarah mentioned that more funding was still needed and Paul Deach indicated that there might be support from SHBC.

4.4 Planning and Licensing Issues:

Your committee held a training event to equip new members with the skills on how to comment on planning applications

Your committee has also been contacted by residents over a range of issues including how to tackle an environmental health concern with a neighbouring property and a local Premises License in Mytchett. In all cases we have provided advice and directed people to the relevant authority and local elected members.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT from CAROL DREW

"You should all have got a copy of the accounts, which I hope are self-explanatory. The column on the left shows the breakdown for 2012/13 and the one of the right 2013/14.

The most important thing to be said is that we desperately need more funds. We seem to be running at a loss of about £150 - £200 a year, as you will see from the current balance of £494.17 which is £160.70 down on the previous year.

Our ONLY major source of income is subscriptions from residents at £3 per household a year. I cannot stress how important it is for people to pay by standing order, which ensures that the subscription is paid automatically each year. Otherwise the only way payment is made is by a committee member knocking on doors, and we really do not have the time to do this.

We do try to spread the word about the Society's existence, by having stands at events such as the Frimley Green Carnival. We usually manage to sign up new members, but unless they also complete a standing order form, their subs are lost the following year.

We have produced a publicity leaflet this year, a supply of which is on the back table. Please take one on your way out and give it to a friend or neighbour who is not yet a member! If every household in the three villages joined and paid their subs, we would have sufficient funds to make a real difference in the local area.”

There followed some discussion about membership dues and whether £5 would be acceptable. Paul Deach rightly pointed out that the amount was not the problem, the actual number of members was the issue. Rod Carrol said that although there were over 500 names on the membership database, less than 200 were actually active (paid up).

6. ELECTION of COMMITTEE

Sue gave special thanks to Daphne Knowles who had served the Society and the villages for many years but had recently decided to resign from the committee. Sue also mentioned that member Chris Main would be taking over the responsibility of being the Society's liaison with Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee (FACC). At the request of an audience member, the committee stood up and introduced themselves. Sue then asked for all the committee to be re-elected and this was agreed.

7. POLICE REPORT FROM JON CASTELL, SURREY HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD SERGEANT.

7.1 Jon said that the crime rate was 'stable. But he said that PCSO staffing was low, down from 12 to 7, and soon to be 6: Barbara Ball is moving on, and Laura Madgwick-Smith would be taking on her responsibilities. Recruitment would be taking place in October but this loss of manpower did mean that the force was stretched and would only be dealing with 'essential' issues.

7.2 Jon was asked about 'specials' (volunteers) – he said that there were 12, but they only worked weekends.

7.3 Jon reminded us of the numbers we should call if there is a problem:

999 if the the problem is imminent or active – an 'emergency'

101 everything else – you can also report online via their website: <http://www.surrey.police.uk/contact-us>

7.4 Jon mentioned the various town centres and the various police forces co-operating to ensure 4 police persons in attendance – this has now been cut to 2 due to secondment to other duties (new problems caused by recent flooding).

7.5 Jon was asked about who would deal with a complaint concerning reckless driving. He said that under normal circumstances it would be the PCSOs, but due to the afore-mentioned shortage, they would only get involved with 'serious issues'. The police themselves would only be interested if and when accidents started to happen. The best bet might be the Highway Authority of Surrey County Council.

8. QUESTION TIME WITH LOCAL OFFICER, Paul Deach

8.1 Why was the polling station venue changed? Paul said that it was a decision made by the Electoral Commission, not any council. It was thought there would be less disruption. Another comment was that there were no instructions on the location of the new place. Paul said to contact him.

8.2 Paul brought up the subject of becoming a Parish Council. He said that the most important thing was for residents to decide WHY they wanted a Parish Council. Typically it is because the local councils were not providing the right or enough services to the community and in his opinion, this was not the case in these locations. Howard said that in his experience, Parish Councils had more influence (than say this society or other local groups) in discussing planning issues; areas controlled by Parish Councils tended to be more environmentally friendly and in general 'looked better'.

Someone from the floor asked what the cost might be. Rod said that he thought it might be around £2 per month per household BUT it did depend on many factors including the actual size (number of houses) of the council area. Rod said that a recent e-mail poll of society members indicated 12% were interested in learning more about Parish Councils. Pro-rated to the 3 villages implied the need for a conference room to hold 700 people! Someone from the floor mentioned about approaching Bob Potter for either a donation, or use of his large premises or both.

8.3 Someone from the floor asked about the TESCO application along Mytchett Road. He was told although the application had been refused, TESCO appealed that the appeal had been upheld.

8.4 There was some discussion about the timing of these Society half-yearly meetings, Paul felt that Friday was a bad day for many members and councillors, and that the order of events should be changed to accommodate the councillors. Rod said that he had recently polled members and councillors about changing the day but that although everyone agreed that Friday was problematical, no other day was less of a problem! Sue mentioned that Friday would be the best day to have a chance of getting the local MP to attend.

9. RAFFLE and MEETING CLOSE.

Local Officers Present

Councillor Paul Deach Surrey Heath B.C. Mytchett/Deepcut

Local Officers NOT Present

Councillor Alan Whittart Surrey Heath B.C. Frimley Green (apologies sent)

Councillor David Allen Surrey Heath B.C. Frimley Green

Councillor Joanne Potter Surrey Heath B.C. Mytchett/Deepcut

Councillor Craig Fennell Surrey Heath B.C. Mytchett/Deepcut

Councillor Chris Pitt Surrey C.C. Frimley Green & Mytchett & Surrey Heath B.C. Frimley Green

MFGD Committee Members Present

Sue Cartwright (President) Carol Drew (Treasurer)

Chris Main Howard Hyde

Rod Carroll (Website Administrator)

Sarah Kingsley (Publicity Officer)

Duncan Clark Jacques Olmo

David Brown (Minutes Secretary)