

Mytchett, Frimley Green & Deepcut Society

MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20th April 2018

1. WELCOME

President Sue Cartwright welcomed the Guest Speaker, Local Officials and about 90 members and visitors. Sue asked for the previous minutes to be accepted. Sue nominated acceptance and Rod Carroll seconded.

2. SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION

The Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs gave a talk on the "Hot topics of the day".

Michael first asked if people in the audience remembered the author Richard Scarry, some did. Richard Scarry wrote books for children using animals to demonstrate various professions, like doctors, bankers, firemen, police etc but not one for politicians. To demonstrate what it was to be a politician Michael said he would run through what he had done over the last week:

At the start of the week Michael had a meeting of his department to prepare for the Commonwealth meeting. He planned to put the health of the Oceans, that is pollution and conservation in the forefront of the discussions of the Commonwealth leaders later in the week.

Later in the week Michael attended an event on HMS Belfast where the main speaker was Lewis Pugh, the world record long distance swimmer and environmentalist who highlighted plastic pollution and ocean warming. Lewis pointed out that when he swam in part of the Arctic Ocean early in the 2000s the temperature was around 2° Celsius and when he did the same swim recently the temperature was 10° Celsius.

On Thursday, Theresa May announced that the government planned to ban plastic straws and plastic cotton buds, this was then echoed by the countries in the Commonwealth Alliance. Michael was one of the representatives for the UK at the meeting of all the Commonwealth leaders.

Today he had acted as a constituency MP, attending local meetings at Chobham and Ash where he discussed problems such as anti-social behaviour.

Michael said that he saw 2 forces at work in Society, disconnection and common purpose. He saw a politician's job as wrestling with these 2 forces.

Michael then took questions:

David Rushmer said that there were 130 different environmental schemes and what % plastic straws and cotton buds made up of plastic pollution. Michael said that they plan to reform the whole of the plastic recycling schemes.

David Parsons asked about speed of EU negotiation and hard border with Ireland. EU will take its time as the consensus parts with the other 27 members have been agreed but now each state will have differing demands, so the process will slow.

Lynn Parsons asked about the fence put up by the army on their land which comes right down to the canal and so restricts walking. Michael was not aware of this but said he would investigate the situation.

A gentleman in the front row said he was disappointed that Michael now appeared to believe in man made climate change. Michael replied even if you did not believe, it was a good idea to reduce pollution and carbon emissions. He also said that the overwhelming consensus of climate scientists is that it is real. The gentleman disagreed.

Chris Pitt asked about £600,000 being spent on helping with air pollution on the Blackwater Valley road. He seemed to think that the scope should be expanded to the whole area.

Sarah Kingsley asked about the energy generation mix, said it would be better if more people could work from home. Michael said that better broadband and 4G was required. Michael also said that economic growth in the North should be encouraged to reduce the amount of people relocating to the southeast for work.

Angela O'Connell thanked Michael for helping with the proposed traffic lights in Frimley Green. She then said that the charging at recycling centres of building rubble, waste was leading to more fly-tipping. This was due to SCC trying to save money. As

far as recycling centres and fly-tipping are concerned Michael said that one way might be to ask industry to contribute to the cost. Michael also said that he thought that the council tax model needs to be reformed, things like adult social care currently under local councils need to be looked at.

Someone asked about the Esso pipeline and said that it could affect Frimley Green and would it be possible to have a branch off it to service Farnborough airport so reduce the tanker traffic. Sue asked why they needed a new pipeline at all, the answer being the old one is wearing out and does not have enough capacity for the future. Michael said that he doesn't yet have a position on the route options but will be looking into it and will get back to us later

Someone mentioned that China and America are the largest polluters. Michael seemed optimistic that China is now making an effort to reduce carbon emissions and pollution and parts of America like California are doing the same.

3. TEA & COFFEE BREAK

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT & SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue asked for volunteers to join the committee, explained it only required 2 hours a month attendance at committee meeting, plus 2 general meetings. 2 people volunteered:

Anji Patterson
Susan Burton

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Sue asked the committee members to stand up (11 present out of 12). Sue then asked for all the committee to be re-elected and this was agreed by the meeting attendees.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT from CAROL DREW

Carol said she hoped the accounts were self-explanatory but should probably mention a couple of things.

The Society has two accounts – the current account with a balance of £1085.24, and a Community Savings account with a balance of £4004.57. The Community account is holding donated funds for projects. We have been holding £3000 from Frimley Fuel Allotments for a couple of years now. This was originally donated towards the garden scheme at Mytchett Community Centre. This scheme never happened, for various reasons, but the Fuel Allotments are happy for it to be used for refurbishment at the Centre instead. Talks are ongoing with the Centre.

The Society recently received two amounts of £500 – from the Frimley Green Carnival Committee and the Surrey Heath Show. These donations are to be used for the Greening the Green Project on Frimley Green. Graham O'Connell is project-managing this, with his wife Angela, and he has recently joined the committee. Since the financial year ended the Society has also received £800 to the account, also for the Frimley Green project, from a grant from Surrey County Council. This doesn't show in the accounts, of course.

So, although the accounts look healthy because of these donated funds, available funds are actually down on last year by about £70. It is worth noting that subscriptions from members are down by £82 which is a worrying fact. If people don't pay by Standing Order, and don't attend our meetings, then their subscriptions will cease. The committee members no longer have the time to knock on doors to collect money. Our only source of income is members' subscriptions, and profits from the raffle and refreshments at public meetings. If members don't pay by standing order, Carol urged them to do so, and pick up a form at the door when they leave.

If anyone had questions, Carol said she would try to answer them! Nobody had any questions.

7. QUESTION TIME WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS: Cllr Paul Deach, Cllr Oliver Lewis & Graham O'Connell (MFG&D Society)

Before starting the question time, Sue said that the police had indicated they would attend future meetings if given enough warning.

Graham O'Connell gave a quick rundown on the status of the proposed Frimley Green traffic lights. The new traffic survey has been completed but the modelling of the future traffic flows using the new data is not yet complete. There will be a meeting to discuss all of this in May.

Paul Deach was asked about lorries for the Mindenhurst development not using the agreed routes and coming through Frimley Green. Paul said because of all the new contractors it was quite possible some were not familiar with the agreed routes yet. Paul is in contact with the site manager on a regular basis so if anybody does see lorries from the site not on agreed routes then they should contact him. Someone said that the lorries that people had seen in Frimley Green might be from another site where tree cutting and thinning is taking place.

David Parsons said that whole sections of trees were being destroyed rather than thinned in the army land off the Old Guildford road. Paul said it was for ecological reasons, that these trees were not native to the area and a lot of the area is being returned to its former heathland.

Gisela Duckworth asked about a medical centre for the Mindenhurst development. Paul said that Surrey Heath Clinical Commissioning Group said that there was enough capacity in the Bartlett Group Practice to handle all the new development.

David Parsons asked when Craig Fennell last attended a Society meeting. Paul said Craig would attend more if meetings were any other weekday than a Friday, adding that he thought that applied to most of the current councillors, mentioning that he himself has only missed 1 in the last few years.

Someone asked about the toilets in the rec, they never seem to be open. Oliver Lewis said he would investigate it.

Sue asked why had SHBC bought the shopping centre in Camberley, said the council had borrowed a large amount and shopping centres were becoming redundant as increasingly people were buying on line. Both Paul and Oliver said they voted for it because it made commercial sense to them, shopping centres still had life in them, allowed SHBC to redevelop parts of Camberley centre and they were able to access cheap money backed by the central government. Sarah Kingsley then said that the redevelopment was going to destroy some historic buildings, Paul was a bit dubious about how historical they were though someone else said that some course he had been on had mentioned these historical buildings.

Graham O'Connell was asked about the "Greening" of the Green. Graham gave a run through of what was being done and the amount of money that has been raised (see Treasurer's report). Sue gave a vote of thanks to Graham and Angela for all their work on the project.

8. RAFFLE

£67 was collected for the raffle.

£114 was collected for subs, £9 for visitors, £22.50 for refreshments.

9. MEETING CLOSE

Local Officers Present

Councillor Paul Deach	Surrey C.C. Frimley Green, Mytchett/Deepcut & Surrey Heath B.C. Mytchett/Deepcut
Councillor Oliver Lewis	Surrey Heath B.C. Frimley Green
Councillor Chris Pitt	Surrey Heath B.C. Frimley Green

Local Officers NOT Present

Councillor Joanne Potter	Surrey Heath B.C. Mytchett/Deepcut
Councillor Craig Fennell	Surrey Heath B.C. Mytchett/Deepcut
Councillor Max Nelson	Surrey Heath B.C. Frimley Green

MFG&D Committee Members Present

Sue Cartwright (President)	Carol Drew (Treasurer)	Sarah Kingsley (Publicity Officer)
Rod Carroll (Website Administrator)	Juliana Brimicombe	Maharukh Daley
Howard Hyde	Chris Main	Graham O'Connell
Jacques Olmo	Jan Thompson	