



Langton Green
Village Society

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 20 April 2021**

Venue:

Zoom meeting (in view of Covid restrictions)

Present:

David Whittaker (Chair)
James Bowdidge (Deputy Chair)
David Brimlow (Treasurer)
Josie Gamble (Fete Committee Chair)
Helen Fuller (Membership Secretary)
Emma Howden
Mike (Harry) Harrison
Jeremy Stirling
Lyn Dollimore
Lynn Trainor (Vicar of All Saints)
Mark Gamble
Neil Barrington-Johnson (Chairman of Parish Council)
Nicci Levy (Social Media)
Nick Trainor
Pam Morris
Lawrence Dollimore (Secretary)

Apologies:

Ed Langridge

Other Zoom participants

Julian Stanyer, John Preston, Stephen Clark, John Turner, Lesley Adshead, James Bracewell, Linda/Chris Mortley, Lisa Ringer, Warwick Morris, Stuart Smith, Mike Tyrer, Iain/Liz Coombes, Wyndham/Lesley Westaway

PROGRESS DURING 2020

The Chair (David Whittaker) welcomed everyone to the unusual form of the AGM and introduced himself – a resident for 3 years, wife Felicity, and 2 children at the local school. The Zoom format meant there were none of the usual presentations from local parties on subjects of interest to the village (which in the past included Gatwick overflights, the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), Neighbourhood Watch and the Kent Air Ambulance).

David then gave his PowerPoint presentation (Annex 1) of which the highlights were:

- The **updated mission** of the LGVS, namely: “championing the interests of the village and its residents”
- The **views and wishes** of the residents (2020 survey). Road safety continues to be a major concern and hence is receiving enhanced attention. Bringing the village together more has had some successes but Covid has made it difficult.

- **The Langton Greenleaf Campaign** – this was a proposal of Ed Langridge during his tenure as Chairman of LGVS. James Bowdidge has been able to use his farming skills and contacts to get started with the implementation. James explained that he had established partnerships with the Woodland Trust and Friends of the Earth, and 550 saplings have already been planted and are now bursting into leaf. Later in the year another initiative using funding (£4,000) from the Rausing charity, Sussex Lund, aims to make a wild cherry tree available to all households in LG, and also to plant them around the recreation ground and Village Green, and in the Boundary. It should be a beautiful sight during blossom time. Children from the school will be involved.
- **Special community-building initiatives**, included the recent Easter Bonnets and Beanies events (led by Lynn, Nicci, Josie and Emma), the “Lighting up Langton” Xmas success (Pam’s idea), the Xmas tree (the Gamble family), the charity shoebox collection (Lynn Trainor), the litter-picks (Pam Morris), and the bulb planting and the new all-year-round hanging basket arrangement (both Lyn Dollimore).
- A **major donation** (£6,000) had been made to the school towards the building of a new wood-cladded classroom
- There has been a big push in **Speedwatch** activity (led by Stuart Smith and Neil), both to reduce speeding and to collect data towards justifying new road safety initiatives.

David said “the LGVS can’t fix everything, but we will certainly do our best”.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Treasurer (David Brimlow) presented the accounts for 2020 (see Annex 2), with the following comments:

- The main fund raiser is always the village Fete, but not in 2020 (due to Covid)
- The household membership costs £5, which generated almost £1,600 in 2020.
- The LGVS is still financially well-positioned, with current reserves of around £20,000 (excluding any known or anticipated commitments for 2021)

2021 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The list of current Committee members is given in Annex 1.

During 2020, David Meynell stood down, and Ed Langridge (Honorary President), Pam Morris and Neil Barrington-Johnson will stand down following today’s AGM. The Chair expressed his thanks to them for all that they have done for the LGVS. Two new Committee members will now be sought to fulfil the key roles of Neil (the representative of SPC) and Pam. Lyn Dollimore will take over Pam’s role of bursaries for younger members of the Community.

The current Committee members agreed to continue and were duly re-elected.

REVISED CONSTITUTION (see Annex 3)

The Chair explained the proposed changes (see Annex 1) and there were no objections and so the changes were ratified.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

The Chair invited questions from the “audience”.

Warwick Morris

There should be a bigger drive to deal with the village litter problem, which appears to have worsened during the Covid period, and more young people should become involved.

Harry Harrison said this had been recognised and the plan was to get more strategically located bins and to provide more litter-picking equipment. There has been a lovely community response to the problem, via a Facebook “litter page”, and this will be helped by the additional bins and equipment.

The plastic tubes being used to protect the new Woodland Trust saplings are of environmental concern. Those from after the 1987 hurricane can still be found in places.

*James Bowdidge said the plastic tubes were from the **Woodland Trust** but the issue was already recognised and future tubes would be biodegradable. Existing plastic tubes would eventually be collected and safely disposed of.*

Iain Coombes

Can the LGVS Committee meeting Minutes be made accessible to all?

David Whittaker said there were issues of confidentiality that still needed to be resolved.

Lisa Ringer

Will there be a Fete in 2021?

Josie (Fete Chair) said “not as such” but the hope is to have an Autumn Festival tailored for those in the village (so limited promotion). The new owner of The Green is supportive. The final go/no-go decision will await Covid developments

Could something be done to extend the use of 20mph limits in the village (there is a consultation on this for Rusthall roads). Furthermore, could LGVS do something to get zebra-crossings (or similar) at 4 strategic points on the A264, and 2 on the Speldhurst Road. This wish was re-enforced by Mike Tyrer, who related how dangerous Farnham Lane has become. It was noted that even with 20mph limits, this speed was often exceeded by motorists.

*Neil explained the hoops that need to be gone through to get such changes introduced. The rules and regulations of Kent Highways have to be complied with fully. There have been past attempts (unsuccessful) to get such crossings on the A264. **Evidence of the need is required (data)** before such changes can be requested and this is a main reason for the increased focus on Speedwatch.*

*Stuart Smith said the recent Speedwatch promotional drive had resulted in around 20 volunteers. Each volunteer has to be trained and then tested. We currently have 10 to 12 fully trained and tested people. **MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.** A constraint*

*to the Speedwatch programme is that **all monitoring locations have to be approved**, and such locations on the A264 are few and far between.*

Neil summarised by saying that although past attempts to get road crossings had not been successful, he believes it is worth pursuing again, particularly with further Speedwatch data.

James Bowdidge

The Rude Mechanical Theatre will be running their annual theatrical production (Little Lily Harley) on the recreation ground at 7.30 on the 16th June and that **volunteers are urgently needed**. Please contact James at james@thepeasantfarmers.co.uk

The Chair thanked all participants, and the AGM was closed at 19.50.