



**Langton Green Village Society
Annual General Meeting
Monday 11 September 2023
held at 8pm**

Venue:

Langton Green Pavilion

LGVS Committee Members present:

James Bowdidge (Chair)
Dave Whittaker (Treasurer)
Nicci Levy (Secretary / minute-taker)
Jeremy Stirling
Lyn Dollimore
Lawrence Dollimore
Nick Trainor
Rebecca Leach
Emma Howden

LGVS Committee Member apologies:

Helen Fuller (Membership Secretary)
Harry Harrison
Emma Stevens
Mark Gamble

Non-committee LGVS Members present:

Stuart Smith, Iain Combe and Lizzie Laury, Sue Humphries, Ed Langridge, Nola and Dave Marshall. Councillor Paul Curry also attended.

It was noted there were few members in attendance and that the meeting was not quorate.

Introduction and Update from the Chair

The Chair welcomed the members that attended and confirmed the previous AGM minutes were agreed. He described a busy year including the festival that involved a huge amount of organisation and a significant number of volunteers from the village.

The Chair acknowledged the loss of Josie Gamble, who had championed volunteering in the village. He mentioned the drinking water fountain that we are funding in memory of Josie.

It was explained by the Chair that our charity application was turned down and that he and Mark Gamble will be revisiting the application to determine whether to reapply.

He led a general discussion about how we engage with and encourage people from the village to join the committee and the society. He explained that we need more people to join our 'sub-groups' that focus on specific initiatives in the village.

The Chair acknowledged the successful events organised this year including the festival, our quiz night and litter pick.

It was acknowledged that our social media presence has gone from strength to strength and our association with Langon Life has strengthened now that we have a committee member regularly submitting content for the publication.

It was noted that we have formed a closer working relationship with SPC with Rebecca Leach joining the committee and Paul Curry in attending the AGM.

The Chair explained that the bursaries have not been utilised over the last couple of years so we have extended the remit to charitable events organised by young people in the village.

Village beautification has included planting more bulbs, buying and maintaining hanging baskets, upkeep of the cherry blossom trees. Lawrence Dollimore noted images taken by the drone over the village can be purchased on request. Ed Langridge asked if there is anything that can be done about mis-use of the litter bins in the village and Paul Curry said that he would identify the person at TWBC to liaise with.

Other updates

- Dave Whittaker reported the accounts have been audited and there was £21000 at the year end. The very successful 2022 fete left a balance of £30000. We sold our marquees which brought money in. Dave made the point that without the success of the fete we are not generating enough income and our funds will gradually deplete. Discussion was had about relooking at the income from membership subscriptions which continue to be £5 per annum per household. We discussed asking residents for donations and explaining that we need to increase our income. Ed Langridge suggested knocking on doors as did Jeremy Stirling, noting this was done as a matter of course historically and it was a successful way of introducing residents to the Village Society and signing up members. Iain Coombes made the point that we need to be clear about where the money goes if people are asked to donate more. Rebecca Leach suggested using a QR code on page 5 of Langton Life to make signing up and donating an easier experience.
- Dave Whittaker updated on the slow progress of road safety applications and thanks Speedwatch for continuing to try to make our roads safer. Dave has been proposing speed restrictions along the Langton Road and for a crossing along the Langton Road to enable safer as with the number of cars and the speed at which cars travel, crossing from one side of Langton Green to the other is not safe.
- Charity application – Rebecca Leach recommended KW who made the Thrive Langton application might be able to assist.
- Jeremy Stirling presented the facts as they stand regarding Gatwick progressing with their plans to use their emergency runway as a second runway. He noted that LGVS has been supporting the organisations opposing the expansion by Gatwick's foreign investor owners since 2009 and he emphasised the negative impact it will have on our environment in Langton Green. Jeremy has put a draft letter on the village website for those wishing to lodge their objections.

- Future events this autumn include our Quiz Night on Saturday 11 November and at the first weekend in December we will put up the Christmas tree and arrange carol singing.

Constitution Matters

The Chair proposed an on-block re-election and this was seconded by Iain Coombes and Ed Langridge with no objections raised. It was agreed that Stuart Smith will continue to be the 'appointed representative' on the Village Hall Committee.

The Chair proposed agreement with the end of year accounts.

Jeremy Stirling thanks James Bowdidge for chairing.

Any other business:

There was no other business identified and the meeting concluded with a thank you from the Chair.

Nicci Levy
Minute Taker