

LECKHAMPTON GREEN LAND ACTON GROUP LTD – LEGLAG

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT LECKHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.45 PM ON THURSDAY, 29TH OCTOBER, 2015.

In attendance: Members of the Leglag Committee: Ian Bickerton (Chairman)
Kit Brauhnoltz; Anne Davis; Anne McIntosh; Margaret White (Secretary)
Apologies: Elizabeth Pimley; Malcolm Sloan (Treasurer)

These Minutes should be read in conjunction with our News Letter No. 40 – of October, 2015, announcing this AGM, as they continue on with news given there. A copy from the Secretary, is available, if required.

The Chairman (IB) opened the meeting by welcoming some 120 plus Members, including Alex Chalk, (MP), Martin Horwood, Chris Nelson, Andrew Chard and several members of the Parish Council, all anxiously listening to the discussions and asking questions.

Minutes of AGM – October, 2014.

Agreement to the Minutes was proposed by David Walter, and seconded by Brian Regan and agreed by the rest of the members.

Matters arising

At the 2014 AGM, it was proposed that Leglag should seek Charitable status. This was researched with help from one or two members and our Treasurer, and it was found that the setting up of the charitable trust, and all the very small subscriptions received, would be most difficult and time consuming to put into practice. Additionally, it might have been necessary to employ the services of someone to set up the trust, and the net improvement in our income would have been negligible. Therefore, for the time being at least, the committee decided against the proposal.

Treasurer's Report for end of Year 2014.

As reported earlier, our previous Treasurer Mr. Dave Pitts has resigned. A vote of thanks was passed for his very efficient services over the past 2-3 years, and we were pleased to advise that Dr. Malcolm Sloane has kindly agreed to take over the task. The necessary paperwork will be completed shortly.

Ian Bickerton talked through the various expenses during the year, and indicated also the expenses already incurred 2014 – 2015, possibly coming to approximately £10,000 plus, leaving us with quite a small amount in the bank at present.

Acceptance of the year end accounts to 2014 was proposed by Grant McIntosh, and seconded by Steve Kelly, with full agreement from the rest of the membership.

Donations instead of Subscriptions

MW explained that we have virtually not changed our subscription charges since Leglag was set up some 20 plus years ago.

When MW took over we had some 500 members, we now have 1200 plus members and sending out renewal notices to so many people and then collecting them and notating on the website and acknowledging receipt was incredibly time consuming and possibly unnecessary. MW asked for the agreement of the membership that we cease to ask for subscriptions but ask the membership for donations as the need arises. This was discussed fully. We would still ask people to sign on as members, but request no subscriptions.

Martin Horwood, with much experience in these matters, was fully in agreement with the proposal, saying more money came in by donations and by a show of hands this was agreed by the assembled membership.

MW will now ensure that all members are informed.

It was also requested that members advise us if they change their email address or indeed obtain an email address for the first time, as this is the most easy and efficient way to communicate, and we do want always to keep our members informed. MW did suggest also that if some people do not have an email address themselves, perhaps a relative or close friend would be happy to take email messages for them and pass on..

Main Events during 2015

SD2/Whitecross – Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Our Chairman, IB reiterated some of the news from the latest Newsletter, but added the news that the National Case Unit dealing with the “Call in” (Inquiry) of the SD2 application, requested by our MPs, Alex Chalk and Laurence Robertson, was still under consideration. Borough Councillor, Chris Nelson, said this was not an easy way forward as few applications are “called in”. The latest news from the Case Unit, was that they had not put a “Hold” on the application, because it was thought that Tewkesbury Borough Council would not be able to proceed to allowing the application for some weeks yet.

Should the “Call in” not be allowed Leglag has paid for our Barrister, Dr. Ashley Bowes, to consider a “Judicial Review”. This is another legal procedure, and a report just received from Dr. Bowes, indicated that there could be at least four justifications to ask for a Judicial Review. However, careful consideration and further discussions are needed with Dr. Bowes, together with information on possible costs involved are required, before we let people know the possibilities. One line of thinking was to ask one Leglag member to head the Judicial Review, (and was there a member prepared to do this?) the capped costs are then kept in the region of £5,000, but costs would be spread across the

Leckhampton group. When we say “capped at £5,000”, this is exclusive of Barrister’s r Planning Consultant fees. We need more information.

The meeting was asked if they were in favour of a Judicial Review,(if it were needed and we were reasonably happy with what the outcome might be,) and would they be ready to help with the donations. There was unanimous support from the members.

Kit Brauhnoltz reminded the meeting of the action taken recently when several local people prevented the Developers from allowing a large part of one of the SD2/Whitecross hedges to be removed, ahead of planning permission being given. KB then went on to ask the meeting if they were happy for further passive resistance by members, should Redrow attempt to start work on the development, prior to official permission being granted. There was full support for this from the meeting.

Inquiry/Appeal on the Bovis Miller 650 Application.

IB explained that we still had until 3rd November to make representation to the Inspector, requested by him, to provide further evidence on items covered in the Appeal. Inspector Clark said he had until December to write his report and submit it to the Secretary of State.

At the Appeal, Mr. Cahill, QC for the Appellants, pushed an item onto the Agenda, this related to long comments quoted by the developers at the Examination in Public (EiP) on the Local Green Spaces and “extensive tracks of land”. Leglag and the Parish Council were given no opportunity to rebut the comments. Martin Horwood has now said he will write to the Inspector and reiterate statements he made at the EiP, strongly rebutting the Developers claims.

IB also explained that he was endeavouring to put 7 points to the Inspector, previously put before him, but which he asked to be confirmed, and which must be with the Inspector by 3rd November. These relate to traffic on the Shurdington Road, Landscape matters, including Lewis Carroll’s purported love of our Leckhampton Hill, LGS issues and defining the meaning of “severe” in traffic terms. The Leglag committee had all agreed these points, but due to there being no Parish Council meeting until 6th November, an email was sent to all Parish Councillors – one councillor was absent on holiday – one unable to communicate by email – and the rest emailed back their agreement to the specific points.

Examination in Public EiP, relating to the Joint Core Strategy.

As explained earlier, this continues to progress. Inspector Elizabeth Ord has requested extensive extra evidence from the three local Councils, some of which will not be ready until after Christmas, and the proceedings are now on hold until then. However, a vital

transport report is unlikely to be ready before April. We ask how can any development for hundreds of homes be agreed before full evidence is available? Transport is critical.

There was some suggestion that the Inspector might be asked for an interim report early in the new Year, but we have no firm knowledge of this.

Proposed 45 houses at Berry Nurseries – Consultation on 29th October by Pegasus.

A consultation took place on the same day as our AGM, at the Brizen Youth Centre. Comments were requested from the public by 12th November, 2015.

Great anger was expressed by the members that the area has been smashed down, hedges uprooted, trees felled and then set alight, causing the Fire Brigade to be called. A total disregard for the environment, before even the application has been filed. Wanton vandalism. In an email received by Chris Nelson from Chris Chavasse, Senior Tree Officer, the latter says, it is not within the Conservation area and as such they can fell without permission from CBC Tree Section.

Possible BMX Park at Burrows Field.

This matter was raised, the proposer, Iain Dobie, is a Leckhampton County Councillor and as it was not considered to be a Leglag responsibility, members were asked to gather together separately to discuss the matter further.

At 9.40 pm, IB brought the meeting to a close with grateful thanks to all who had attended the AGM and joined in the discussions.

Members will be kept updated.

Margaret White
Secretary – Leglag Ltd.
30.10.15.

