



13th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2021

The meeting was attended by Barbara Frame, Chairperson, Committee members Alison Brayshaw, Bill Collier, Trisha Pottinger and Treasurer Paula Grevett plus a dozen residents.

Barbara Frame welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the agenda.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Due to Covid 19 restrictions there were no opportunities to fund-raise and as a consequence funds for the year are very low. The Spring newsletter was published at a loss as advertising was also down. Fortunately, a grant from Bray Parish Council kept the Association afloat. We do have some money in the bank but this is largely earmarked for the restoration of the telephone box in Oakley Green Road. We hope that 2021 - 2022 will be better.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

OGAFCA holds three public meetings per year including the AGM
The committee meets every eight weeks or as required
Workgroups meet as required.

COMMUNICATIONS

BF thanked Rod Lord for all his work in developing the new website.
BF explained that the OGAFCA FB page was not working properly.
BF invited people to contribute to the OGAFCA Newsletters.

Gigaclear has arrived contact them directly for more information.

ROADS AND TRANSPORT

The committee has worked very hard to implement a 7.5 t weight limit in the area

Unfortunately, lorries are flouting this law but BF assures the public that we are doing all we can to stop this practice. We have carried out 3 lorry watches and have been able to establish a number of lorries that use this area as a rat run - not coming into the limited area for access. BF hoped that Trading Standards would follow up these incursions but was informed that they didn't have the manpower. The police simply don't want to know.

A resident suggested we could get the names from the lorries and contact them ourselves. BF said that on a number of occasions Rod Ball (R&T workgroup member) had already done this.

The Oakley Green Road has also been promised a speed limit reduction to 30 mph with a width limiter to slow traffic down but the RBWM Highways are failing to implement this. BF, with the aid of Bray Parish council is following up on this.

Footways are either non-existent or very narrow on the Oakley Green Road and Fifield Road and OGAFCA wants to see improvements.

Lastly, following yet another accident at the Fifield crossroads on Wednesday, (15th September) improvements at this junction are high on the wish list.

BF assured the public that OGAFCA are still working on all these issues.

ENVIRONMENT

BF thanked Rita and team from Fifield village for regular litter picking.

BF thanked the BPC for paying for the Christmas Tree and partially funding the hanging baskets.

BF asked Rod Lord to come forward and give his report for the flooding and drainage situation.

Flooding and drainage

We now have a situation where there is a quarterly TEAMS meeting with RBWM Flood Risk and Highways which is also attended by their contractors - Project Centre and Volker Highways. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday next week - September 30.

I reported in the last newsletter on the first of these meetings and there are also much more detailed reports on the Environment page of the web site so I won't plough through all of that again as I'm sure everyone here reads their newsletters !

Among several other items at that meeting we were pressing for gully and drainage route clearance in Fifield Road south of Stewart Close. A very short time later we had a serious downpour that caused problems for many people. On a personal level we had water coming up through our sitting room floor after 20 years since we had 5 inches of water in there in 2001.

We were lucky that the amount of water was trivial in comparison with 20 years ago, and certainly trivial compared to the experience of an unfortunate young lady living next door to the building site. The stretch of Fifield Road south of Stewart Close down to the ditch running east along the boundary of Garden Cottage was seriously flooded. Consequently, this unlucky young mother has been forced to leave her house and live in rented accommodation in Maidenhead which is costing more than the mortgage and more than the insurance company are prepared to pay for. There is a report on the Environment page covering this event also.

I was told of a comment by a local resident on the OTHER Community Group Facebook page which referred to "so called flooding in Fifield" ! If this does not qualify as real flooding then I would be interested to be informed as to what needs to happen to qualify as "proper flooding".

The gullies have now been done but we had a little bit of a "discussion" with Volker Highways about the fact that sucking out gullies on its own is not sufficient and that the proper functioning of drainage routes from gully to chamber also need to be verified.

In 2014 we managed to get Streetcare to install a pipe down the West side of this stretch of road with gullies leading into it. I have been unable so far to ascertain if this pipe and gullies have also been cleared but I will expect an answer to this at the meeting.

We have had an ongoing dialogue with Volker Highways about the situation at the Fifield Inn. We have been reporting for years that the piped section heading north under the car park entrance is too small. Volker have agreed and say that although this is not RBWM's responsibility they have jettied the pipe anyway as a goodwill favour to the Community. I have asked who would be responsible for digging up this section to increase the capacity and this has resulted in some confusion as it is not certain where the property boundaries actually are and what that means for individual responsibilities. Volker point out that if the capacity of the route were to be increased this would have adverse consequences for the onward route at the chamber under the footway at the corner of Garden Cottage and eastward through the new pipe that has been laid in the ditch as part of the building project there.

This brings us back again to investigating the possibility of up-stream water retention.

There are still many issues to deal with but our focus is now on trying to ascertain what RBWM's attitude is to formulating a proper overall plan to include holding back the flow of water in several places. We advocated this several years ago and Streetcare promised they were looking into it but all this time later we are still trying to get the principle accepted as a serious proposition. The official attitude that each landowner is responsible for maintaining their own little bit of water flow is never going to achieve any improvement so we keep raising it for discussion and hope to finally get some progress.

We shall see how we get next Thursday !

BF thanked Rod Lord for his tireless work and thorough report.

LOCAL PLANNING

OGAFCA rely heavily on OGFRA to keep abreast of planning around the area. Area AL21, behind the Cardinal Clinic is in consultation and BF encouraged people to spread the word and submit comments. The information can be found at <http://www.landwestofwindsor.co.uk/> and the closing date is 1st October.

SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS

Due to Covid 19 restrictions all planned events had to be cancelled but OGAFCA did hold a Scarecrow Festival on the August Bank Holiday which was a great success with 27 scarecrows throughout the area.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Alison Brayshaw was standing for re-election. She was unanimously returned to office.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN 2021

Organised an Easter Egg trail and quiz which was very well supported.

Organised our first Opens Gardens event in May along the Oakley Green Road with 9 beautiful gardens taking part. This was a very successful event and raised £500. The idea is to change area each year so we hope that the residents of Fifield will open their gardens next year unless the event is superseded by the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

The Fifield Fun Day was able to go ahead this year and a welcome break in the weather brought 1,050 people through the gate. PG said that the money raised for charities would be approx £6500 - £7000. Grenville Annetts asked what charities would benefit. The two main charities this year were The Berkshire Lowland Search and Rescue and Windsor Horse Rangers.

BF outlines further event for this year.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Scarecrow Festival | Weekend of 2nd and 3rd October |
| • Horse Racing Night | Friday 8 th October |
| • Christmas Fair | Saturday 6th November |
| • Remembrance Day | Sunday 14th November |
| • Horse Racing Night | Friday 26 th November |
| • Christmas Carols on the Green | Sunday 19 th December |

THE FUTURE

We will continue to organise social events to bring the community together and raise funds for the Association and local charities.

Our focus is still on improving road safety throughout our villages

We will continue to work with OGFRA to monitor local planning issues with particular emphasis on protecting the Green Belt

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Telephone Box - BF explained that due to BT not being very cooperative with regard to disconnecting the electric supply from the telephone box we haven't been able to move forward with this project. PG stated that we have the money needed to proceed.

Prince Philip Memorial - Head teacher at Braywood School, Susan Culvert, would like to commemorate Prince Philip and would like local residents to get involved. She will be holding a preliminary meeting shortly to gather ideas and suggestions and asks that you contact her directly at Braywood School or via OGAFCA.

There were no questions from the floor.

THANKS AND CLOSE

BF thanked Bray Parish Council for their support throughout the year. Thanks to all the newsletter Deliverers, Work Group Members, Fun Day Volunteers and the public who attended this evening.

BF introduced Monica Tandy from the Royal Collection Trust and her talk on the early years of Prince Philip.