

Eddington Residents' Association Annual General Meeting 2024 Minutes

> Location: Storey's Field Centre Date: 11 April 2024 Time: 18:00 – 19:10 Attended: Iain McMath, Graham Horton, James Strachan, John Atkins, Pieter Desnerck Around fifty residents.

Meeting started at 18:00.

# Welcome by the Chair

The Chair of the Association, Iain McMath, welcomed all participants to the meeting.

### Apologies and approval of Minutes

Apologies were received from Lizzie Courtney and Patrick Sweeney.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 19 January 2023 were accepted as a true record. All matters arising and listed on the meeting minutes have been actioned.

#### Chair's Report

Iain McMath (Chair) introduced his Report, as set out in an accompanying slide presentation. A copy of the presentation is included with these Minutes.

James Strachan (Communications) introduced his slide describing where information on the various organisations supporting Eddington residents could be found. He outlined the role of the Association in signposting residents to the appropriate resource.

#### Treasurer's Report

Graham Horton (Treasurer) introduced his report, as set out on the accompanying slide. He referred to the financial support that the Association received from Cambridge City Council and also the support in kind sought, and received, from Portal and from the commercial organisations operating in Eddington.

In response to a question, he agreed that support had not yet been sought from South Cambridgeshire District Council (which is the local authority responsible for a significant part of the Eddington development) and this might be an avenue to pursue in future.

#### Resignation of the current Committee

As required by the Constitution, current members of the Committee submitted their resignation and indicated their willingness to stand for re-election

# Election of the new Committee

The following members of the Association were elected as Committee for 2024/25:



Chair Iain McMath Treasurer Graham Horton Secretary John Atkins Communications James Strachan Social Media Lizzie Courtney Supporting officers Pieter Desnerck Patrick Sweeney

The Committee were always pleased to welcome new members and the Chair invited any resident interested in joining the Committee to introduce themselves at the close of the meeting.

# The Association going forward

The Chair (lain McMath) introduced an open session where the future of the Association could be discussed and invited those present to raise any issues and make any suggestions.

Support was expressed for the provision of a tennis court, and the Chair invited the resident concerned to pursue this matter further with the Committee. The Committee could then make representation to Portal, as managing agent, to consider including a tennis court in future plans for the estate.

A resident asked about progress towards providing allotments for residents. The Chair confirmed that the provision of allotments was still contained within long term planning but as yet no firm or target date had been announced. The Committee would keep this under review.

A colleague from Darwin Green asked if consideration had been given to the Association running or licensing the food trucks – as the Darwin Green Association does. This might provide a revenue stream for the Association. The Chair replied that the Eddington food trucks were already licensed by Portal.

A resident asked whether freeholders could obtain copies of the architects' plans for their houses, to aid future maintenance. Apparently his request for plans had been refused. The Chair promised to look into whether a joint approach by the Association, on behalf of all residents, might yield results – or at least an explanation why the plans could not be forthcoming. There might, for example, be intellectual property issues.

A resident referred to issues around a malfunctioning garage access lift in Florey Terrace. The resident was encouraged to refer this to Encore as a matter of urgency and to contact the Association should prompt action not be forthcoming.

Two residents in the University accommodation drew attention to longstanding maintenance issues that were not receiving appropriate attention. The Secretary commented that Portal had asked for all such issues to be drawn to their attention, so that they could monitor the performance of the contractor. The residents undertook to give further details to the Secretary after the meeting.

There was a general discussion about how best to involve key workers (University tenants) in the Eddington community, given that they are often only resident here for a short time. WhatsApp was one possible way forward: "by invitation" groups (for instance) operating within each block and linked to a central Eddington residents' WhatsApp group might be a way forward. The Chair also encouraged any key worker who would be interested in joining the Committee to contact him.



The Committee were thanked for their efforts on behalf of the Association and the Eddington community. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19:10.