

## **PRESS RELEASE FOR COMMUNITY NEWS**

St Stephens Residents Association AGM :

The AGM of The St Stephens Resident's Association took place on Friday night in St Stephens Church hall . Despite awful weather 40+ turned up for the Meeting including our Mayor Cllr Margaret Young and our Deputy Mayor Cllr Dave Gordon . Val Bugden-Cawsey outgoing Chairman , opened the Meeting and welcomed everyone, thanking them for turning out on such an awful evening !

Several apologies were received including those of 2 Committee Members Andy Wood and Andy Spargo .

The Minutes of the last " inaugural " AGM held on 20/11/2016 had been posted on the Association web site and were ratified at the following Meeting on 18/11/2016 . Matters arising were covered in The Chairman's address which followed .

Val started her address by commenting in how quickly the year had gone and what a busy year it had been since she wrote the Constitution and formed The Association . 7 Committee Meetings , 6 Public Meetings and 4 Social events had taken place throughout the year , coffee and cake , a Xmas Party , Fund Raising raffle and a very successful Wine and Wisdom held in February this year . An Association Xmas Tree had been donated and by kind permission of Father David had been positioned at the entrance to Mayne Close where all travelling up St Stephens Hill had been cheered by its presence.

The icing on the Association cake was the incredibly professional Traffic Survey that had been conducted over 2 weeks in March. Val invited everyone who had participated and supported this and any event to give themselves a pat on the back and a big clap .....

As promised Val had taken the traffic survey to The Town Council and with the support of her colleagues had succeeded in getting the document attached to The Town Council's response to Cornwall

Council's DPD proposals. The recent Air Quality Survey undertaken in Launceston had also been submitted and gives added credibility to the findings of the survey.

Val reported that it " saddened " her to tell the floor that not 1 of the 2 Cornwall Councillors , Adam Paynter / Gemma Massey , who cover the Association Area had acknowledged receipt of the survey she had sent them and certainly no dialogue had taken place . This was very disappointing after all the work that had been carried out .

Val closed her address by reiterating that when she had formed the Association she had pledged 1 year but could now best represent the Members by standing down from the Chair and the Committee so that she could support / lobby and vote in her role as an elected Town Councillor when issues raised by the Traffic Survey and the air quality survey found themselves on various Agendas within the Town Council . " If I had stayed in Office I would have had to declare an interest and in fact leave the room whilst issues pertinent to the Association area were being discussed " Val said .

I have also submitted our traffic survey and the air quality survey to our MP Scott Mann who I now work for as a Community Support Officer so can lobby there also without a conflict of interest.

Val thanked Ann Boundy for hosting the committee meetings and for taking the Minutes at several of the meetings in the absence of a Secretary . Val's long suffering Husband Terry also got a big thank you for supporting Val as she wrestled with the many challenges that being Chairman had presented ! Terry presented Ann with an orchid on behalf of Val.

In the absence of The Treasurer Andy Wood , Barrie Boundy , Vice Chair presented The Treasurers report which had been independently examined . There is a healthy Bank balance to take the Association forward thanks to a £500 donation from the Rotary Club earlier in the year , various donations received and monies taken at social events.

There had been 7 nominations for Committee , Barrie Boundy , Andy Wood , Andy Spargo , Teresa Herbert , Graham Chester , Nikky Read and Bryony Citrone . 6 were needed to form a quorum and in the absence of any further nominations the 7 were duly elected to represent the Association.

Barrie Boundy proposed Andy Wood for the post of Chairman duly seconded with a unanimous vote taken by the floor .

The new Committee would meet this week where a Vice Chair , Secretary , Treasurer would be decided as the Officers of the Committee and a social secretary would also be sought . The Committee can co-opt 2 further members , all interested parties should contact Barrie via the Association web site [www.ststephensresidentsassociation.com](http://www.ststephensresidentsassociation.com) . Notice of the next Public Meeting will follow and we look forward to the next social event also to be notified .

Under any other business a concerned resident raised the issue of the volume of dead leaves up St Stephens Hill which now wet were a potential health and safety hazard . Val advised Barrie to contact Oliver Jones / Cormac / Highways at Cornwall Council as a matter of some urgency.

There being no other business Val closed the meeting and wished the new committee well . All went out into a most blustery night

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