**Minutes of the Pipers Area Residents Association AGM held May 11th 2013 10am-1pm**

Croft Sports Centre

**Apologies**: Susanne Webb, Cllr Bluh, Cllr Watts, Phil Clarke

**Present:** Colin Doubleday, Cllr Mattock, PC Tim North, Daphne Hardwick, Claire Bouverie-Brine, Duncan Cunningham, Carole Bent, Kareen Boyd, Judith Randell-Sly, Linda Kasmaty

**Minutes of the last AGM** were agreed by Kareen Boyd and seconded by Duncan Cunningham.

Malathy Sitaram volunteered to join the committee.

**Chairman’s Report**

Colin Doubleday read the report, a copy of which is on the website: www.pipersarea.co.uk

The following new committee members were voted onto the PaRa committee: Claire Bouverie-Brine, Judith Randell-Sly and Malathy Sitaram

**Treasurer’s Report**

Appears separately.

**Ward Councillor Update and Q&A**

Cllr Mattock introduced himself as Deputy Leader of the Council and in charge of Health and Adult Social Care.

Cllr Mattock’s attendance at council meetings has been 81%; he is keen for the Mela to be reinstated, he is hoping there can be a compromise on numbers. He also fully supports the Old Town Festival, development of the Corn Exchange and the new Community facility at Christ Church.

Streetsmart hours are available in all Locality areas for graffiti removal etc, contact Cllr Watts if you have a suggestion for an area needing attention.

This past year has been difficult because of the building of the school; Cllr Mattock was pleased to say we are all working together now. After 33 years as a Councillor, he is still delighted to be one.

**Questions/Observations:**

1. There was a question about the future of the Museum and Art gallery, Cllr Mattock replied that the Council want to find a place to show our collection, he stated it won’t be happening in the next year, we need funds and a location.

2. The Localities agenda is driven by residents in other areas, it was agreed this should be the case in the south Locality as well. Our new Localities lead person to replace Jackie Moyles will be announced in the near future.

3. More equality is needed between residents and councillors.

4. It was suggested it would be good to have the art gallery in Old Town, but the authority will not have resources needed for this.

5. Good ideas should be adopted whichever party they come from.

6. Cllr Mattock commented that Croft School is a great place to be educated with traffic mitigation in place, he feels he represents the majority of the ward when he says that, and a borough wide view needs to be taken. A question was asked about why there was no apology forthcoming over the way the process was conducted.

7. At the Arts Centre, the hope is that it will continue to do the same things in a different way.

**Old Town Community Centre @ Christ Church Update – Stephen Grosvenor**

The background is that there has been a community centre on the site for 40 years, intended to be a 5 year structure. The old building was going to be very expensive to repair and maintain, a replacement has been funded by Section 106 and Landfill Grants plus selling the current Salvation Army Hall to them.

The building designed by Anthony Felton King is a conservation based development supplied by Timberworks UK. It is a 400sq,m single storey wooden building housing a kitchen, large hall and garden room. It will be powered by solar panels and ground source heating. The winner of the garden competition will be announced soon.

The Bristol Diocese has given a 3 year grant for developing uses for the hall, employing Chris Smith who starts working there in June; he/she will recruit volunteers. There will be an open day in September.

**Corn Exchange Presentation and Q&A – Steve Rosier**

Steve Rosier introduced himself as the project manager of Swindon Corn Exchange Ltd. He has been involved in the project since 2006 and has a passion for good design and build quality, and has employed Illman Young, Oxford City Heritage team and Vincey Construction to achieve a splendid outcome for Old Town. He outlined the history of the site which has been in existence for 750 years until the market square became a car park. Further problems with the area are the fact that there has been no positive building for the last 50 years in the area.

The planning brief should go before the Planning Committee on the 11th of June 2013.

**Swindon South MP Robert Buckland Q&A**

Robert Buckland began by praising the plans for the Corn Exchange, he thanked PaRa for inviting him to the AGM saying the community can make changes for the better by working together. He reminded us of £7000 Locality grants found at [www.mycommunityrights.org.uk](http://www.mycommunityrights.org.uk)

He stated the importance of proper consultation.

The meeting ended with a conclusion by Colin Doubleday and thanks to everyone followed by refreshments and raffle.