

**ST MARY'S ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION LIMITED**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Community Centre**  
**on Friday 4th December 2014 at 7:30pm**

The AGM was formally opened by the Chairman, David Taylor.

David thanked the members for their attendance and reminded everyone that membership of SMIRA was not compulsory but was free. He introduced our guests: Heather Kerswell (interim CEO of Chatham Maritime Trust (CMT)), Dean Marsh (CMT Procurements Manager), Grant Leathwhite (CMT Estates Officer), Cllr Andrew Mackness, Robin Cooper (Director of Regeneration at Medway Council), PCSO Helen Kristic and Yusuf Çinar our Community Safety Officer.

1. Present: Directors: David J Taylor, Leslie James, Barry Woolford and Chris Reynolds.  
Secretary: Bob Muid and Treasurer: Lily Leaver
2. Members: 50 members signed the register
3. Apologies for absence: Allan Sneller (Director) and Keith Robinson (Director)
4. Nominations for Director: there were no nominations for Directors received
5. Forms of Proxy: there were no Forms of Proxy returned.
6. Additional items to be raised under 'Any Other Business': none.

**1) Adoption of the Minutes for the 2013 AGM**

There were no matters arising from the minutes. David Taylor asked that the minutes be adopted and this was proposed by Gary Page and seconded by Andrew Ducatt. The motion was unanimously carried.

**2) Chairs Report:**

SMIRA is a not for profit limited company representing the residents of St. Mary's Island and supported by Chatham Maritime Trust. All our officers are unpaid volunteers. Since the last AGM we have been working on:

**Ring road adoption:**

The ring road, Island Road East and West, has now been fully adopted by Medway Council but not the landscaping. Any issues with the roads, footpath and lighting should now be addressed to Medway Council. Adoption works have now commenced on the secondary roads of Sector 1 (Countryside) and Sector 5 (Barratts). These works should be completed soon and the sectors adopted but, again, excluding the verge landscaping. Countryside Sectors 2, 4, 6 and 12 are the next to be addressed and these should be completed during 2015. Redrow are also discussing the adoption of their sector with the Council. SMIRA will continue to engage with the Council and the Island developers until all the built out secondary roads on the Island have been adopted. SMIRA have also asked that the landscaping be restored to its original condition and that commuted sums be given to ensure that the landscaping is well maintained in perpetuity. Medway Council and Cllr Andrew Mackness are working to achieve this. David Taylor appealed to residents to keep their front gardens and any planted areas between dwellings in a good state as this encourages the developers to keep the road landscaping looking good. For a while now SMIRA has been pressing Chatham Maritime Trust to take over the maintenance of the landscaping on all the roads and it looks like from next spring this will be achieved on the ring road and Countryside secondary roads. CMT are also in talks with Barratts to maintain their landscaping.

**Bus services:**

SMIRA has been successful in trying to persuade Arriva to improve the bus services on the Island. David Taylor wanted to thank Arriva and Medway Council for responding to our requests. The Saturday service has been extended for another year and buses now meet fast train services from Chatham station to Victoria.

**Final Phase Buildout:**

The planning application for the final phase of building on the Island has received approval, subject to reserved matters. We are anticipating that the works, which are extensive, will commence in summer 2015 and could take between 5 and 10 years to complete. Enabling works such as the construction of a new surface water outfall will commence sooner but SMIRA will be kept informed to mitigate disruption and inconvenience to residents.

**Street Fuel Ltd:**

After considerable consultation with residents and SMIRA, the Environment Agency (EA) issued the re-cycling permit to Street Fuel Ltd which operates adjacent to our development in Chatham Docks. There have been a number of issues with this operation including a substantial increase in fly infestation during the summer. The EA have run a number of fly paper tests in the homes of SMI residents and SMIRA receives copies of the unannounced visits that the EA make to the site. The Company are continuing to take corrective action on their non-compliances but if they cannot meet the permit requirements, we have been assured by the EA that the permit will be withdrawn.

### **Pedestrian access over the caisson under HMS Chatham Bridge:**

SMIRA continue to seek a solution to this aggravating situation and are supported by the Trust and Medway Council. A letter requesting that Peel Ports grant a licence to allow pedestrian access across the caisson again has been sent by CMT. As well as lobbying Peel Ports along with us the Trust have agreed to consider funding the construction of a walkway complete with hand rails on top of the caisson and to insure for risks associated with the whole structure. If this fails then an alternative solution requiring a bespoke footbridge may be required.

David Taylor encouraged residents to attend our meetings. If you have issues which you don't want to raise in a full meeting, SMIRA host a residents' surgery (6:00-6:45pm before the main meeting) at which there will be a ward councillor and representatives from Chatham Maritime Trust, Moat Housing and SMIRA present to answer questions and help residents with problems.

- 3) **Adoption of Accounts for Year-end 31st March 2015:** (circulated with the formal notice of the AGM)  
There being no questions raised on the accounts a motion that the accounts be adopted was:  
Proposed by Stella Mountney and seconded by Peter Haigh. The motion was unanimously carried.
- 4) **Election of Directors:** David Taylor advised that, in accordance with the constitution, one third of the Directors serving during the year, in this case two, were required to resign by rotation. This falls this year upon Leslie James and Barry Woolford. As there were no nominations received from members for directors prior to the meeting David Taylor proposed the following motions:
- That Leslie James be re-elected as a director.  
Proposed by Peter Haigh and seconded by Barry James. The motion was unanimously carried.
  - That Barry Woolford be re-elected as a director.  
Proposed by Alan Pestell and seconded by Cllr Habib Tejan. The motion was unanimously carried.

The attendees showed their appreciation for the work of the Directors and officers.

David Taylor made a presentation, on behalf of the Board and residents, to our previous PCSO, Sue Kemsley for her sterling work on behalf of the SMI community. Sue wanted thank the residents for their kindness, the Trust, Cllr Andrew Mackness, Bron, the guys at Ward, Yusuf Çinar and Martin who also put a lot work into helping Sue at the school. As much as Sue didn't miss walking around in the rain she did miss the high fiving from the children after school.

There being no other business the AGM was formally closed.

There then followed a presentation by Heather Kerswell, interim CEO of Chatham Maritime Trust, who gave residents an update on Trust activities, particularly the changes in the security contract.

Cllr Andrew Mackness, one of our ward councillors, said that the team effort on St. Mary's Island was wonderful and the standards that get delivered here are down to volunteers and their hard work led by David Taylor. A lot of people on the Island don't realise what David has done to deliver community groups, running the youth club and engaging with people and that he's passionate about the community. Cllr Mackness asked everyone to show their appreciation for all David's hard work. Cllr Mackness then went on to say that the Island was an example of how things should be run and the high standard of the environment to which other developments should aspire.

Cllr Andrew Mackness introduced Robin Cooper, who is Head of Regeneration at Medway Council. Robin then gave a very interesting presentation on regeneration in the Medway area, which was very well received by the attendees.