

VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of meeting of Annual General Meeting

Held on Wednesday 25th April 2018 at Vinters Park Community Centre

Opening

The Chairperson, Kay Lowe, opened the meeting at 8.00pm by welcoming everyone attending. (The signatures on the Attendance List indicated that 28 were present).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2017, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairperson. There were no matters arising.

Chairpersons Report

Welcome to all residents and thank you for attending. I've made it to my 2nd AGM intact, well just!

The last year has been a very busy one again with new events and hirings of the hall at an all-time high. We regularly hold Brownies, Rainbows, Slimming World, Pilates, Gymnastics, Ballet, Church meeting on a Sunday morning, Vinters Voices etc. as well as our popular and very well attended Woodlands Pre-School and party bookings at the weekends.

New events during the past year have included our first car show in May which was well attended and brought many old cars, vans and tanks out of hibernation along with their owners to put on a wonderful display. This year's car show will be on Bank Holiday Monday 28th May, 10 – 1 p.m.

Our first cream tea afternoon in June was a success and took place on one of the hottest days of the year. This year the event will take place on Sunday 1st July, 2 – 4 p.m. as many residents have told us that they would like an event on a Sunday due to work commitments. We will be expecting a good turnout for this and ordering double the amount of scones and clotted cream (and that's just for me!)

In December we held our first Christmas Fair, complete with a Grotto and Father Christmas and raised £900. This year's event is on 1st December and it would be great if we could top the £1000 mark!

Our regular coffee mornings too are always popular with residents and could I just say that we welcome all ages to the coffee mornings as we have toys, books, puzzles and bean bags for the little ones. If the little ones could bring along a responsible adult with them that would be just great (!)

It is with your support at all of our events that we are able to continue with the improvement programme at the hall. You cannot fail to have noticed the new look of the hall, redecorated and completed during the Easter holidays, made possible by a £1000 grant from Ian Chittenden's Devolved Budget Grant via KCC, a kind donation of £100 and the money raised at the Christmas Fair. Gavin Beasley has done a grand job of the redecoration and I can recommend him. The curtains were dry cleaned (something I'm sure has never happened before!) and new curtain tracks put up. The fire doors purchased last April and the old noticeboards which were also replaced last summer means that the main hall is now complete.

I hope you are as impressed as I am by the improvements that have taken place in the whole building over the past two years. As well as the money spent on the new purchases it takes a lot of team work to get the projects finished on time and for that I would like to thank the Committee for their endless support. Thank you.

Our Bank balance too is looking healthier than ever and despite all the improvements is gradually increasing. Siobhan Wood our Finance and Bookings Manager retired last July and Emma Stannett took over the reins, not an easy job but she is doing incredibly well. We have recently changed from Sage to QuickBooks accounting system and also purchased a new laptop and printer for her and invoices can now be emailed to hirers instead of being posted. We have also applied for online banking so we really are moving into the 21st century ... finally!

Later in the Agenda there will be a chance for you to vote for the Committee to continue next year. I am willing to continue as Chairperson for another year if you will have me. All current members are willing to continue too which I am very pleased about.

There will also be an item later under Any Other Business when questions can be asked of the Committee or Ian Chittenden. Unfortunately PCSO Paul Nichols is unavailable to attend this evening. Please state your name and road for the Minutes and do not talk over each other as it becomes very difficult for items to be minuted.

So all in all a very healthy and happy Chairperson's report and Chairperson! We hope you will all continue to support us in the future at one or all of our events. Thank you.

Presentation of Accounts

The Association's Finance Manager, Emma Stannett, presented the audited income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 January 2018 and the balance sheet as at that date. Copies of which had been circulated at the meeting earlier.

Emma reported that bookings are extremely healthy with currently only two time slots available for new bookings. There is a drop in the wage bill due to changes in the way in which people are now paid giving a saving of £932 on last year. There has been a rise in the cost of rates, gas, electricity and general maintenance but the bank accounts remain healthy showing a total profit of £7,383 more than in 2017.

The meeting duly APPROVED the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 January 2018 and the Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2018, copies of which are inserted in the Minute Book.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was duly AGREED that Steven Hill be appointed as the Independent Examiner for the current year.

Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members

The following members have indicated their willingness to continue on the Committee for the year 2018-2019:

Chairperson	Kay Lowe
Vice-Chairperson	Barry Smith

Secretary	Caroline Corry
Appointed Manager	
Finance and Bookings Manager	Emma Stannett
Executive Committee	
Individual Members	Amanda Rose, Tony Hewson, Fred Burton, Maggie Middleton, Chris Shiers, Craig McAteer, Sarah Long
Group- Representative	Anne Taylor (Pre-School)

There are still a few places on the Committee so if you are considering joining us please speak to Caroline at the end of the meeting. We meet once a month and need volunteers to help out at all of our events and regularly attend the evening meetings.

The Chairperson then invited Ian Chittenden to present his latest report – a copy of which is filed in the Minute Book.

Ian Chittenden

Ian's report outlined the issues involving Government budget cuts and the impact it was having on Vinters Park. He also covered the A249 Bearsted Road new major infrastructure improvements, play areas, Marks and Spencer at Eclipse Park, new local schools, pot holes and Speedwatch.

A copy of the full report is in the Minute Book.

Any Other Business

The Chairperson opened the floor to any other business.

Jane Morgan – Goldthorne Close

Jane wanted to know why Jubilee School in Barming was not granted planning permission for expansion. Ian explained that as far as he was aware there was insufficient information submitted in the application.

Rose Harding – Goldthorne Close

Rose wanted to know why last year KCC only managed 4 out of the 8 grass cutting sessions they were contracted to do. Ian explained that KCC has this year changed contractors and they should be cutting 6 times. There has been a delay due to the snow causing the first cutting to be put back.

Craig McAteer – Bargrove Road

Craig was speaking on behalf of a resident who is visually impaired and has problems with cars parking, and completely blocking, the pavement in Alkam Road. He was forced to walk on the road and was nearly hit by an electric car which he did not hear. Ian agreed that parking on the pavement should not be allowed. There are some areas in the centre of town where it is permitted but that does not include Vinters. Unfortunately the police will not enforce unless it is blocking pushchairs/mobility vehicles. They will act if it is blocking drives. There is a general lack of funds and people to do the enforcement.

Peter Lowe – Blendon Road

Peter asked if we could have some clarification on who is saying that this cannot be done.

Rose Harding – Goldthorne Close

Rose pointed out that there is a lot of broken glass on the footpaths at the back of the shops and surrounding area. Ian said that he will get it dealt with and to let him know immediately in the future so that it will be picked up quickly.

Tony Hewson - Spindle Glade

Tony pointed out that on the litter pick they did a few weeks ago there where a very large number of empty alcohol bottles in the bushes behind the shops. Ian said he will make a note of it. Ian is planning to arrange some litter picking in a few months. He will put it on the Vinters FaceBook page so that residents are aware.

Peter Lowe – Blendon Road

There has been a young lad riding round the play areas and down the footpaths during the early evenings on a motorbike and without a crash helmet. This has been reported to 101, but as it takes so long to get through he has gone before anyone can get here. The PCSO has asked that photos/videos are taken and sent to him. Ian suggested that if he is causing danger then phone 999.

Jane Morgan – Goldthorne Close

Jane suggested that the price of the coffee morning should be raised to £1.50 as it is well worth this. Kay Lowe said that it will be discussed at the next VPRA meeting. Ian suggested that we ask opinions at the next coffee morning.

Conclusion

There being no other business, the Chairperson concluded the meeting by thanking those present for their attendance. The Chairperson then closed the meeting at 9.02pm.

Approved(Chairperson)

Date:.....

