

# VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of meeting of Annual General Meeting

Held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 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 34 were present).

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairperson. There were no matters arising.

### Chairpersons Report

Welcome to our 2019 AGM.

2018 was another busy year and it is already looking like 2019 will be the same.

Our usual monthly coffee mornings still continue and although we increased our prices this year residents seem to enjoy their 2 hours with us. I don't know of anywhere in town where you can buy a toasted tea cake and a coffee for £1.50!

We would like to see a few more residents on every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, so if you have friends who may not know about the coffee mornings please bring them along. Steve Songhurst from Vinters Valley will be joining us in June to give a talk, this date is different to originally advertised.

The car show was popular last May and this year will be taking place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. If you have any old vehicles to display please get in touch with Chris or Tony who are arranging this year's event. It's always interesting to see what old vehicles are lurking in garages as well as their owners!

Our cream tea afternoon last June was well attended and Vinters Voices supplied some singing. This year we have decided to incorporate the cream tea event with the last coffee morning before our summer break, this will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

The Christmas Fair was a success too, with many different stalls to the previous years. Everybody seemed to enjoy the atmosphere at the Fair with teas, coffees and mince pies also provided. We will be doing the same event again this year and yet another date for your diary is Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Father Christmas also managed to make an appearance last year despite his heavy workload.

We have been enormously lucky to have Maidstone Lions contribute £1,200 towards a defibrillator. This came about after a recommendation from Ian Chittenden to speak to a lady from Maidstone Lions who was at one of our coffee mornings. We have contributed the remainder of the cost, £800, and we have to pay for installation. This amount has been raised through our fundraising events and will be such a bonus to have on our estate. Maidstone Lions will come to do a photo shoot when everything, including a small plaque to acknowledge the Lions contribution is in place and put it in the KM.

We are looking forward to Fine Line installing new double glazing in the hall very soon. Some of the windows are very old, don't even open and handles are loose. The sills will

also be covered in plastic which will finish the whole look off and make cleaning much easier! We are hoping this work will be carried out during the May half-term. I'm very pleased that we have finally decided to replace the windows and, as always it's thanks to residents and hirers supporting us.

The only thing we haven't managed to get off the ground is Speed Watch. Ken on the committee took over from Ian to try to get people involved but unfortunately this has not happened. We feel that this is not going to happen now as we can't get enough volunteers at the times required. If there is still interest in the initiative then perhaps you could speak to Ken at the end of the meeting.

Summing up, this last year has only taken minutes to talk about but the work behind the scenes is ongoing and takes a lot of time and effort by the volunteers on the committee. I would like to thank them all for their support over the last year and hope that together we can go forward with even more improvements.

If you would like to join our (mainly) happy team and could give an hour and a half every month for a meeting, please see one of us at the end. We are always looking for more volunteers to bring some new blood & ideas to the committee. Come and have a chat with one of us at the end.

### **Presentation of Accounts**

The Association's Finance Manager, Emma Stannett, presented the audited income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 January 2019 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 again this year with currently only four casual hirer time slots available up to the end of July. The bank accounts remain healthy showing a profit of £5,385 up on 2018.

The meeting duly APPROVED the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 January 2019 and the Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2019, 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.

### **Kent Police**

Sgt. Nick Hatcher thanked the committee for the invite to the meeting and introduced himself as part of the Community Safety Unit in Maidstone and responsible for all the PCSO's in town. He introduced Dan Genn who is our new PCSO taking over from Paul Nicholls just three weeks ago. He is also responsible for the Stockbury and Charing areas.

They have been made aware of some of the issues of anti-social behaviour that has been happening on Vinters however they have not had a great number of calls and are not sure if this is due to the call reports not getting to them, or that residents are not calling 101 to report every time something happens. They asked for feedback from the floor.

### **Peter Lowe – Blendon Road**

There is a problem with the time it takes in getting through on 101 but he urged people to persevere as the issues need to be reported or the stats will not reflect the true issues. Peter also pointed out that there appears to be a pattern with the off-road bikes being

driven around the estate on side road and on the foot paths, they seem to appear every other evening between the hours of 6.30pm and 8.00pm. and are only around for about 20-30 minutes.

**Sgt. Hatcher**

If there is a delay in getting through then please try the new on-line service as this may be a lot quicker. With regard to the bikes he can arrange for an unmarked car to be on the estate and they can also use body cameras, but it really is a case of right time, right place to be able to catch them.

**Jo Ellen – Blendon Road**

They really are very dangerous; it will end in somebody getting hurt.

**Sgt. Hatcher**

We appreciate the issues but we need to identify the bikes and riders and then follow processes to get them dealt with. It is Kent Police policy that cars cannot chase bikes.

As the van that comes onto the estate bringing the bikes is known to the police already he will get the details from Paul Nicholls. The police can issue a 72 our dispersal order to move the groups out of the area. They also have the power to dispose of the bikes.

**Brian Hoare – Crayford Close**

Brian pointed out that this same issue was in the minutes of the last AGM. One of the families thought to be causing the problems has been evicted which led to a quiet spell but that seems to have come to an end.

**Maggie Middleton – Ashurst**

There used to be a CCTV camera in Ashurst which has been removed, can we not have one back?

**Sgt. Hatcher**

It was removed because someone cut the cable. Yes it can be replaced with a mobile one which needs to be downloaded onto a laptop.

**PCSO Genn**

When he first started this area he came and walked round the estate, he spoke to two groups of young people who were very polite and seemed to be great kids so as usual it is the small minority giving them all a bad reputation.

**Sgt. Hatcher** wrapped up the session buy reiterating that if people can get video footage or photos of the offenders then send it in to the PCSO but residents should make sure that their safety is not compromised when filming.

The very emotive issue of parking around the estate was raised, in particular the volume of student parking in Bedgebury Close and parent parking at school times. Ian Chittenden made it clear that both KCC and MBC have no plans to put in any more yellow lines throughout the borough. Sgt. Hatcher said that if parked legally then there is nothing that can be done, however if parking is in a dangerous position or causing obstruction then the police can take action. PCSO Genn said he was more than happy to come out and have a look at these issues.

Kay suggested that another police surgery is arranged. PCSO Genn said he would be happy to attend.

**Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members**

The Chair would like to mention Barry Smith, our Vice Chair, who will be stepping down from the committee after a number of years. He is a never ending source of knowledge regarding the estate and has been a great help to the committee and to me during my time as Chairperson when I have needed advice.

Barry we will all miss you, I would like to personally thank you for your help and support and wish you luck for the future.

The following members have indicated their willingness to continue on the Committee for the year 2019-2020:

Chairperson	Kay Lowe
Vice-Chairperson	
Secretary	Caroline Corry

**Appointed Manager**

Finance and Bookings Manager Emma Stannett

**Executive Committee**

Individual Members	Tony Hewson, Fred Burton, Chris Shiers, Ken Goodwin
Group- Representative	Anne Taylor (Pre-School)

There has only been one applicant for the post of Vice Chair and that is Amanda Rose She was proposed by Peter Lowe and seconded by Fred Burton and duly elected to the post.

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 the A249 Bearsted Road new major infrastructure improvements, play areas, Marks and Spencer at Eclipse Park, new local schools, pot holes and public footways.

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

**Any Other Business**

The Chairperson opened the floor to any other business.

There is a litter-pick on 12 May organised by Craig Mcateer. Meet at the Community Centre at 10.00am.

**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 9.25.

**Approved .....(Chairperson)**

**Date:.....**