

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held by the Vinters Park Residents Association at the Vinters Boys' School on the 29th March, 1979.

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Acting Chairman, Keith Branley, introduced himself to the Residents, numbering approximately 100, and thanked them for attending. Committee members on the platform were introduced as Ian Chittenden a Vice-Chairman; Keith Luxford the Treasurer and Richard Humphrey. He also welcomed his guest Dr. Felicity Simpson, a Kent County Councillor. The Chairman reported that there had been seven full committee meetings during the past year. He listed some of the work and achievements of the Association since the last A.G.M., including the arrival of the mobile library to the Estate; the successful fete; the efforts made and the success achieved in getting the Maidstone Borough Council to make repairs to the roads on the Estate; the pleasure the children received when Father Christmas visited them at their homes and the re-occurring 'battle' regarding driving schools. The Chairman concluded his report by stating that the Residents expected the Association to 'work wonders' but it was only as strong as the members made it and more help was needed.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST A.G.M.

Everybody present had received a copy of the minutes on entering the hall. The Chairman PROPOSED "the minutes be adopted", this was seconded by Mr. Young and accepted by the floor.

3. MATTERS ARISING

A query was raised from the floor regarding section (d) - the 'bus service'. The Resident wanted to know what was meant by the change of route. The Chairman explained that the matter had now been resolved as it had been two years ago that the complaints were received.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer explained that the audited accounts covered only ten months as this A.G.M. had been held early. The Residents were given a brief report of the statement of accounts; the final figure held by the Association being £5123 on the 31st January, 1979. The Treasurer PROPOSED "the audited accounts for the period 1st April, 1978 to the 31st January, 1979 be accepted." The proposal was seconded by Mr. Skinner and accepted by the floor.

5. REPORT ON FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

Richard Humphrey gave a brief report on the fund raising activities during the past year.

- i) The fete had been a huge success and another was planned for the 2nd June, 1979.
- ii) The lottery in the last year had raised £3800. For the new Residents in attendance a resumé of how the lottery works was given and it was reported that re-canvassing would soon be undertaken enabling new households to be included. Richard Humphrey asked if he could take this opportunity of thanking the road stewards who made the lottery possible.
- iii) A report was given on the Junior Football Club who met fortnightly to practise and play matches. At present it consists of 20 members but any new boys would be welcome to attend Eastborough School on the 7th April at 10.30 a.m.

6. COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Chairman asked Ian Chittenden, the Vice-Chairman, to report on the Community Centre project as he had been involved with it since the beginning. The Vice-Chairman gave a resumé of the position to date. He continued by outlining the approximate sizes of the proposed Community Centre, i.e. 40'-60' long by 35'-40' wide, subject to finances. The Association have to find 25 per cent of the cost, estimated at £5000, to qualify for a grant. The accommodation would consist of a main hall; kitchen; ladies and gentlemen's toilets; storage space and, if finances permitted, a meeting room. Externally there would be provision for 20-30 cars. It was not intended to have a full time bar. The Vice-Chairman continued by outlining the researches made into the areas, taking into consideration the size of the site; effect on adjacent houses; services to the site i.e. water; electricity etc.; availability of the land; the cost of the land and the convenience to all Residents. He reported that having looked at several sites, the following two being the most viable had then been investigated in depth. Ian Chittenden then took a long time relating all the facts on the two sites which were - The Minor Centre Site and The Crematorium Site with access from Ensworth Grove and Notley Close. The Vice-Chairman concluded his report by explaining that outline planning permission had been made on the latter site but objections had been raised by the local residents. The Planning Office are holding the matter in abeyance until the Residents of the Estate have made their decision.

The Chairman invited questions from the floor on the matter. He stated that at 10.00 p.m. he would have to close the question time to allow time to complete the remainder of the agenda. Many questions and points were raised by the Residents and these included points concerning the site known as Area 10, behind Alkhan Road. Residents wanted to know why this site had not been investigated. The meeting also wanted to know why Residents had not been informed earlier of the sites in question. There was a great deal of questioning concerning the parking and access problems of both sites. Residents also wanted to know to what purpose the Community Centre would be put, e.g. hiring out for functions, etc. The meeting felt the Estate should be re-canvassed to establish if the Residents really did want a Community Centre. A great deal of concern was shown over the Community Centre obtaining a bar licence for some of the functions. Vandalism of the Community Centre and to nearby houses was also in the minds of the Residents. The Committee members on the platform and Dr. Simpson answered all the matters raised to the best of their ability although not always to the satisfaction of the Residents. At the appointed time the Chairman closed the question time for voting on four proposals.

PROPOSAL 1 made by the Chairman "The Vintners Park Residents Association pursue the application for a Community Centre on the site adjacent to Crematorium land."
This was seconded by Mr. Young but rejected from the floor.

PROPOSAL 2 by Mr. Southerton "The VPRA should continue fund raising and should encourage the Haidstone Borough Council to Compulsory Purchase the land known as the Minor Centre Site for the construction of a Community Centre."
This was seconded by Mr. Neilson. The proposal was rejected.