

VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Community Centre on 12th April 1988.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs Thelma Barton of Birchington Close.

2. Minutes of the Last A.G.M.

The Minutes of the last A.G.M. we agreed by those present to be a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters Arising.

4. Executive Committee Report

Items dealt with during the year were as follows:-

Post Office

There has been protracted correspondence with the Head Postmaster, following last A.G.M.'s petition, but unfortunately to no avail.

Park Warden

The Residents Association has been heavily involved in supporting the case for continued employment of Mrs Lida MacGrory (Vinters Park Warden) and a donation has been made of £50 towards the cost of her salary as an expression of our interest.

Pharmacy

The Residents Association has tried to get the Family Practitioner Committee to persuade a chemist to open in this locality, but they have no power to require this. However, they will bear in mind our comments.

Lombardy Drive

The Residents Association has received complaints that children playing in this road are causing a nuisance and in danger from motorists who are driving too fast around the bends. The Residents Association has been unable to do much about this, but suitable comments have been made in the Park Ranger.

Free Newspaper Distribution

The Residents Association has advised these distributors of complaints received of boys /girls walking across gardens instead of using pathways.

Payphone

The Residents Association has been successful in getting a payphone sited in Hampton Road near the Community Centre, which is most useful.

Porch - Bedgebury Close

Several complaints have been made regarding an unfinished and unsightly porch in this road. The Residents Association contacted the landlord, and action has been taken to remove the porch.

Footpath and Highway Signs

In response to residents' requests, the Residents Association asked the Maidstone Borough Council to resite a footpath sign in Cooling Close and to erect suitable direction signs at the entrance to the service road at the junction with Hampton Road. The Council was also asked to resite the Bargrove Road sign which is at present in Northfleet Close! Unfortunately, this matter has still not been dealt with, but the Residents Association is chasing the Council for some action.

Planning Applications

The Residents Association has continued to advise residents likely to be affected by neighbouring planning applications of the fact that applications have been made. Often neighbours have been ignorant of these, and are therefore able to inspect the plans and comment to the Maidstone Borough Council as they feel necessary.

Storm Damaged Trees/Walls

The Residents Association wrote to the Maidstone Borough Council regarding the storm damaged trees in the play area and also to the landlord concerning the fallen walls in Alkham Road (Northfleet Close). The trees have been cleared and made safe, and the walls are at present being re-built.

Planning Applications made by Mobil and Stakis

The Residents Association considered the planning application made by Mobil for a new office development in New Cut, and the application made by Stakis for a Leisure Lodge at Newnham Court Farm in Bearsted Road. Dr White (who has started Maidstone Development Watch) attended a committee meeting to discuss Mobil's plans. It was decided that the Residents Association would not object to Mobil's application but a statement was made that the protection of the Vinters Park environment is crucial, and that this must be preserved. The Kent County Council has now agreed to Mobil's application, but with several provisos regarding the Vinters Park area and surrounding environment.

The Residents Association objected to the Stakis Application for a Leisure Lodge at Newnham Court Farm mainly on the grounds of increased traffic hazards through the estate (from short cuts) as well as the detriment to the view at the northern end of the estate. The Maidstone Borough Council has now rejected this application.

Mobile Food Van

The Residents Association has received complaints regarding a mobile food van stationed at lunchtime in Snowdon Avenue. This matter was referred to two of the ward councillors, but unfortunately nothing has been able to be done as the van is licensed to trade.

Conclusion

The Residents Association has been busy throughout the year, and has tried to resolve resident's problems in a satisfactory manner. Thanks were given to Sheila Chittenden, Secretary and David Evans, Treasurer for their efforts during the year.

Maidstone Development Watch

The Residents Association has joined the Maidstone Development Watch for an initial period of one year. Mrs Ingrid Wilcockson explained the purpose of the Maidstone Development Watch, and who the various members are. A constitution has been framed and the Development Watch will keep a watchful eye over proposed developments in the Maidstone Area. Councillor Margaret Shaw mentioned that the Council planning function has been re-organised, and members of the public are allowed to attend and speak at meetings if they wish.

5. Management Committee Report

The Management Committee folded up in November 1987 because Mr D. Acott, Chairman, was moving from the area and no one would take over his position. The executive committee therefore assumed responsibility for the Community Centre and, as from then, co-opted some members of the management committee on to the executive committee to provide continuity and to keep within constitution provisions regarding representing the interests of the users of the Community Centre. Many matters were discussed at management committee meetings and executive committee meetings mainly concerning building works and lettings. The bookings diary is very full and income levels are higher than expected. The Maidstone Borough Council made the Residents Association a grant and a loan for the balance of the building costs, and it is hoped that enough funds will be left to pay for ventilation to be put into the Community Centre. The treasurer is happy that the Residents Association can meet the annual loan repayments. A Boot Fair was announced for the 17th April.

6. Statement of Accounts

Mr David Evans reported on the financial situation. The Accounts were taken as read and agreed. Funds are quite boyant, and new chairs have been purchased for the Community Centre. A vote of thanks was given to the Treasurer for his good work.

7. Constitution

Various proposals to amend the existing Constitution were presented and agreed.

8. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members

Chairman - John Stubbins

Vice Chairman - Peter Lott

Secretary - Sheila Chittenden

Treasurer - David Evans

Booking Secretary - Margaret Stubbins

Executive Committee Members :- Neil Sinclair

Jean Low

Ingrid Wilcockson

Alan Britchford

Michael Cook representing the Computer Club

Jennie Poxon representing the Womens Institute

Noreen Latham representing the Brownies

Jackie Young representing the Play Group

The above named were all proposed by Neil Sinclair and seconded by Joan Butcher.

9. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

David Evans explained that Mr John Whibley had done a very good job this year auditing the accounts and proposed that he be retained for the coming year. It was agreed that an honorarium be paid to him of £10.

10. Annual Subscription

The Treasurer proposed that the annual subscriptions be waived this year as funds are healthy, John Stubbins seconded this proposal. This was therefore agreed but of course, any donations would be gratefully accepted. A resident mentioned that as a new resident, he only heard of the Residents Association because someone knocked on his door for a subscription and would it be possible to advertise the presence of the Residents Association in some way to new residents? Mr Stubbins replied that Park Ranger is delivered to all residents and that should be sufficient advertisement. Another resident suggested that Park Ranger should be delivered more regularly. Mr Stubbins replied that costs would increase for this but every effort would be made to deliver Park Ranger as often as possible. Mrs Butcher suggested that a copy of Park Ranger could be given to new residents by the estate agent dealing with the house sales. Neil Sinclair suggested that Committee Members phone numbers could be included in Park Ranger for residents information.

11. Any Other Business

Snowdon Parade Car Park

A resident complained about youths on motor bikes and in cars causing a nuisance on the car park in the evenings. The police have been contacted, but when they call the "Boy Racers" have disappeared. A shopkeeper replied that she has spoken to these boys and called the police in the past and they are aware that they will be taken to court if they cause a nuisance. Some discussion followed, and Mr Stubbins agreed that the Residents Association will write formally to the police asking for steps to be taken to stop this nuisance.

Litter

There was much discussion on the problem of litter on the estate, and a letter has been received from Vinters Boys School saying that shopkeepers are selling hot soup and rolls to children at lunch time and asking that this be curtailed. A shopkeeper replied that there are not enough bins for the litter near the shops and the children are not supervised by teachers in the lunch hour. The mobile shop also causes litter problems and this shop cannot be stopped from trading except before 12 noon when the licence commences. Councillor Margaret Shaw said that she has made efforts previously to obtain more litter bins near the shopping parade, but the Council had replied that the shopkeepers would be responsible for paying for emptying these extra bins. However, more Council bins have now been promised. A resident suggested that the mobile shop should not be allowed to trade in Snowdon Avenue, but Mrs Shaw replied that unfortunately there are no good grounds to suggest this. It was agreed that the Residents Association will continue its efforts to put pressure on the Council for more litter clearance. It was also agreed that newspaper coverage of this problem might be useful, and Connie Davis the Vinters Park representative on the Kent Messenger, promised to contact the Kent Messenger.

Parish Council

Councillor Margaret Shaw suggested that perhaps residents would like to start a Parish Council. A Parish Council would generate more say over local affairs. Mr Evans remarked that this is a good idea but Parish Councils are responsible for street lighting and grass cutting, and this could cause a strain financially. It was agreed that the Residents Association will insert an item in the next Park Ranger concerning the possibility of starting a Parish Council and asking for residents to let Mrs Shaw know their opinions. A resident suggested that there may be a problem in getting members to stand for the Parish Council from this estate.

Bus Shelter

A resident complained about bus shelters not being repaired, and Mrs Shaw replied that replacement panels have been some time arriving and the Council have promised to do temporary repairs with wood. Mrs Shaw has this matter in hand.

Community Policeman

A resident complained that the new community policeman is not covering the estate properly and suggested that the Residents Association write to the police complaining that the policing of the estate is not adequate. It was agreed that a letter will be written to the Superintendent of Police.

No Other Business.

Approximately 50 members of the Residents Association were present.