

VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Community Centre on 4th April 1989.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs Butcher, Mrs Birch, Councillor Margaret Shaw, Mr and Mrs Harvey.

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

The Minutes of the last A.G.M. were 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:-

Storm Damage

At the start of the year a high priority was given to the rectification of storm damage. The land-lord of the maisonettes was pressed into getting damaged walls rebuilt, and the Maidstone Borough Council was asked to turf the grassed areas which had been spoilt by heavy machinery used for removing fallen trees.

Litter

This problem continues, and the Residents Association is doing its best to keep Vinters Park estate and Woodlands free of litter.

Publicity for Planning Applications

The Residents Association has written to the Planning Officer of the Maidstone Borough Council asking that neighbours be informed of planning applications. The weekly list of planning applications is examined to ensure that all concerned are notified.

Disturbances at Snowdon Parade

The Residents Association has been much occupied this year with the problem of youths congregating at the Snowdon Parade Car Park and causing a disturbance. The Police have been contacted, and the Residents Association is doing what it can to alleviate the problem.

Footpath Signs

The Residents Association has been successful in getting various road and footpath signs replaced where necessary, and new signs for Cooling Close. A resident reported that he had approached the Council for a sign reading 'Northfleet Close leading to Bargrove Road' which would be more appropriate.

Play Equipment

The Residents Association has attempted to get the Maidstone Borough Council to replace the play equipment in the play areas on the estate. However, since this equipment gets vandalised very quickly, the Council is unwilling to install any new items.

Refuse Collection

A questionnaire was completed for the Maidstone Borough Council pressing strongly for a reorganisation of the refuse collection rounds so that Vinters Park Estate would not suffer on Bank holiday weeks. However, at present, the Council is not willing to alter its system.

Policing of Estate Areas

Concern was expressed at the last A.G.M. regarding the inadequacy of the policing on the estate. The Residents Association has contacted the Superintendent of Police, and the new Community Policeman is holding regular surgeries at the Community Centre.

Eastfield House

The Executive Committee supported the residents' petition against an application to extend Eastfield House. The Maidstone Borough Council deferred the planning application which was subsequently withdrawn.

Road Markings

Residents at the top end of Marston Drive had commented that traffic turning in the cul-de-sac was causing danger to children playing. The Residents Association therefore approached the Maidstone Borough Council and they agreed to alter the road markings at the Marston Drive/Commodore Road junction to direct traffic along Commodore Road instead of into the cul-de-sac end of Marston Drive.

On-Street Parking

The Residents Association has expressed concern to the Police and the Maidstone Borough Council regarding the parking of cars in Claremont Road, Snowdon Avenue and Marston Drive which is causing an obstruction to the access of the estate. The Council have now agreed to restrict parking on the North side of Claremont Road, on the south side corners and on the south side of the cul-de-sac end of Snowdon Avenue.

Scrub on Footpath

The Residents Association managed to get the Maidstone Borough Council eventually to remove scrub left on the footpath after a resident of Eastwell Close had re-fenced his property.

Channel Tunnel

The Chairman of the Residents Association attended a conference at which British Rail outlined the four original routes. Attempts are being made to obtain details of the chosen Route 1 so as to assess the effect on this area. Mr Elton of Woodlands has drawn up his impressions of the 'corridor' and where the cuttings will be.

Bearsted Road Proposals

The Residents Association discussed at length the proposals for realignment of the Bearsted Road and the A249 and relevant roundabout alterations and additions. A copy of these proposals has been displayed in the Common Room window together with a copy of the letter that the Residents Association sent to the Council making various comments.

Boxley Parish Council

The Residents Association now regularly receives agendas of the Boxley Parish Council Meetings and has established an interchange of correspondence regarding Woodlands area matters. The acquaintance of Sue Barwick has also been made, who represents Boxley on the Maidstone Borough Council.

Kent Village Halls Conference

The Chairman of the Residents Association attended the above conference and learnt some useful information regarding V.A.T. and fire precautions etc.

Parking in Garage Forecourts

Residents in Goldthorne Close are concerned that parents of Eastborough School pupils park their cars in the private Garage forecourts, causing a nuisance. The school and the police have been informed of the matter.

Parkranger

Just one issue of Parkranger has been produced and delivered this year, as it is costly to duplicate and time-consuming to prepare.

Maidstone Development Watch

The Residents Association has continued its membership of this body, and Mrs Wilcockson reported that the Maidstone Development Watch is carrying on with its work keeping vigilance over local development plans. There will be an open day at Vinters Park Valley on 25th June.

Community Centre

Some new cupboards have been erected for Community Centre users in an effort to keep the store room tidy.

Performing Rights Licence fees continue to rise, but the Residents Association is required to pay them.

The Ventilation works are now complete and very effective.

Two new tables have been purchased and the legs of several tables replaced. The rateable value of the Community Centre has been reduced from £763 to £517 by negotiation.

Insurance at the Community Centre has been increased to £123,000.

V.A.T. on electricity has been discussed at some length and letters written to relevant people voicing our concern.

It was agreed to increase the hire charges at the Community Centre by 10% to cover increased costs.

Some damage at the Community Centre was sustained during a private party, and the cost of repairs amounting to £683 has been met by our insurance company.

Some Boot Fairs have been held at the Community Centre which have proved very successful fund raisers.

Conclusion

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

5. Statement of Accounts

David Evans reported on the financial situation. The accounts were taken as read and agreed. These were in a more simple format this year partly as there is now no Management Committee and partly because the building cost of the Community Centre has now been paid. Hire charges for the Community Centre have been increased by 10% this year due to increased costs. Finances have been managed this year without the need to collect annual subscriptions. A resident commented on rates at the Community Centre which are at present 100% relieved.

6. 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
John Barfoot
Valentine Elton
Malcolm Wise

The above-named were all proposed and seconded.

7. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

David Evans proposed that Mr John Whibley be retained for the coming year. This was agreed, and an honorarium of £20 will be paid to him.

8. Annual Subscription

The Treasurer proposed that the annual subscription be waived this year as funds continue healthy. This was seconded and agreed.

9. Any Other Business

Snowdon Parade Car Park

Some residents explained that there is still a disturbance problem at the Snowdon Parade Car Park caused by youths of varying age groups from 6.45 p.m. onwards. The police have been called to deal with these youths who make much noise and nuisance and throw litter. Some discussion followed, and Councillor April Cox said that there seems nothing else that can be done, since the police cannot be there all the time. A resident suggested that a further 'no ball games' notice be erected in a more prominent position and another suggested that the Residents Association write to the shop owners asking them to encourage the youths to move on after they have made their purchases. Two parked cars have been abandoned in the Car Park and it was agreed that the Residents Association will ask the landlord to get the police to take these away.

Litter

Residents complained about the amount of litter left on Vinters Park Estate, particularly at Snowdon Parade and on Woodlands near the schools where litter bins have been burnt. A letter has been sent to Vinters Boys, and Councillor Mrs Shaw commented in her letter addressed to this meeting, that the litter at the shops is being cleared by the Council and this will soon be every day. Vandalised litter bins will be replaced by metal bins shortly. It was suggested that the shops put out more litter bins if the Council will empty them free of charge. The Residents Association will check on this.

Parking

A resident complained that cars are parking in Snowdon Avenue near the Huntsmans Lane footpath which blocks sights of children crossing the road for school and could lead to an accident. Some discussion followed and it was suggested that perhaps a yellow line could be put here when the other yellow lines are placed in Claremont Road, Marston Drive and the cul-de-sac end of Snowdon Avenue. It was also suggested that perhaps a 'lollipop' person could be employed to help the children cross. The Residents Association will contact Eastborough School P.T.A. regarding this. The Association will also contact the Maidstone District Bus Company concerning buses which are stopping near the footpath instead of in the designated lay-by.

Bus Shelters

Mrs Shaw said in her letter that more bus shelters will be erected on the estate and asked for suggestions for possible locations.

Grass Area between Vinters Park Estate and the Sittingbourne Road

A resident has suggested that this area be left to go wild as a conservation area instead of being regularly mowed. This will be considered by the Residents Association executive committee.

Supermarket

There has been some suggestion that there may be a fish and chip shop to replace the supermarket when it closes in due course. The Residents Association will monitor this situation.

Chinese Take-away

A resident commented that there is some noise late at night at the chinese take-away made during the preparation of food etc. and some cooking smells which cause a nuisance. Mrs Cox said that 100 signature petition is needed to get the Council to act on this, and the resident agreed that he would try to get as many signatures as possible.

David Evans proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for all the hard work he has done this year.

No Other Business

Approximately 38 members of the Residents Association were present.