

VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Community Centre on 10th April 1990

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Barwick, Councillor Mrs Cox, Mrs Ingrid Wilcockson and Mr N. Butland.

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

Page 2 - Refuse Collection. Collection days have now been altered and residents may not suffer due to Bank Holidays as much as previously. Mrs Shaw commented that arrangements have been made at the Council's request to overcome Bank Holiday problems, except at Christmas.

Page 3 - Parking in Garage Forecourts . A resident of Goldthorne Close remarked that a chain has now been placed across the access to the garages and asked who would be responsible if there was damage to the chain caused by children swinging on it. Mr Stubbins replied that the parents of the children concerned should be liable for the cost of the damage. Comments were also made about excessive parking of vehicles in Goldthorne Close at school times.

Page 4 - Snowdon Parade Car Park. Dr Simpson commented on the problem of young people gathering here and asked whether anything could be done to occupy them. Residents replied that these youngsters now have appeared to have moved up the estate to the Community Centre Car Park, and Peter Lott has had to ask them to leave the grassed area on one occasion.

4. Executive Committee Report

Thanks were given to the continuing support of the ward Councillors for Vinters being Margaret Shaw, April Cox and Tony Harwood, and for Woodlands, Sue Barwick. The County Councillor for Woodlands Dr Felicity Simpson was also thanked for her interest.

Items dealt with during the year were as follows:-

M20 Junction Improvement

Much of the Residents Association meetings' time during the past year has been spent discussing the Department of the Environment and Department of Transport proposals for the widening of the M20 and the improvement to Junction 7. Thanks were given to Val Elton and Ian Chittenden who have worked hard to present the best possible case for the residents of the area. A Public Inquiry has been held on this matter, and John Stubbins gave evidence on behalf of the Association. The Inspector's decision is now awaited.

Planning Applications.

The Council's list of planning applications is checked weekly to see if there are any substantial extension works which will affect residents, and it is ensured that neighbours are advised. Applications affecting the land at Newham Court Farm are carefully monitored, and the Association supported the Council's resistance to Tarmac's application to build an industrial estate adjacent to Bearsted Road. Val Elton spent a lot of time on this matter. Applications concerning Notcutts were also watched, and comments were made to Council as necessary. The Association contacted the Chief Executive regarding the possibility of Maidstone United erecting a stadium to the east of Notcutts, and he has promised to notify the Association of any further developments.

Bus Stops

The Council has now erected a number of Bus shelters on the estate and made improvements to bus stops. The bus shelter at the Community Centre has been placed on Residents Association land and there has been correspondence with the Council for them to either take over the area of land used, or to licence it from the Association.

Grassed Areas

In accordance with residents' suggestions, the grassed area off Sittingbourne Road is to be mown less regularly to preserve the habitat of wild flowers.

Underpasses

The Association monitored throughout the year the state of the underpasses, and nudged the Council as far as possible to keep them cleaned regularly.

Roadsigns

Val Elton was instrumental in getting the Council to erect new roadsigns at the entrance to Northfleet Close indicating Woodlands. Other roadsigns are checked, and the Council contacted as necessary for repairs or replacements.

Litter/Rubbish

The amount of litter lying around Vinters and Woodlands continues to be a problem. The Association is doing all it can to improve the situation, including requesting more litter bins from the Council, inserting notices in the Parkranger asking people not to drop litter, and personally picking up litter strewn around the estate. Notices are displayed at the Community Centre giving the dates and locations of Council skips, but it is annoying that these get overloaded causing some problems. However, most residents welcome the skip facilities. The Association wrote to the Council saying that the number of refuse bags issued per family is insufficient but no reply has yet been received. Mrs Shaw commented that additional bags will be issued free of charge if residents collect them personally.

Car Parking

This continues to be a problem at the southern end of Vinters Park Estate, and the Residents Association has been in contact with the Council concerning this. Access to the estate has improved since the yellow lines have been inserted along Claremont Road. Following a resident's suggestion, white lines have been painted in the parking area at the end of Newenden Close, in order to tidy up the irregular parking.

Footpaths

Following Tony Harwood's invitation footpaths have been requested alongside Hampton and Alkham Roads. However, Mrs Shaw and Dr Simpson both agreed that cost will probably prohibit this.

Community Centre

Damage occurs at the Community Centre sometimes, and it has been found that this is more often caused by hirers of the centre who do not live on Vinters or Woodlands. It has therefore been decided that £25 deposit will be taken from 'outside' hirers instead of the £15 charged to Association members, to cover any costs incurred. Special toilet roll holders have had to be purchased to stop pilfering of toilet rolls. Tea-towels have also gone missing and if this continues, hirers will have to provide their own.

A Boot Sale last September was a success and raised funds for the Association.

A Boot Sale will be held shortly to raise funds for Rumania.

Soundproofing has been installed between the Hall and the Common Room.

The early morning cleaner has recently been replaced, and the new cleaner seems very conscientious.

The Community Centre signboard has been replaced, as the old one became weathered and unreadable.

The Association have allowed the Friends of the Earth to use the Car Park for collection of newspapers from residents, and also the Grove Green scouts for delivering refuse bags on behalf of the Council.

The Entertainments Licence has been renewed. However, a fine mesh grill will have to be installed over the kitchen window in order to have the licence renewed next year.

The lid must also be placed on the rubbish palladin outside at all times.

Two concrete posts have had to be replaced in the Community Centre Car Park.

A new liability disclaimer notice is needed, and one is on order.

Cars are being parked over night at the Community Centre Car Park and therefore a 'Private Car Park' sign is being obtained.

Bookings for the Community Centre continue to flourish, and Mrs Stubbins was thanked for her efforts in this respect.

Conclusion

Mr Stubbins concluded that after 8 years at the helm he is to retire from the position as Chairman. He thanked David Evans and Sheila Chittenden for their support and other members of the Committee for their time spent on Association matters. Mr Stubbins also paid respects to the late Bob Wilcockson for his efforts in the early years in getting the Community Centre project off the ground.

5. Statement of Accounts

David Evans reported on the financial situation. The accounts were taken as read and agreed. David thanked Margaret Stubbins for the excellent job she does as Booking Secretary. The item of £683.10 shown on the accounts relates to damage done to the Community Centre and the relevant insurance claim made and then repaid. The fund raising was down due to there only being one Boot Fair this year. The loan from the Maidstone Borough Council has been repaid. Money will now have to be saved for redecoration costs. It has not been necessary to increase hire charges this year. Maidstone Borough Council were going to charge for removing refuse from the Community Centre, but Mr Evans contacted the Council regarding this and the charge has now been dropped. The Community Centre should not be liable for rates this year. The Community Centre should not be liable for VAT on electricity, but consumption will have to be kept down.

Mr Evans was thanked for his efforts as Treasurer during the year.

6. To Consider two Motions: Proposed Amendments to V.P.R.A. Constitution

(a) To increase the amount for which the officers have power to incur expenditure from £100 to £300.

Clause 12 - Amend the figure in paragraph (f) from £100 to £300

This motion was proposed by Mrs Evans and seconded by Mr Elton and agreed by all present at the meeting.

(b) To authorise honoraria to the Treasurer and the Bookings Secretary.

Clause 9 - In paragraph (a) renumber sections (vi)/(viii) to (vii)/(ix), and insert new section:

(vi) "to decide the honoraria to be paid for the ensuing year to the Honorary Treasurer, The Bookings Secretary and the Honorary Auditor;"

This motion was proposed by Mr Lanford and seconded by Mr Lott and agreed by all present at the meeting.

These amendments will now be included in the V.P.R.A. Constitution and submitted to the Charities Commission for approval.

7. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members

Chairman -
Vice Chairman -
Secretary -
Treasurer - David Evans
Bookings Secretary - Margaret Stubbins
Executive Committee Members:- John Stubbins
Alan Britchford
Neil Sinclair
Chris Kirrage
Ingrid Wilcockson
Nick Butland
John Barfoot
Val Elton
Peter Lott
Sheila Chittenden

The above named were all proposed and seconded.

It was agreed that the choice of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary be made at the first committee meeting.

In the absence of a Chairman or a Vice Chairman, John Stubbins agreed to continue with the A.G.M.

8. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

David Evans proposed that Mr John Whibley be retained for the coming year and an honorarium of £20 be paid to him. Mrs Evans seconded this proposal and it was agreed by all present at the meeting.

8. (a) Honorarium for Treasurer and Bookings Secretary

Val Elton proposed that the honorarium for the Treasurer and Bookings Secretary should be £200 per year each and this was seconded by Neil Sinclair. This was also agreed by all those present at the meeting.

9. Any Other Business

Proposed Amalgamation of Invicta Grammar School and Oakwood Grammar School

A resident remarked that this proposal would increase congestion of traffic and noise from discos etc at the school and increase the amount of litter left in the vicinity of the school. Mrs Shaw said that she could convey the residents concern on this to the Council. Dr Simpson said that she would pass on these comments to the headmistress of Invicta Grammar School and expressed her hope that high standards of behaviour would continue. Dr Simpson also remarked that schools are used by the community outside school hours and this should be taken into account by residents living near schools.

M20 Junction Improvement

Val Elton outlined the situation regarding the M20 Junction improvement scheme, and said that the Residents Association have put forward an alternative scheme to keep the traffic away from the Bearsted Road adjacent to Vinters Park Estate. However, at the Public Inquiry, cost was put forward as being against the Association's suggestion. Mr Elton has found that figures have subsequently altered making the alternative proposal less expensive, but this evidence is not permissible since the Inquiry has closed. A quarry suggested as of archaeological value near the alternative route can be avoided. The result may go against the Association, and it will have to be decided what action should next be taken. Mr Elton also commented on the loss of the trees along the Bearsted Road if there is any road alteration there. Dr Simpson asked Mr Elton for a copy of the financial situation regarding the M20 improvement proposals for her reference.

Speeding Traffic along Alkham Road/Commodore Road

Mr Lanford remarked that traffic is speeding down these roads and an accident may occur shortly. Mr Stubbins suggested that the Police should be approached on this. Regulations will not allow sleeping policemen on the road. Dr Simpson suggested that a ramp situation with road narrowing may be allowable. Mr Stubbins said the Executive Committee will consider this matter at the next meeting and the Maidstone Borough Council will be contacted. Another resident suggested that the white lining on the road at the junction of Alkham Road/Commodore Road be altered as at the other end of Commodore Road/Marston Drive.

Neil Sinclair thanked John Stubbins and Sheila Chittenden for the work they have done for the Residents Association over their years as Chairman and Secretary.

No Other Business

Approximately 35 members of the Residents Association were present.