

VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION  
HELD AT VINTERS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 11 MAY 1994.

The meeting was attended by at least 43 residents (not all completed the attendance sheet). Apologies were received from County Councillor Mrs. Margaret Featherstone, Councillor Mrs. Sue Dishman, Mrs Margaret Stubbins, Mr. John Whibley and Mr. Peter Lott.

1. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 April 1993 were approved.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman drew attention to his Report, which together with the Notice of Meeting and Agenda had been included in the recent issue of "The Park Ranger", which had been delivered to individual properties throughout the estate and a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book and will form part of the Minutes of this meeting. He asked for questions on that Report and on the Minutes.

In reply to a question, the Honorary Secretary reported that the Post Office had agreed to install an additional post-box in Bargrove Road by the open space near the Boxley Parish Council noticeboard.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT.

The Finance Manager referred to the Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31 January 1994 and the Balance Sheet as at that date, copies of which were circulated at the meeting. As his Report had been included in "The Park Ranger" he only drew attention to the increase in charges which the Executive Committee had found necessary and which users of the Centre had accepted.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

The following members were duly elected to the posts indicated

Chairman	Neil Sinclair
Honorary Secretary	Keith Rogers
Executive Committee	John Ashdown, Alan Britchford, David Evans Noreen Latham and Peter Lott

5. APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR.

It was RESOLVED that John Whibley be appointed as Honorary Auditor for the coming year and that an honorarium of £30.00 be paid for his services in this post.

## 6. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

It was RESOLVED, on the suggestion of the Finance Manager, that the Annual Subscription be again waived for the coming year.

## 7. POLICE PRESENTATION ON "COMMUNITY POLICING" ETC.,

Chief Inspector Williams set the scene by explaining the need to change from the former system of community policemen living on the estate. The Division served from Maidstone and West Malling Stations, covered 250 square miles and had an increasing variety of demands on its services. A meeting of resident beat officers had shown that they were all frustrated by their inability to give the level of service the public was looking for. While he appreciated the good comments he had been given of Ian Gedge's work on the estate, that system of policing only gave a limited cover to the estates it was intended to serve because of annual leave, sickness and other commitments. The need to be more dynamic in approach to enable a better use to be made of the limited resources available had been accepted. On 18 April a new team was formed of 10 former resident beat officers with transport able to be moved swiftly to any area where need arose. There are also three officers carrying out a co-ordinating role, a Sergeant in charge and a Neighbourhood Watch Officer. The work of this team is being closely monitored to see if modifications are needed.

P.C. Mick Wright, the Neighbourhood Watch Officer, reported on its operation and effectiveness. Since the beginning of the year only 66 of the 7,000 offences committed in the Division had taken place on the estate. These were mainly theft or damage involving properties or cars. The divisional statistics he produced for the comparable period last year showed a marked drop this year in all categories of theft/burglary. Clearly the work done by Neighbourhood Watch was being effective. The best result locally was where a resident reported two men involved in a break-in which led to their arrest and their subsequent admission of a total of 120 offences. Constable Wright sought continuing support; the system was working and residents were asked to keep up the good work.

Sergeant Richard Gummery was in charge of the Community Policing Unit and gave an idea of the type of work covered by the Unit. It was intended to serve estates rather than the town centre and did not target serious criminals. It dealt with groups of youths causing a nuisance, drugs problems, nuisance from motor-cyclists and minor damage. They had acted successfully on a problem involving the sale of drink to under-age children, only to be accused by the original complainants of being too severe on the Licensee concerned.

This presentation obviously aroused considerable interest as it produced a wide variety of question and comment, including the following:

**QUESTION** Would not the police resources be better used by retaining the close contact with children through school visits by 'local' policemen to whom they could relate?

**ANSWER** Two Constables continue to visit schools. It is not possible to retain 'local' contact because of the need to make best use of resources to meet commitments.

**QUESTION** Is not response from new Unit ineffective arriving by car to find offenders had vanished, compared to Ian Gedge who might arrive on foot and in many cases would know where to find culprits?

**ANSWER** Personal knowledge of Ian Gedge available to Team who would not always arrive by car or in uniform.

**QUESTION** Ian Gedge would often be working out of hours to deal with problems and residents knew he would help if he could. Was this not preferable

to e.g. a phone call three quarters of an hour after a complaint of a gang of noisy youths to say no help was coming because of other calls on the service?

ANSWER Again it was necessary to use available resources to best advantage. Priorities had to be established. The first was the protection of life; then protection of property and, thirdly, calls where answer can be delayed. For anyone dissatisfied there was a procedure to deal with complaints.

QUESTION A number of references were made to the deterioration in law and order on the estate particularly during the last year. Examples included the gang of youths frequenting Snowdon Parade late at night, boys in and out of school all day visiting shops and smoking around the school premises and, it was alleged, being involved in a number of offences. Did not the Headmaster have a responsibility for children during school hours, and what of parents - did they not have a duty to see their children were not a nuisance or getting into trouble? What action could the Police take?

ANSWER Possibly this should be taken up with local Head Teachers. (The Chairman noted this, possibly as a subject for a future Annual Meeting). So far as prosecution was concerned e.g. damage to litter bins, firm evidence was essential, plus a witness willing to come to court to give evidence

QUESTION Does the Chief Constable fight hard enough for additional resources or against additional responsibilities e.g. duties arising from the Channel Tunnel?

ANSWER Certainly extra resources have been made available and the Chief Constable has flexibility as to their use.

QUESTION Cannot something be done to provide better service to the citizen by cutting down paperwork and avoiding functions imposed from elsewhere like policing The Milk Race?

ANSWER Fair points, but police force has to perform the duties imposed on it.

QUESTION Some comments showed concern about the service that had been given, but others expressed appreciation.

ANSWER Always glad to receive comment/letters about the service. Any serious complaints get to Chief Inspector Williams. He was only too well aware that they could not do everything or be everywhere but the officers were dedicated, often working for the public in their own time, and get hurt if people think that they are not doing their best. For the future let us give the new form of community policing a fair trial. It may not be the answer, but at the moment it seems the best use of resources and the best option.

The Chairman expressed the sincere thanks of the meeting to Chief Inspector Williams and his colleagues for their presentation and for facing the public in this way.

## 8. VINTERS VALLEY PARK TRUST.

In welcoming Councillor Donal MacGrory, the Chairman expressed his appreciation for Councillor MacGrory's agreement to exchange places on the Agenda with the Police.

Councillor MacGrory first explained how he became interested in the valley through his painting. He had encountered the late Alderman Percy Barden, the former owner of the land, while he was trespassing to paint by the lake. Percy Barden, when he had realised why Donal MacGrory was there, had given him consent to

come onto the land to paint. This permission did not prevent Donal's determination to try to do something to stop Percy Barden's use of the land for dumping and to see that some better use was made of the land.

At that time he had sought to prevent the development of Woodlands, Grove Green and Notcutts but without success. His interest in the valley was noted and he was asked by Boxley Parish Council to be the Chairman of the Trust which was intended to run the proposed valley park in the late 1980s. Although this proposal faltered because the K.C.C. decided to cut the length of lease, efforts were pursued; originally to gain support for the cause, Donal stood as a Councillor in North ward in 1991 and was elected. Since then his concern has extended to many other matters and all the electorate.

At length terms were agreed and with Boxley Parish Council as Custodian Trustee the Trust was set up in September 1991. Since then the Trust has gone from strength to strength and has taken over responsibility for the Top field between the House and the Mobil site, Area G and Area C. Now the Borough Council had agreed to the Trust managing the Fullingpits Wood site and, when coppiced, the public will have access to this land, though it did not have Open Space status.

Recently 4 Dog Bins had been installed on the Tapping Trail for the Blind. Now the public had to be educated to make use of them as well as keeping their dogs on the lead when near the waterfowl. Future plans included the provision of an Educational Centre for Nature Study on Area C at a provisionally estimated cost of £80,000 and obtaining an extension of the lease.

The Chairman thanked Donal MacGrory for his interesting talk and account both of the history and current position of the Trust.

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

### (1) Children's Play Areas.

Points were raised about the restriction of age of children using play areas, the type of safety surface being installed and the hard edging used to that surface. Councillor Mrs. Shaw explained how funding of improvement/maintenance of play areas had been halved, though moneys were put aside for a new play area in the housing areas at the rear of the prison. She would raise the concerns expressed about the new surfacing.

### (2) Facilities for Teenagers.

An enquirer about facilities for teenagers was referred to the Howard de Walden Youth Club.

### (3) Car Parking on Corners.

Concern was expressed about car parking on the corners at Newenden Close/Bargrove Road and Bargrove Road/Hampton Road. It was noted that obstruction was a matter for the Police.

## 10. CLOSING.

In closing the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the members of the Executive Committee for their support during the past year.

  
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CHAIRMAN

24.5.93 DATE



# VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 273861

## *Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 January 1995*

	1994/95		1993/94	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Community Centre hire	8,824		8,231	
Equipment hire	-		35	
Deposits with-held	25		-	
Bank interest	59		71	
	-----		-----	
		8,908		8,337
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<i>Administration Costs:</i>				
Secretarial & telephone expenses	82		185	
Meetings & conferences	-		5	
KRCC subscription	27		25	
Honoraria to officers	1,005		930	
AGM expenses	77		112	
Computer system	-		66	
Miscellaneous expenses	3		-	
<i>Community Centre costs:</i>				
Caretaking & cleaning	1,884		1,914	
General maintenance	284		594	
Structural alterations/repairs	3,225		2,146	
Equipment: new & maintenance	209		582	
Electricity	574		711	
Gas	408		458	
Water	184		123	
Sewerage	70		118	
Insurances	659		841	
Performing rights	115		76	
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		8,806		8,886
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>				
		-----		-----
		£102		
<b>DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>				
		=====		cr £549
				====

**Balance Sheet as at 31 January 1995**

	1994/95		1993/94	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Accumulated Funds:</b>				
At start of year		3,470		4,019
Add: Surplus for year		102		
Less: Deficit for year			cr	549
At end of year		-----		-----
		3,572		3,470

**Deposits held:**

At start of year		70		60
Received		710		920
Returned	cr	740	cr	910
With-held	cr	25		-
At end of year		-----		-----
		15		70
		-----		-----
		£3,587		£3,540
		=====		=====

**Represented by:**

Bank Current Account		1,141		1,081
Bank Capital Reserve A/c		2,565		2,256
Payment in advance		-		115
Debtors		322		333
Creditors	cr	441	cr	245
		-----		-----
		£3,587		£3,540
		=====		=====

JOHN STUBBINS, IPFA - Finance Manager

I have examined the respective records and vouchers and certify that these accounts give a true and fair view of the transactions of the Vinters Park Residents' Association for the year ended 31 January 1995 and of the financial position at that date.

JOHN WHIBLEY - Honorary Auditor