



VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD AT VINTERS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 24 MAY 1995.

The meeting was attended by 54 residents and 8 guests. Apologies were received from County Councillor Mrs. Margaret Featherstone, Councillor Donal MacGrory, Mr. Alan Britchford, Mr. Maurice Dring, Mr. Peter Lott, Mrs. Audrey Seward, Mr. Basil Seward, and Mr. John Whibley.

During the course of the meeting the Chairman welcomed Councillors Mrs. S. Dishman, Mrs. M. Shaw and A.B. Tilley and Mrs. ~~M.A. Wright~~ ^{M.A. Wright}, Head Teacher of the Mid-Kent School for Girls, Mr. B.J. Cole, Head Teacher of Vinters Boys School and Mr. D. Abrams, Head Teacher of East Borough Primary School and Mr. G. Russell Highways Manager of the Highways Management Unit run by the K.C.C. as well as the speakers Chief Inspector David King and Mr. Adam Geary, the Arts Officer of M.B.C. 

1. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11 May 1994 were approved and signed by the Chairman. Most of the items arising under the Minutes would be dealt with more fully ^{later} in the meeting. The Chairman did mention that it was understood that the ~~Board~~ ^{Board} de Walden Youth Club was to be closed and the possible effects of such closure. The Honorary Secretary was also able to inform the meeting that he had had a meeting that day with a representative of Royal Mail who had confirmed that a postbox was shortly to be installed adjacent to the Boxley Parish Council noticeboard in Bargrove Road. 

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, a copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book and forms part of these Minutes. Points arising were dealt with under subsequent items.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT.

The Finance Manager referred to the Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31 January 1995 and the Balance Sheet as at that date, copies of which were circulated at the meeting and his brief Report in "The Park Ranger". The item 'Honoraria to Officers' related to the payments to the 3 Managers. He was able to report a healthy position despite the expenditure on the new windows in the Hall and the walls adjacent to the Hall. This position was due to a satisfactory level of income and the good work of the Bookings Manager in maintaining a very high level of lettings. The meeting approved the accounts.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

The following members were duly elected to the posts indicated:

Chairman	Neil Sinclair
Vice Chairman	Noreen Latham
Honorary Secretary	Keith Rogers
Executive Committee	John Ashdown Alan Britchford Ernie Mercer Gerry Kirrage Peter Lott Sam Stacey

5. APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR.

It was RESOLVED that John Stubbins be appointed as Honorary Auditor for the coming year and that an honorarium of £30.00 be paid for his services in this post. It was also agreed that the thanks of the Association be extended to John Whibley for his past services to the Association.

6. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

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

7. ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Mr. Adam Geary explained that he was the Arts Officer for M.B.C. in the Arts and Cultural Unit. Although he was not a Youth Worker his job involved a strong commitment to working with young people. The strategy was to seek to involve young people through new technology, where appropriate, in schemes which they can plan, design and carry out. Clearly any scheme must be on a subject of interest to the young people. Currently several projects were proceeding on posters and plans were in hand concerning videos and a magazine or newspaper. A media festival was planned for October. Past involvement with community schemes had included the Ancient Roots/New Shoots project. The scheme of getting a group of children to design and paint a mural on the underpass on the estate which he was investigating with Mrs. Margaret Dring could be a further extension of their work.

The difficulty is to identify the group who would be interested in such ideas. In this he could not take the initiative and looked for outside help. Existing schemes were linked to schools or a church. For the underpass mural to be a practical possibility the Association would need to help in identifying an appropriate group of young people.

He was concerned at the way that young people were continually being blamed and sought to try to work with them in doing something constructive. M.B.C. was always looking for ideas; twice a year it advertised for applications from outside bodies for grants to assist them with suitable schemes.

Mr. Geary floated the idea of the Community Centre being used by or made available to young people on the estate on a regular basis. If enough people with commitment were found to run such a project, he would provide contacts to help create the requisite focus. During the meeting various references were made to this and similar ideas of creating a focus for youth, but the concern that such a project itself might become the target of vandalism was also voiced. Mr. Richard Pain of Vinters Christian Community (V.C.C.) told the meeting of the efforts that V.C.C. had made to run a club for young people in the hall. It had grown to such an extent that over 100 had wanted to join so that it soon became unmanageable, partly because of insufficient helpers. V.C.C. had found that much better work had been done with smaller groups. There was some debate about the benefits of a large group, but the need for adequate, suitable helpers was accepted.

It was also suggested that schemes needed to be devised which provide what the youngsters will be interested in, which will get them off the streets. The point was made more than once that this required support from the community.

The possibility of creating a 'Junior Residents Committee' from which representatives could attend the Executive Committee's meetings to discuss projects they might be interested in was raised, but the Chairman pointed out that this would need resourcing as the Association's funds were limited.

In answer to a further question Mr. Geary said that the work of M.B.C. in this area was different from that of K.C.C. Youth Workers, who had statutory duties. M.B.C. in conjunction with outside bodies sought to initiate good quality projects and to bring in professional practitioners to develop them.

8. THIS YEAR'S POLICING METHODS IN KENT.

Chief Inspector David King, the Area Crime Manager for the Maidstone/Malling Police District, stated at once that the strategy of the Police had changed dramatically from that explained and commended to the 1994 A.G.M. The aim now is to target the very small minority responsible for serious crime.

To provide the flexibility needed to adapt to the current needs the previous 13 Police Districts had been reduced to 9, but Maidstone/Malling is not affected by these changes.

Similarly the style of response to reports of crime has changed. All reports of crime are dealt with at the Crime Desk, so a uniform practice will be followed. If the incident is not serious and there is no real prospect of taking effective action, the caller will be made aware of the position and the note of the incident will be filed. If it is a serious matter the call will be followed up by a member of the Crime Scene Unit, who will be well trained in dealing with that type of situation and will also be well equipped. Changes in procedures within the Police Station have enabled those who answer calls from the public to be relieved of some of the procedures when a criminal has been apprehended. There were still teething problems as the new system only came in in March.

Chief Inspector King was well aware of the record of vandalism on the estate, but it was negligible compared to other places; it was vandalism rather than armed robbery. The overall position in Maidstone was good. In many cases the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme had been very effective resulting in arrests, some of which had cleared other cases.

The Police were taking all crime very seriously. An Inspector had been taken off all other duties to help oversee this new initiative. Whilst it may not all sound very drastic, in fact it was a very big change.

In response to a question on the frustration felt when conviction only led to a Supervision Order, he agreed that a lenient sentence or the dismissal of a case on a technicality was not easy to accept, He did not agree that all Magistrates were liberal in attitude; some took a very strong line.

Another resident referred to the loss of intelligence on crime in the area by the removal of Ian Gedge. Whilst this was accepted, Chief Inspector King emphasised that the change in approach was only made after a lot of research and careful consideration. Ian Gedge was an exceptionally good officer, but it was felt the new system made better use of resources.

9. EMPLOYMENT OF A PRIVATE SECURITY FIRM.

David Evans moved, and it was duly seconded, that this A.G.M. of the Vinters Park Residents' Association requests the Executive Committee to investigate the feasibility of inviting a private security firm to patrol the area covered by the Vinters and Woodlands estates with a view to reducing vandalism, and the harassment of people using the Community Centre, so giving greater peace of mind to the residents.

In moving the motion David Evans said that he was fed up with the many acts of vandalism on the estate of late and wished to see action taken to prevent it as the Police seemed unable to deal with such matters. Where the cost was to be met he did not know; perhaps the Police or the Local Authority would pay. He was not saying that we should necessarily do it, but that we should look into the possibility.

Chief Inspector King could understand the frustration. If we went ahead we would need to see we got good value and not all private security firms were good. In any case they would have no special powers. A better possibility might be the Parish Constable, a Special Constable whose duties were confined to a specific area like the pilot schemes in Barmlng and Farleigh. In response to a question, he made it clear that the Parish Constable could operate over whatever area was selected; he thought that for Vinters Park estate, including Woodlands, two Parish Constables might be appropriate. If that was what was wanted he would do all he could to assist.

Councillor Mrs. Shaw was not happy at the prospect of a private security firm and wondered how well their employees were screened. Neither M.B.C. nor the Parish Council would pay and the residents would not want to pay the firm, even if the firm was willing to collect payments. She wondered If there was any mileage in seeking an extension of the town centre closed circuit television to selected sites on the estate.

John Stubbins moved, and it was duly seconded, that the motion moved by David Evans be amended by the deletion of the words "to investigate the feasibility of inviting a private security firm to patrol" and the substitution therefore of the words "to actively pursue the engagement of Neighbourhood (i.e. 'Parish') Constables for".

The amended motion which read:

"That this A.G.M. of the Vinters Park Residents' Association requests the Executive Committee to actively pursue the engagement of Neighbourhood (i.e. 'Parish') Constable for the area covered by the Vinters and Woodlands estates with a view to reducing vandalism, and the harassment of people using the Community Centre, so giving greater peace of mind to the residents"

was put and carried unanimously,

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(a) Litter.

Following an enquiry from a resident, Mr.D. Abrams of East Borough Primary School confirmed that the children were told each day not to drop litter in the street, but that parents had a great responsibility, for giving children proper instruction.

(b) Footpath/Tree Planting.

Val Elton advised the meeting that he was seeking to ensure that the diversion of the footpath across the grounds of the Stakis Hotel follows a line as near as possible to the old footpath. He was also pleased to say that K.C.C. would soon be planting replacement trees on the estate side of Bearsted Road and elsewhere.

(c) Graffiti In Underpass/Surface near Goal Posts.

Mr. G. Russell said he had seen the underpasses and accepted the need for action. The piles of earth had now been used to fill in subsidence. Attention was drawn to the continuing existence of rocks and other items in the ground on this area and to a hole by a cover in the footpath and he agreed to investigate.

(d) Children's Play Areas.

Margaret Dring reported progress on safety surfaces.

Much concern was expressed over Upper Fullingpits Wood. Cllr. Mrs. Shaw reported only an 11% response to M.B.C.'s enquiries re retention of this Children's Play Area and urged those wanting it kept to write in. Other residents reported the misuse of this area by young people and concern at children being encouraged to go there.

One lady expressed thanks for the installation of the play equipment for toddlers at Bedgebury Close.

(e) Pedestrian Crossings.

In answer to questions, Mr. Russell explained that no crossing was now planned outside the Crematorium and that the crossings in Sittingbourne Road were postponed with the road works there and he could not be certain that these would be implemented.

(f) Overgrowing Hedges etc.

Mr. Russell noted the need for overhanging hedges/trees in the Sittingbourne Road/Holland Road area to be dealt with.

(g) Footpaths - Construction and Repair.

Mr. Russell invited the submission of proposals for new footpaths and requests for urgent repairs to his Unit (M.602123). Any complaints should be made direct to him.

(h) Footpaths - Cable T.V.

Mr. Russell explained that Cable T.V. companies were required to make the facility available to all residences, which required digging up and making good footpaths on each side of the road.

(i) Grassed Squares - Playing of Football.

When asked about action available to stop football, Mr Russell said that, although Bye-laws could be made, enforcement was the problem. Gentle persuasion might be better.

(j) Late Night and other Nuisances.

Several residents from the Blendon Road area complained of late night football, singing, bad language and drunkenness in the adjacent play area. One lady also referred to incidents when a group of 20 youths threw stones at their windows and the Police had not responded when called. Chief Inspector King took note.

11. CLOSING.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the members of the Executive Committee for their support during the year and especially the Finance and Bookings Managers for all they had done for the Association.


CHAIRMAN 15/5/96 D A T C

14/05/96

VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 1996

	<u>Jan 31, '96</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequeing/Savings	
1 Current	2,051.61
3 Capital Reserve	1,603.28
Total Chequeing/Savings	<u>3,654.89</u>
Accounts Receivable	
Receivables	536.13
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>536.13</u>
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	308.90
Total Other Current Assets	<u>308.90</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>4,499.92</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>4,499.92</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	3,705.88
Net Income	794.04
Total Equity	<u>4,499.92</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>4,499.92</u></u>

14/05/96

VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Profit and Loss
 February 1995 through January 1996

	Feb '95 - Jan '96
Income	
d0-Deposits	
d1-Deposits received	771.20
Total d0-Deposits	771.20
i0-Income	
i1-Centre hire	8,085.23
i4-Interest	38.21
i6-Equipment hire	5.00
Total i0-Income	8,128.44
z2-Debtors	284.40
Total Income	9,184.04
Expense	
a0-Administration	
a1-Printing/copying	86.10
a2-Post/telephone	18.97
a3-Stationery	6.86
a8-Sals/honoraria	913.50
Total a0-Administration	1,025.43
c0-Caretaking	
c1-Cleaners wages	1,679.87
c2-Cleaning materials	30.02
c3-Domestic/toilet	70.60
c4-Window cleaning	30.50
Total c0-Caretaking	1,810.99
d2-Deposits returned	
d3-Deposits withheld	25.00
d2-Deposits returned - Other	706.20
Total d2-Deposits returned	731.20
e0-Equipment	
e1-New equipment	5.04
e2-Equipment maintenance	44.47
Total e0-Equipment	49.51
g0-General O/H's	
g1-Electricity	534.67
g2-Gas	542.00
g3-Water	124.77
g4-Sewerage	120.08
g6-Insurance	695.53
g7-Performing rights	201.72
Total g0-General O/H's	2,218.77
m0-Maintenance	
m1-Maintenance wages	116.03
m2-Maintenance materials	60.35
m4-Plumbg/elect/htg	193.15
m5-Structural alts/repairs	2,073.79
m9-Misc. maintce.	54.02
Total m0-Maintenance	2,497.34
o0-Other expenses	
o9-Miscellaneous	56.76
Total o0-Other expenses	56.76
z0-Balance sheet	
z9-Contra adjustments	0.00
Total z0-Balance sheet	0.00
Total Expense	8,390.00
Net Income	794.04