

VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION
HELD AT VINTERS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 14 MAY 1997.

The Chairman first welcomed the main speaker, Councillor D. MacGrory who would be giving an update on Vinters Valley Park and also Inspector Williams with the new Community Police Unit Coordinator W.P.C. Di Paul, Mr. G. Russell, Highways Manager of the Highways Management Unit run by the K.C.C. and Mr Andrew Bale - M.B.C. Waste Recycling Officer, who would all be talking to us later. He went on to welcome County Councillor Mrs. M. Featherstone, Councillor Mrs. M. Shaw (MBC), Councillor Mrs. P. Brooks (Boxley Parish Council) and Mr. Leigh representing Vinters Boys School and all the residents.

Apologies were received from Ann Widdicombe M.P., County Councillor Mrs. F. Simpson, Mr. D. Abrams (East Borough Primary School), Mrs. M.A. Waight (Mid-Kent School for Girls), Mr. A. Britchford, Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Smith and Mr. J. Wibley. 37 residents and 5 guests were recorded as being present.

1. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 May 1996 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman's written Report had been circulated with the Notice of Meeting and the Agenda in the recent issue of "The Park Ranger". No questions were raised on his Report or on the Minutes of the 1996 A.G.M.

The Chairman apologised that, because the Finance Manager was now working away from Maidstone, the Accounts had not been circulated but reported the balance in hand at 30 April 1996 was £3,416. The Accounts would be completed and audited as soon as possible when any resident might inspect them. In the meantime if anyone had a question on the accounts they were asked to speak to either the Chairman or the Vice Chairman.

Internal decorations, necessary every three or four years, had been carried out as well as some electrical work. Another expensive item was the replacement of glass in the front door and of the panel over the door. The possibility of using UPVC panels in the door was raised. A number of other items of vandalism giving rise to expenditure were also mentioned. Altogether it was likely that in the near future the Executive Committee would need to consider the increase of Hire Fees.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

The following members were duly elected to the posts indicated:

<u>Chairman</u>	Neil Sinclair
<u>Vice Chairman</u>	Noreen Latham
<u>Honorary Secretary</u>	Keith Rogers
<u>Executive Committee</u>	John Ashdown Alan Britchford Peter Fever Sue Fry Gerry Kirrage Julie Long Peter Lott Margaret Shaw

4. 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.

5. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

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

6. VALLEY PARK TRUST.

Councillor Donal MacGrory reported that this was the sixth year of operation of the Trust. In some respects it would be right to say that the Trust was doing well, the lease had now been extended from 25 to 99 years and responsibility had been taken for additional areas of land. However although a great deal of effort was put into pursuing and extending the work of the Trust, there were a number of areas of concern.

Of recent items installed neither the dog litter bins nor the blind tapping rail, which had suffered considerable vandalism, were much used. A decision would need to be taken as to whether it was worth reinstating the tapping rail.

Latest reports indicated that the numbers and different species of songbirds and other wildlife visiting the site were dwindling. Tree cropping would open some overgrown areas and allow some sunlight in to encourage some species in their use of the site.

Children from a variety of schools visit the park and steps are in hand to get concern for and learning about wildlife made a part of their curricula. Some classes are taken in the Park.

This was the positive side of how the Park was used. On the other hand there is evidence of glue sniffing and drug-taking. Then there is the continuing problem of vandalism, presumably the work of youngsters. Examples of recent serious vandalism included a Notice Board damaged with paint, a gate which had been burnt and birds and animals shot. He was appalled at such action, particularly the cruelty to birds and animals, and asked that anyone seeing any evidence of such offences notify the police at once.

Donal MacGrory then answered points raised from the floor.

7. HIGHWAY MATTERS.

Mr. Geoff Russell, the Highways Manager, dealt with a number of questions raised by those attending the meeting.

The Cycle Route was part of the philosophy of MBC following on Park/Ride etc in trying to restrict traffic in Maidstone Town Centre. It follows Alkham/Hampton Roads to Snowdon Avenue (the 'cycle' sign merely showed the direction to follow) and then the proposed joint footpath/cycle track down to Vinters Road. Here barriers would slow cyclists. He accepted the considerable concern expressed at the meeting over the proposal to mix cyclists with pedestrians, but MBC was anxious to deal with the danger of mixing cyclists with pedestrians.

The Pathway to the back end of Littlebourne Road which was used as a short cut by motorists had not been shut off as the requisite barriers had to be ordered as they were not held in stock. The comment on vehicles being parked in Hampton Road at the junction with Sittingbourne Road would be investigated. With regard to concern about traffic congestion at peak times he made the comment that this meant there was less chance of an accident.

8. RECYCLING OF WASTE.

Mr. Andrew Bale, MBC's Assistant Environmental Initiation Officer, explained the background to the Council's policy on recycling waste. It has little to do with what can or can't be recycled, but what can be economic. Rogers Waste is the firm responsible for the current experimental scheme under which all the items are collected en bloc and separated by hand as they pass along a conveyor belt. This scheme is a loss leader and is highly subsidised. If fully implemented it will be costly.

If planning permission is granted, KCC intends to build a waste to energy incinerator at Halling for all rubbish and make a really significant impact on the amount that can be recycled.

9. LOCAL POLICING.

The new Community Police Unit Coordinator W.P.C. Di Paul was able to report that there now two Parish Constables on duty in the area and when Grade 2 had been achieved they would be able to patrol on their own. The Chief Constable did not accept the policy of zero tolerance advocated elsewhere. There was a hard core of unclubables for whom action was required from parents, Detached Youth Workers and other agencies. While the Police will deal with anti-social behaviour, people with drink and drugs problems will need other specialised help.

So far as the estate was concerned it had in fact received a considerable degree of attention from the Police. The group of youngsters congregating at Snowdon Parade were often visited, names were taken and records kept and there had been one arrest.

In response to points from residents W.P.C. Paul and Inspector Williams pointed out that the estate in fact suffered minimal vandalism and the Police had been active, if not always seen. The Tasking Team had been present on occasions between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and there were patrols at night two or three times a week. On the suggestion that the zero tolerance option was preferable to stop crimes rather than leaving them unsolved, it was a fact that the people in New York were now fed up with it.

Residents were asked to report any matters requiring Police action. Information for the Community Police Unit should be passed to W.P.C. Di Paul on 01622 608069 and for an offence actually happening requiring immediate attendance the number to phone was 01622 690055.

10. CLOSING.

The Chairman, in closing, thanked all the speakers and all who had attended what had been a very interesting evening. He also thanked the members of the Executive Committee for all they had done during the year.



CHAIRMAN D.P.C.

Balance Sheet as at 31 January 1998

	1997/98		1996/97	
	£	£	£	£
Accumulated Funds:				
At start of year		3,616		3,776
Less: Deficit for year	cr	89	cr	161
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
At end of year		3,527		3,615
 Deposits held:				
At start of year		75		80
Received		868		628
Returned	cr	868	cr	618
With-held		-	cr	15
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
At end of year		75		75
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		£3,602		£3,690
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
 Represented by:				
Bank Current Account		1,988		1,393
Bank Capital Reserve A/c		1,062		1,057
Debtors		691		1,431
Receipts in advance	cr	39	cr	96
Creditors	cr	100	cr	95
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		£3,602		£3,690
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AVICE HARMS - 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 1998 and of the financial position at that date.

JOHN STUBBINS, CPFA - Honorary Auditor



VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 273861

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 January 1998

	1997/98		1996/97	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Community Centre hire	7,496		8,249	
Equipment hire	-		10	
Deposits with-held	-		15	
Bank interest	5		53	
Insurance claim	-		91	
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		7,501		8,418
EXPENDITURE				
<i>Administration Costs:</i>				
Secretarial & telephone expenses	95		40	
Subscriptions	30		48	
Managers' salaries	1,525		1,535	
Computer & accessories	165		-	
AGM expenses (Parkranger)	82		82	
<i>Community Centre Costs:</i>				
Caretaking & cleaning	2,084		1,923	
General maintenance	528		2,310	
Structural alterations/repairs	602		-	
Grounds maintenance	160		114	
Equipment: new & maintenance	270		414	
Electricity	487		507	
Gas	510		541	
Water	198		106	
Sewerage	55		118	
Insurances	699		752	
Performing rights	100		89	
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		7,590		8,579
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DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		£89		£161
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