

VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD AT VINTERS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 20 MAY 1998.

The Chairman started by welcoming everyone to the meeting, making particular reference to County Councillor Dr. F, Simpson, Councillor Mrs. M. Shaw and Councillor D. MacGrory (MBC), Councillor J. Munson, Chairman of Boxley Parish Council, Mr. D. Abrams the Head Teacher of East Borough Primary School and the Reverend Anthony Delaney the new Curate at St. Luke's who lives on the estate. He also introduced Deanne Cunningham, MBC's Parks and Grounds Maintenance Officer who would be making a presentation on the proposed Focus Park at the Ashurst Road Play Area and later answering questions. Others available to answer questions were Judy Rider, the Head Teacher of the new Vinters Park Community School, P.C. Ian Gedge, Malcolm Wallace for the Neighbourhood Watch Association and Geoff Russell, Highways Manager of the Highways Management Unit run by the K.C.C.

Apologies were received from Ann Widdicombe M.P., County Councillor Mrs. M. Featherstone, Councillor P. Sellar, Mr. B.J. Cole, the Head Teacher of Vinters Boys School, Mrs. M. Waight, the Head Teacher of Mid-Kent School for Girls, Inspector Dave Williams, Sgt. Mick Wright, the Community Policeman Roger Boorman, Mr. A. Britchford, Mr. and Mrs. M. Dring, Mr. and Mrs. D. Evans, Mrs. S. Fry, Mrs A. Harms, Mrs. J. Long, Mrs. M. Stubbins and Mr. J. Wibley. Forty-three residents and 9 guests were recorded as being present.

1. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14 May 1997 were circulated at the meeting, approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman's written Report had been circulated with the Notice of Meeting and Agenda in the recent issue of "The Park Ranger". No questions were raised directly relating to his Report or to the Minutes of the 1997 A.G.M.

3. PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS.

In the absence of Avice Harms, the Finance Manager, John Stubbins presented the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 January 1998 and the Balance Sheet as at that date, copies of which are inserted in the Minute Book. He referred to the various items of expenditure including structural repairs in the replacement of windows and also work to make good the effects of vandalism and explained that the reduction in income was due to the loss of some regular bookings.

There were no questions and the Meeting approved the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 January 1998 and the Balance Sheet as at 31 January 1998.

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, Peter Fever, Sue Fry, Gerry Kirrage, Peter Lott, Terry O'Connor and Margaret Shaw.

5. APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR.

It was RESOLVED that John Stubbins be appointed as Honorary Auditor for the coming year, but it was left to the Executive Committee to settle the amount of the honorarium to be paid for his services in this post.

6. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

It was RESOLVED that the Annual Subscription be again waived for the coming year.

7. PRESENTATION ON NEW FOCUS PARK AT ASHURST ROAD PLAY AREA.

Deanne Cunningham, MBC's Parks and Grounds Maintenance Officer explained that MBC each year identifies a location to be treated as a Focus Park and this year it is the Play area at Ashurst Road. There was £5,000 available for upgrading the facilities there and it was hoped that some sponsorship might also be attracted to appropriate projects. There had been a 25% response to the questionnaire that had been sent to the residents of the area immediately adjacent to the Play Area. Of those responding 85% were in favour of the principle of improvements there, but only 5% offered to help. The proposal receiving the most support was the improvement of the lighting with work on the kick around area being a close second. These proposals were unlikely to produce any sponsorship. There had been liaison with the Head Teachers of Valley Park Community School and East Borough Primary School who were both keen to be involved. Deanne Cunningham now wanted some feedback from the Meeting.

In answer to a question Deanne stated that the laying of the rubberised surface to improve the surface of the kick around area would be likely to be confined to the area around the goal posts. A number of residents from the vicinity of the Play Area made clear their concern that the introduction of any activity like a BMX track would pull in youngsters from other areas to the exclusion of the local children. They were therefore not in favour of any such proposal. Other people wanted to make sure that MBC was aware of their concerns about damage done by children to property and the calls from children to help when injured in the past. Residents wanted action taken to help prevent repetition of these types of incident.

Attention was drawn to the two different types of use made of the Play Area. In the daytime it is largely used by younger children with more older ones coming in the evening. The Meeting was reminded of the late night problems of a couple of years ago. Local residents were most anxious to ensure that nothing was done which might encourage a recurrence of those problems.

The use of the island site in Matfield Crescent for football was also mentioned. Residents did not want anything done at Ashurst Road which might encourage this use. At the same time they asked about stopping this practice and especially the erection of "No Ball Games" notices on the Matfield Crescent site. Answers from Geoff Russell and Deanne pointed out that this would not be legal if it were highway land, as seemed likely, and that such notices were of little use if they could not be enforced.

The subject that raised most concern was lighting. Although there was a general view that some extra lighting in the right place might be an advantage, the proposal for four new lights seemed excessive. Lights which created a gathering point were not welcome, but some lighting in the wooded area could be useful. Ian Gedge thought that possibly one extra light in the middle of the area could help. The suggestion was also made that consideration be given to the lights being set to go out at a certain time.

On the question of security the idea of the Play Area being locked at night was not really practical in view of the cost of fencing and the need to find a local resident willing to be responsible for clearing everyone out at night before locking the Play Area.

Deanne emphasised that it was the intention of MBC only to provide facilities which residents wished to see there. There would be an opportunity for further comment as there would be consultation when actual proposals were prepared.

8. VALLEY PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL.

Judy Ryder, the Head Teacher of the new school, emphasised that she was very keen that there should be a good working relationship between the school and local residents. She hoped that residents would take an interest in the school and that good use would be made of the facilities there by the community. It was intended that such use should not only be in evenings and during holidays, but that courses for adults would be run during the day time. This was in addition to those arranged by the KCC as Adult Education Authority; they would be operating on three nights each week in term time next year. There would also be 'compulsory extra activities' after school for pupils.

A number of comments were made about bad behaviour by pupils in the past including smoking, visiting Snowdon Parade shops during school hours, fighting, dropping litter and even stealing milk from the doorstep. Judy Ryder stated that pupils should not be off the school premises during school hours and that bad behaviour would not be accepted but that such incidents must be reported to the school. Anthony Delaney was concerned at the criticism which had been made of youngsters. As a newcomer to the estate he had found lots of children here to be very nice and felt that we should concentrate on children's good points and encourage them rather than being over critical. Others agreed with this view.

Many residents had points to raise over access, particularly vehicular access, to the school. Judy Rider was hoping to arrange that buses did not drop off in Snowdon Avenue. Geoff Russell confirmed that consideration had been given to creating a new access from New Cut/Ashford Road, but dismissed by the planners. He also stated that the proposal was to make part of Vinters Road one-way (school entrance to Sittingbourne Road) but this was part of a Traffic Regulation Order shortly to be the subject of a Public Notice; if objections were received it would be referred to Committee for decision. There were conflicting views as to whether allowing vehicles into the school premises reduced danger, but Geoff explained it was Council policy to encourage people to cycle or walk to school.

9. QUESTION TIME.

A number of matters were raised on general issues including the following:

Geoff would check on the failure to replace all the trees lost on the footpath running from Northfleet Close to Vinters Boys School (KB36). He also explained the policy of the Highway Authority on salting/snow clearance.

Reference was made to the noise from late night discos in a garden in Blendon Road Councillor Mrs. Shaw confirmed that it was a matter for the Environmental Health Department and that there was a team available at night to deal with such problems. It was also explained that messages left on the Ansaphone would be picked up by this team.

Ian Gedge explained that his responsibility for Community Policing now covered 17 other areas. There were some 50 Parish Constables involved including Roger Boorman (Vinters Park) and David Mine (Penenden Heath). Normally they patrolled together. The level of crime had been reduced in this district, but all problems should be reported. Ian Gedge could be reached on 01622 608069. It was also suggested that the Executive Committee should enquire as to whether a Detached Youth Worker might be made available to work in the area.

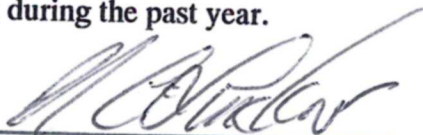
Councillor Mrs. Shaw stated that MBC was carrying out trials to establish the most suitable system for refuse collection. One of these involved the use of mini Wheelibins together with blue sacks, but unfortunately both the experimental local blue sack and the plastic bottle collections had had to be discontinued.

Geoff Russell and Ian Gedge confirmed that vehicles over three and a half tonnes should be returned to their centre overnight. No action was taken for the occasional parking of such vehicles on estate roads, providing no obstruction was caused. If such parking became regular it should be reported as should any parking of vehicles over 38 tonnes.

Geoff was concerned that, unless it was increased, his budget would not cover the cost of cutting back on overgrown footpaths, about which there were already several complaints.

10. CONCLUSION.

The Chairman thanked everyone present for their attendance and the members of the Executive Committee for their support during the past year.



CHAIRMAN

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VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 273861

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 January 1999

	1998/99		1997/98	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Community Centre hire				
Regular hirers	7,094		6,335	
Casual hirers	851		1,161	
Bank interest	5		5	
Other income	5		0	
	<u>5</u>		<u>0</u>	
		7,955		7,501
 EXPENDITURE				
<i>Community Centre Costs:</i>				
Caretaking & cleaning	3,182		3,017	
General maintenance	546		334	
Structural alterations / repairs	752		602	
Grounds maintenance	130		160	
Equipment: new & maintenance	445		465	
Electricity	398		487	
Gas	432		510	
Water	83		198	
Sewerage	114		55	
Insurances	693		699	
Performing rights	96		100	
	<u>96</u>		<u>100</u>	
		6,871		6,627
 <i>Administration & Other Costs:</i>				
Secretarial expenses	130		95	
Subscriptions	30		30	
Grant: Vinters Valley Trust	300		0	
Managers' salaries	820		412	
Audit fee	50		180	
Computer & accessories	0		164	
AGM expenses (Parkranger)	70		82	
	<u>70</u>		<u>82</u>	
		8,271		7,590
 DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR				
		<u>£316</u>		<u>£89</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 January 1999

	1998/99		1997/98	
	£	£	£	£
Accumulated Funds:				
At start of year		3,527		3,616
Less: deficit for year		<u>Cr 316</u>		<u>Cr 89</u>
At end of year		3,212		3,527
Deposits Held:				
At start of year		75		75
Received		700		868
Returned		<u>Cr 660</u>		<u>Cr 868</u>
At end of year		115		75
		<u><u>£3,327</u></u>		<u><u>£3,602</u></u>
Represented By:				
Bank current account		2,555		1,988
Bank capital reserve a/c		1,067		1,062
Debtors		208		691
Receipts in advance		Cr 98		Cr 39
Creditors		<u>Cr 405</u>		<u>Cr 100</u>
		<u><u>£3,327</u></u>		<u><u>£3,602</u></u>

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 1999 and of the financial position at that date.

JOHN STUBBINS, CPFA - Honorary Auditor