

VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD AT VINTERS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL 2005.

1. OPENING.

In opening the meeting the Chairman, Gerry Kirrage, welcomed everyone attending, (*the signatures on the Attendance List indicated that at least 40 were present*). The Chairman advised the meeting that the Mayor, Councillor Peter Hooper, had to take the chair at an Extraordinary Council Meeting, but thanked the Mayoress, Mrs. Rosemary Hooper, who had kindly agreed to take his place and would be addressing the meeting a little later. Similarly Superintendent Mark Salisbury was unable to come, but he was represented by Inspector Ian Sandwell. Nicola Bowden, the Youth and Community Tutor at Valley Park School, was representing the school and would be speaking on her work. Others present included Councillor Bill Stead, the Chairman of Boxley Council, Councillor David Naghi (MBC), Councillor Kaz Macklin (Boxley PC), P.C. Georgina Messenger, Police Community Support Officer Matt Spencer, Sharon Whiffen, the Detached Youth and Community Worker, Ron Armstrong of Kent Highway Services, Moira Mitchell of Downsmail and representatives of Eastborough School.

The Chairman then expressed his thanks to the whole of the Executive Committee for their support during the year. He made special reference to Fred Burton, who had rejoined the Committee as Premises Manager, Lesley Cannon and Chris Kirrage who had until recently been respectively Bookings Manager and Finance Manager until Sandra Shepherd had taken up both tasks, to Carol Bell and her team who had supplied refreshments and finally to Keith Rogers, the Secretary, who had done so much in different ways to keep the Executive Committee ticking over.

Apologies had been received from the Mayor and Superintendent Mark Salisbury as mentioned before and also from County Councillor Margaret Featherstone, MBC Councillors Mrs Margaret Shaw, Patrick Sellar and Wendy Hinder, John Whibley, Val and David Evans, Mrs Connie Davis and Mrs Brenda Bodycombe.

2. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 April 2004, having been circulated at the meeting, were approved and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

In accordance with current practice the Chairman's written Report had been circulated with the Notice of Meeting and Agenda in the recent issue of "Park Ranger". The Chairman said that his input had been deliberately limited to make way for some of the users of the Community Centre to write about the activities available there to residents. There were no matters arising but the Chairman drew attention to the new floor which had recently been laid

4. PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS.

Chris Kirrage, presented the audited Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 January 2005 and the Balance Sheet as at that date with the Independent Examiner's Report; copies of this Account, Balance Sheet and Report had been circulated at the meeting earlier.

7. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION. (continued)

In accordance with the procedure laid down in the Constitution, copies of the proposed amendment, with an explanation of the reasons for it, had been included in Park Ranger which had recently been circulated on the estate, and a note containing the same information had also been put on the seats prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting. Following this explanation it was formally proposed by the Chairman, Gerry Kirrage, seconded by Val Nightingale and **RESOLVED** that Sub-paragraph 6 (a) of the Constitution be amended by the addition of the words shown in bold type to the existing clause (v) as shown below

"6 (a)The Executive Committee shall consist of.....

- (v) the Finance, Bookings and Premises Managers who shall be appointed annually at the first meeting of the Executive Committee after the AGM to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the affairs of the Association, **unless the Executive Committee considers it expedient to combine two or more of these posts in which case the reduced number of Managers shall be appointed."**

(Note: The voting on this was 26 for and none against. The signed record of attendance showed that there were 26 residents present, the other 14 signatories being speakers and other visitors)

8. ADDRESS BY THE MAYORESS - MRS ROSEMARY HOOPER.

The Chairman invited the Mayoress, Mrs Rosemary Hooper, to give a short address. The Mayoress thanked the Association for the invitation and first of all explained that the Mayor had to take the chair at an Extraordinary Council Meeting where detailed consideration was being given to the Council's response to proposals for Maidstone made in the South East Plan. Members did not agree with the amount of development proposed for Maidstone.

The Mayoress understood that two of the matters which had given rise to discussions recently were play areas on the estate and the route of the electricity supply cable to the new Incinerator at Allington. On the question of Play Areas the Mayor had established that Councillor Morel D'Souza, the Cabinet Member concerned, had proposed to take action this year. The Mayoress was sorry for the upset caused by the electricity cable and emphasised the importance of reporting matters which required action to the appropriate authority. Those which came within the responsibilities of the Borough Council should be reported to the Cabinet Member concerned and also to the Ward Members. Crime and acts of anti social behaviour should always be reported to the Police, even if there was doubt whether anything would be done. If the Police are not told they will not have an accurate record of crime in your area. Speaking from experience in Barming there had in the past been a feeling that it was a waste of time going to the Police. Residents had been encouraged to report everything and had begun to do so. This caused the Police to change priorities and use resources differently resulting in a considerable reduction in the number of problems in their area.

As the Mayoress finished speaking the Mayor arrived fresh from what he described as a heated debate in the Council about proposed high density development in Maidstone which Members did not accept. He took up the points made by the Mayoress and said how important it was for matters of complaint to be reported and confirmed the marked effect this had had in Barming when the information given enabled the limited resources to be put to better use.

The Chairman remarked that it was very nice to get two for the price of one and thanked both the Mayor and Mayoress for attending and for their contributions.

9. COMMENTS BY INSPECTOR IAN SANDWELL.

The Chairman then invited Inspector Ian Sandwell to speak. He started by taking up the point made by the Mayor and Mayoress about the importance of reporting all incidents to the Police. One of the new steps being taken by the Police was the appointment of an officer to monitor the way calls were dealt with and ensure the information given was acted on and made use of to give an overall view of the situation throughout the area. This information was passed on through regular meetings with the personnel on the ground. So, it was important that the Police were given as much information as possible.

The new initiatives also included having people, Constables and Police Community Support Officers, actually on the ground in all areas. More staff were to be deployed in this way with new equipment to enable them to keep in touch and some new vehicles. The personnel on the ground in Vinters (also serving Penenden Heath and Ringlestone) were PC Georgina Messenger and PCSO Matt Spencer, who were both present at the meeting..

Restorative Justice and the use of Anti Social Behaviour Orders were other new methods which may well be made use of locally.

A number of questions were raised. On the question of the level of crime Inspector Sandwell confirmed that the number of incidents on the estate was relatively low. On the problem of graffiti some inroads had been made into the problem as one youngster had been charged with 6 offences and asked for 11 more to be taken into consideration. When the question of action being taken by the Police or MBC to remove graffiti on privately owned garages was raised the mayor advised the meeting that the removal of the graffiti was a matter for the owners, with possible help from their insurers.

Speeding in Hampton Road and the use of the estate as a rat run were also matters raised. If residents were willing to co-operate there was equipment available now which could be used to record this type of offence to enable the Police to act. On a different point the Police agreed that a reported use of a commercial vehicle to transport a number of children was probably illegal.

10. TALK BY NICOLA BOWDEN.

The Chairman then invited Nicola Bowden, the Youth and Community Tutor at Valley Park Community School, to tell the meeting what this new post entailed. She explained that there were two parts in her job. At the school her role involved the personal development of students and matters of social concern, but there was a wider role in working with the local community. This included working with the Association and seeking to develop projects for the young people. The current example following on from the very successful Spray Art Day at the Community Centre was a scheme to have a display of Spray Art on the walls of the two underpasses on the estate. The aim was to direct graffiti artists to use their abilities in a structured and productive way. This side of her work required her to go out onto the streets and to work closely with Sharon Whiffen, the Detached Youth Worker for this estate, whom she then asked to explain her work.

Sharon's work was largely on the streets with the young people trying to find out what they wanted to do and seeking resources to help them. The Spray Art scheme was typical of the way in which it was hoped it would be possible to work alongside local youngsters.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Under this heading further reference was made to other proposals on the estate mainly affecting young people. First it was confirmed that the proposals on Play Areas were likely to involve the one at Upper Fullingpits Woods which would only go ahead after full consultation. Secondly was the production of a video about the estate in which young people would be involved.

12. CONCLUSION.

There being no other business the Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking everyone present for their attendance and all those who had spoken for their contributions. He then closed the meeting at 9.40 p.m. Councillor Dave Naghi then proposed a vote of thanks to the Association and the Executive Committee for their excellent work and this was warmly approved.



Chairman Dave



VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 January 2005

	2004/05		2003/04	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Community Centre hire				
Regular hirers	10146		9356	
Casual hirers	1354		1289	
Bank Interest	229		214	
Insurance claims	0		0	
Other income	0		45	
		11729		10904
EXPENDITURE				
<i>Community Centre Costs:</i>				
Premises Manager's salary	571		862	
Cleaning wages & materials	3209		2680	
Structural maintenance & fittings	2979		4613	
Plumbing, electrical, heating	129		122	
Grounds maintenance	108		0	
Equipment: new & maintenance	489		430	
Electricity	648		261	
Gas	507		347	
Water	238		67	
Sewerage	84		85	
Insurances	1229		1199	
Performing rights	125		216	
	10316		10881	
<i>Administration & Other Costs:</i>				
Bookings & Finance Managers' Salaries	1262		1180	
Secretarial expenses	263		178	
Subscription - Kent RCC	51		47	
Grant: Vinters Valley Trust	375		225	
Donation	0		0	
Parkranger	99		112	
Bank charges	0		0	
Audit fee	50		50	
Other expenses	618			
		13033		12673
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u><u>-1304</u></u>		<u><u>-1768</u></u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2005

	2004/05		2003/04	
	£	£	£	£
Accumulated Funds:				
At start of year		9160		10928
Add: surplus for year		0		0
Less: Deficit for year		<u>-1304</u>		<u>-1768</u>
At end of year			7856	9160

Deposits Held:

At start of year		0		60
Received		0		15
Returned		0		-75
With-held		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
At end of year			0	0
		<u>7856</u>		<u>9160</u>

Represented By:

Bank current account		2228		1260
Bank savings account		<u>5628</u>		<u>7899</u>
		<u>7856</u>		<u>9160</u>

CHRIS KIRRAGE - Finance Manager

I certify that proper accounting records have been kept and that the income and expenditure account is consistent with the relevant records and that the balance sheet gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Vinters Park Residents' Association as at 31 January 2005.

DEREK PARKHOUSE - Independent Examiner, appointed in accordance with the Charities Act 1993, Part VI

