

VPRE Committee Minutes - 16/04/24

Meeting held at 86 Combe Avenue

Present

Alex Wheeler

Gill Fairbanks

Laura Cade

Lisa Turner

Mick Cooke

Hannah Mugenyi

Virginia Clements

Rob Biden

Michael Gallagher

Emily Gunsell

Apologies

N/A

Approval of minutes

Minutes of previous committee meeting (20/03/24) and AGM (12/03/24) passed

Going forward approval of minutes will happen via email so they can be posted on the website sooner

Election of committee officers for 2024/25

Joint Chair – Laura Cade & Alex Wheeler

Joint Secretary – Gill Fairbanks & Hanna Mugenyi

Treasurer – Virginia

Repairs – Mick Cooke

Estate management

1. Summary of Westcombe Court refurbishment meeting with residents and councillors on 23/02/24
 - Liza, Emily, Rob and others from Westcombe Court attended

- Triple glazed windows proposed, residents still had concerns about wood/ metal structure
- Exterior colour discussed – all colours suggested were light and those at the meeting suggested a darker colour in keeping with the original design and less likely to show dirt over time
- Current plans suggest replacing tiles on lift shaft as upkeep deemed too expensive
- It was clear that those presenting the plans had not spent time in the block or chatted to any residents. Residents encourage them to do so
- Work now due to start Sept/ October and take 1 year
- They have indicated there would be provision of a quiet area for those who need to work at home during noisy work
- Those at the meeting were invited to be part of a working party as plans develop. Suggested that an architect who lives on the estate be part of that if possible. **LT** – will follow up on this and ask when the meeting will be held

2. Green Party survey of residents 24/02/24 – results

Survey highlighted damp problems in many properties

3. Continuing problems in Combe Mews, council reply

- Number of residents experiencing significant damp problems and lack of response from council
- A surveyor has now been and conducted a review of the problems, awaiting council's response

4. Westcombe Court fire safety

- Engineers have been carrying out checks on the electrics after recent fires flagged at AGM

5. Other

- Stop cocks for individual residencies are being discussed
- Gill to write to 20th Century and Westcombe News re support for ongoing maintenance of estate

Next issues to be addressed

1. Effective communication with residents

- **HM** – Get more noticeboard keys cut

- **HM** – Discuss hello@ email and website access with Pete before he moves
- Discussed methods of consulting with residents regarding plans for the estate in the future. Could include online surveys posted on the WhatsApp group, paper surveys delivered to houses and door knocking to chat to people

2. Emily Wilding Davison memorial

- Ceramic plaque via Nina & Swedish ceramists being explored
- Phin exploring possible name change to Vanburgh Park Road West

3. Store cupboard

- Mick fed back that the store cupboard needs tidying as Gardening equipment is taking up a lot of space and poorly stored
- Gardening group have planned a planting day on 18th May @ 10am they will also tidy the store on this day
- **LC** – enquire about the use of a garage for gardening equipment to be stored

Social events

Easter egg hunt well attended (approx. 25 children) despite poor weather
Thursday after school timing worked well

VPE 60th Anniversary celebrations

- Event planned for 6th June 4pm – 8pm
- Bring and share food
- 60's theme, fancy dress

Getting others involved

- Volunteers needed to help plan and run various aspects – Children's entertainment, evening entertainment, decorations, set up and running of event
- **18th May** - Set up tent for residents to share ideas and sign up to get involved
- **22nd June** – Craft workshop to make decorations & possible meetings of other sub committees
- **HM** – create poster for event and to tell people how to get involved

- **AW** – message in WhatsApp group to ask those willing to get involved to come forward

Entertainment & logistics

- **EG** – Ask John Roan School if they have a band that would like to play at the event
- **LT** – Contact DJ who lives in Westcombe Court
- **LC** – Contact Westcombe Morris Men
- **HM** – Arrange to borrow tables from St. Johns Church
- Phin to try to contact Chris Difford via instagram

Greening/Gardening Group

- Carey Gray (Council caretaking manager) impressed at involvement from residents on estate and has offered more bulbs for next year
- £900 Grant awarded from Veolia

Financial report

Virginia gave report, approx. £50 unspent

VC – Apply for funding from council for this year

AOB

Residents repairs

- Gill has had advice on paint to use for repainting bollards
- Railings & handrails could also be repainted
- Carl continuing to make and install coping stones where there are ones missing

LC – Chase council re extra play equipment

Book hub being made, hope to launch at event on 18th May

Dates for next meetings

14th May @ 7:30 - Next committee meeting

18th May @ 10-12 – store tidy, 60th event sign up & planting

22nd June – decoration making workshops