

The Vanbrugh Park Estate Tenants' and Residents' Association

Minutes ALL-RESIDENTS' MEETING Tuesday 16th October 2018 7:30pm to 9:00pm

Present:

Committee: Stephen O'Toole (Chair), Martina Perkins (Secretary), Louis Alexander (Treasurer), Laura Chinnery, Virginia Clements, Gill Fairbanks, Peter Sampson, Alex Wheeler

Residents: Jess Sampson, Victoria Alexander, Jason Stilwell, Jill Dyton, Andy Dyton, Amanoa Kirk, Neil Kirk, James Payne, Abdi, Barre, Josh Adediji, Bridget Hehir, Christoph Hadrys, Imelda Cavanagh, Michael Gallagher

Cllr: Geoffrey Brighty, Cllr. Mariam Lolavar

PCSO Clyde Homewood

Apologies: Cllr. Leo Fletcher

1.0 Minutes of All Residents' Meeting from 8th May 2018 were approved.

2.0 Roles and responsibilities

Since May 2018 a new Chair (Steve O'Toole) and a new Secretary (Martina Perkins) have been appointed. The Treasurer Louis Alexander has continued his service from last year. Mick Cooke who was responsible for the Chase List has stepped down. Resident Jay Sellwell has volunteered to take on the Chase List ownership/responsibility from Mick C.

Action:

Martina P. to organise the Chase List handover between Mick C. and Jay S.

3.0 Financial accounts summary

Income: £389

Expenditure: £351 (summer party, keys, web domain, stationery, Mycenae House meeting room rental, Christmas market trip to Canterbury).

Current balance: £38

4.0 Estate fundraising

The Chair Steve O'T. will be running a 10k run in the Greenwich Park on Sunday 21 October to raise funding for the Estate. So far £250 has been raised with the aim to raise £300.

5.0 Greening project update

Christoph Hadrys presented a summary of the greening project from its initiation in October 2016 to completion on site in September 2018. Christoph summarised the challenges and opportunities this project has presented and the possibility to continue greening projects on the Estate in the future.

6.0 VPE website update

Peter Sampson informed Residents of the recently launched VPE webpage: *vanbrughparkestate.com* The website contains information on the Estate with the aim to provide news for the Residents and general information for those interested in VPE. Residents were asked if they have any suggestions on the content that they would like to see on the website. No comments were received during the meeting but all were asked to send comments and suggests to our webmaster Jess Sampson at jess.olive@gmail.com.

7.0 Chase List

Residents have expressed concern that the Council is not acting upon the Chase List that reports the Estate's maintenance jobs to them. Both Cllrs Mariam Lolavar and Geoffrey Brighty empathised with the Residents frustration and have committed to chase outstanding jobs directly with the Council.

Action:

The Chase List is to be forward to Cllr Mariam Lolavar to chase directly with the Council.

8.0 Cars on the VPE: Speed bumps and parking space markings

There has been a request from a Resident for this meeting to consider speed bumps due to the number of cars speeding on Combe Avenue.

Concern was also expressed at the meeting about cars parking badly (typically, three cars taking up five car spaces), thus contributing to severe shortage of residents' parking spaces at certain times of the day. The Committee were asked to explore the possibility of asking the Council to mark out parking spaces on the estate.

Action:

The Committee will survey residents to determine how much support there is for (1) speed bumps on Combe Avenue and (b) marked out parking spaces. If it is found that a majority of respondents favour one or both of these options the Committee will progress these matters by liaising with the Highways Department of RBG.

9.0 Crime and anti-social behaviour

9.1 Laura Chinnery reported from the attended Ward Panel. The last quarter has been fairly safe, the main crimes being burglaries, vehicle and bike theft.

9.2 A number of informal concerns has been raised with the Committee about drug dealing on the Estate. PCSO Clyde informed the meeting that nothing can be done unless drug dealing is officially reported to the police. The reporting can be done anonymously. Residents who know about drug on the estate must inform the “non-urgent” Police Reporting number, 101. Anyone actually observing drugs being dealt should dial 999 immediately to report “a crime in progress”.

9.3 Thirteen garages on the estate were broken into on 15 Oct 2018 and a further ten garages were attacked and raided two days later. PCSO Clyde advised that a police officer came out and made a report. He made a suggestion on how to better secure the garages: alarm the garage, install more secure locks, CCTV for cars – connected to mobile. A question was raised on whose responsibility it was to secure the garages. Both Cllrs have agreed to chase Greenwich Council Housing who own and rent out the garages.

Action:

The Committee should find out what the council have done to secure and repair broken garage doors.

10.0 Christmas Carols Wed 12th Dec 7pm-8pm

Residents were informed about the forthcoming Christmas Carols. A suggestion was made to have a raffle that could raise additional funds for the Estate. A Christmas hamper was suggested as a prize.

Action:

The Committee to discuss/organise Christmas raffle at the next Committee meeting in November.

11.0 AOB

11.1 It was suggested to explore if the CCTV cameras could be installed on the Estate to discourage antisocial behaviour. A question was raised on funding – would the Council be able to fund this project? Both Cllrs were of the opinion that in the current financial climate it was unlikely the Council would be able to fund. Furthermore the question of enforcement was raised. Residents suggested that there are volunteers on the Estate who would be ready to enforce i.e. have a server and screen on their premises.

Action:

CCTV systems to protect the estate and means of funding and monitoring these should be investigated and discussed at Committee Meetings and, in due course, reported at the next All-Residents’

Meeting. The Committee to carry out a survey among the Residents to establish if there is a support for the CCTV cameras to be installed on the Estate. If the survey indicates that residents favour CCTV surveillance the Committee will liaise with the Council to explore ways forward.

11.2 Guttering issues at the end of block of houses that ends with the house no. 35 were raised. This is causing a damp inside the house no 35. The issue was raised with the Council to no avail. It was agreed that the Council involvement with the maintenance is limited to Council tenants only (freeholders are responsible to maintain their own gutters), unless the issue is affecting all of the houses on the block.

11.3 A question was raised regarding the Undercroft, the space under the mews where garages were located in the past. A suggestion was made that if the space was to be redeveloped into its original use i.e. garages, the residents living in the mews could be offered a garage first. Cllr Blighty advised that a borough review of the garages is ongoing and should result in recommendations for the all garages in the borough.

Action:

Cllr Geoffrey to share the review with the Committee/Residents once it has been published.

11.4 Residents were informed that the next Estates Inspection by the Council will be carried out on 29 November 2018 at 10am. Residents were encouraged to attend.

Date of Next All-Residents' Meeting (which will also be the Annual General Meeting) is scheduled for 19 February 2019.