**VPE Residents Committee**

**Minutes:**

Tuesday 6/06/23 at 20.00

Held at 86 Combe Avenue

**Present**

Will Egan

Alex Wheeler

Mick Cooke

Alberte Lauridsen

Clare Barry

Laura Cade

Virginia Clements.

Lisa Turner

**Apologies** were received from Billy Taggert, Michael Gallagher

**This was a special meeting following the AGM and the resulting council walk around.**

**Committee Roles:**

Alex Wheeler – Chair

Laura Cade and Will Egan – joint Secretary

Virginia Clements – Treasurer

Clare Barry – Fundraiser

Lisa Turner – Westcombe Court Liaison

Alberte Lauridson – Special Projects

**Tower Refurbishment**

Lisa Turner updated the committee on progress. A meeting with leaseholders was held on 30/05/23 unfortunately only 2 residents attended in person with 2 (including LT) joining on zoom. Priscilla John, Head of Customer Experience, Directorate of Housing and Safer Communitieschaired the meeting and key points raised and discussed are:

1. No contractor in place to undertake the work and consequently no start date.
2. Payments for the loans taken out by leaseholders are already being taken.
3. Dedicated working party of residents was proposed and RBG agreed to this
4. Colour of replacement cladding was discussed – leaseholders would prefer return to original grey rather than current white/off white which ages badly.
5. A monthly newsletter for residents was requested.
6. LT will supply the minutes and the presentation from council to the committee
7. AL will approach C20th Society regarding preservation of original features especially tiling on tower.
8. AL to explore whether there is a conservation officer at RBG
9. AW to contact Geoff Brightly (ex-councillor now chair of Westcombe Society) for support.

It was generally felt that the refurbishment is still not being properly organised and that residents are being kept in the dark. Leaseholders and council tenants are being kept apart although they will be equally affected by the details of the refurb. Communication from the council is poor – they stated at the AGM that all tower residents would be informed of consultation meetings in writing and this does not seem to have happened. Where flats are privately owned and let out to tenants it is particularly difficult to know how informed people are being kept.

**Summer Party:**

It was agreed that the date of the party would be shifted from the 1st to the 8th July to give a bit more time for organisation.

Broadly the format would be the same as previous years with the event running from 14.00-17.00.

AW – contact fire brigade to see if they will attend, invite councillors, contact the lady who has run the bbq in the past, collect food with VC on the day

AL – design poster and flyers, run consultation on Emily Wilding Davison

LT – printing posters and fliers, talk to friend about borrowing children’s games

VC – ask about face painting from girl who did it last year

MC -contact Louis Alexander regarding borrowing equipment from Pointers School and St Johns Church and to invite him and Victoria to the event

LC – look into a swap stall/jumble sale by asking people on VPE WhatsApp.

CB – ask The Kimberleys for a quote for music.

**General Organisation:**

CB – concern about general communications with residents both from the council and from the committee especially as she has become a conduit for complaints from residents in her block. It was agreed that a poster to be put on the notice boards and a flyer to be given to each household with the details of various means of communicating with the committee would be created by AL – WhatsApp, Instagram, hellovanbrugh email. Flyers to be distributed with those for the Summer party.

These communications can be used to log repair issues to supplement MC’s list which tends to feature only issues with the exteriors. The current list will become a feature of each committee meeting so we are keeping track.

Code of conduct for future AGMs and All Residents Meetings to be produced by WE.

Idea of a regular newsletter to be discussed further.

**Council Walkabout.**

The council and councillors have been sent the minutes from the walkabout and we are waiting for a response. LC to chase on Monday if nothing heard before then.

**Estate Management**.

Duncan Brown (86 Combe Avenue) has been in touch with Danielle `(caretaker) and her team regarding ongoing repairs and other concerns. Danielle is helpful and responsive and has been in touch with the council to try and get action on long-term concerns – rats, undercroft etc. The list of jobs that the caretaker team should undertake is currently on the website MC will continue to monitor day-to-day. WE volunteered to monitor action surrounding issues reported during the estate walk. The issue of dog fouling has become more prevalent and this will be reported to the caretakers. The general feeling was that caretaking is not carried out sufficiently.

**Balconies**

The issue with the balconies was raised with the council during the site walk round and they have agreed to try and come up with a mutually agreeable solution.

**Residents contact details**

The lists of resident’s contacts have been received from Louis but they are out of date. Updating them is sensitive from a GDPR and a practical point of view and needs further thought.

**Greening Agenda.**

Trees and bulbs currently thriving. Meadow flowers have been planted outside 88,86, 82 and 80 Combe Avenue. The Gardening group is meeting on 27/06/23. Improved play facilities for children were discussed – could be a specific fund raising project, search for grants etc.

**Active travel**

LC to chase for next action from the consultancy. VPE was the most responsive estate to the survey in the borough.

**Events**

**Summer Party** -July 8th -

Boot/Jumble sale – swapping of goods is extremely successful on the estate WhatsApp group so the idea of a sale of some kind to raise funds and help residents meet each other was raised.

**Financial Report**

VC – has created petty cash invoice forms and submitted the annual grant application. Affiliation to Mycenae House has been renewed.

**Website** –

VC has passwords for access and will share with WE. It was agreed that the website must be regularly maintained and a few minutes of each committee meeting should be spent doing this ‘live’ to ensure that it happens. Details of councillor surgeries and Instagram photos to be added

**Future Meeting dates**

11/07/23 – 8.00