

**WESTMINSTER PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2011**

**PRESENT:** Allan Stobie (Chairman)  
Nick Ryan (Treasurer)  
Sue Britton (Secretary)  
David Pilling (Vice Chairman)  
Sandra Magilton  
Lesley Morris  
Dave Craggs  
Brian Westcott  
Sue Eva  
Olwen Bellis  
Cllr Richard Short  
16 Westminster Park Residents

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

Allan Stobie welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Julie & Mark Sams who have been away on a world trip.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mary & Dick Pole, David Guyton and Val Pilling.

**3. MINUTES OF 2010 AGM**

Minutes of the AGM held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010 were accepted as an accurate record. Proposed by Brian Westcott and seconded by Dave Craggs.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

The future of the land behind Rowcliffe was again mentioned. There is a review of the development plan for the whole area which will be going to consultation in 3 months. Nothing will be done for 3-4 years.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

2011 has been a reasonably active year.

- Lights on the balcony and staircase behind shops were eventually repaired.
- Cars parked over pavement at shops ~ problem has been highlighted in the Newsletter but still exists.
- Overhanging trees and bushes have been cut back by the Council
- The police have run a campaign to stop dangerous parking outside Belgrave School. Sign has been erected.
- Police radar trap has been postponed until next month as there was a problem with the radar gun.
- Grant for Impact Day: old cycle racks have been replaced. Council have reinstalled after initial problem.
- Dave Pilling again organised the best garden/ container competition which was very successful.
- The annual quiz was well supported. Dave Pilling was question master. Supper was organised by Sandra Magilton. Thanks to both for their hard work.
- The Residents Association also supported the gardening club. Mike Pollard will report later.

- There is a musical evening on 9<sup>th</sup> April. Supper will again be organised by Sandra and is provided by the Mothers' & Children's Unit at the Countess. Tickets are available for £10 each.

Allan concluded by thanking the committee for their hard work, especially Mary who has edited and produced the Newsletter for the past 8 years to an exceptional standard.

## **6. HOMEWATCH**

Brian Wescott reported on the Homewatch Co-ordinators meeting held that week. Crime in our area is reduced but this doesn't mean that we should be complacent! Most burglaries are opportunistic where a window or door has been left unlocked. The Western Area contact at the police is Liz Biddle who sends round a weekly email to homewatch co-ordinators on her database. She is very enthusiastic. Not all of Westminster Park is covered by a Homewatch scheme and it would be good to cover more. Brian will put something together for the next Newsletter and hopefully get some new volunteers. Brian also explained about the use of Smart Water for marking valuables ~ it is unique to each house. There are also a few shed alarms still available for purchase.

## **7. GARDENING CLUB**

Mike Pollard spoke on behalf of the gardening club. The group was started last year and there are three events annually. The first this year is on 30<sup>th</sup> March in the Community Centre when Jenny Hendy will speak on garden design for small gardens. There is a small charge of £3 to cover costs. There will also be the usual plant swap.

Allan thanked Mike and Mary for organising.

## **8. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Nick Ryan circulated the accounts for the year and explained in detail about the various increases/ decreases on the previous year. He particularly thanked the auditors for the time taken to review the accounts. The report together with a comparison over the past nine years will be posted on the web site.

A question was raised on the necessity for third party liability insurance but this covers any functions held throughout the year, e.g. the quiz.

The accounts were accepted. Proposed by Richard Short and seconded by Jim Moffat.

## **9. POLICE REPORT**

Chris Fox PCSO sent his apologies but submitted a report which was circulated. It was agreed an email would be sent thanking Chris on behalf of the Residents Association.

Allan advised that he had been approached by Ian Harding (local police) with a view to raising funds to keep the PCSOs with all the cut-backs that are predicted. Areas such as Boughton Heath and Saughall have been funded through the Parish Councils for the last three years. The Co-Op have been approached and might look favourably on this but additional funding could be provided by Westminster Park, Hough Green and Curzon Park Residents Associations. Allan will approach the other two Associations. A suggestion was put forward to raise subscriptions by £1 per annum and this would raise about £300. Currently about 25% of Westminster Park residents belong to the Association but if this could be increased, more funding

would be raised. There was some dissent as to whether we should fund a PCSO but it was felt that if there were cuts Handbridge/ Westminster Park and Curzon Park would be the losers. Paying a contribution would also give the Residents Associations a voice in where the PCSO goes and what is covered. Once funding had started, it would need to be maintained.

It was proposed by Jim Moffat and seconded by Elliot Baynham-Hughes that should our funding be needed subscriptions would be increased by £1 per annum to £3.

Various suggestions were made on ways to make payment of subscriptions easier, perhaps a standing order and/ or a collection day at the shops. This item will be considered at the next committee meeting.

## 10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Julie Sams, proposed by Allan Stobie, seconded by Brian Wescott

Secretary Sue Britton, proposed by Nick Ryan, seconded by Sue Eva

Treasurer Nick Ryan, proposed by Sue Britton, seconded by Allan Stobie

Vice Chair David Pilling, proposed by Allan Stobie, seconded by Nick Ryan.

The following members were also re-elected to the Committee:

Allan Stobie, Mary Pole, Sandra Magilton, Olwen Bellis, Lesley Morris, Richard Short, Sue Eva, Dave Craggs and Brian Westcott.

Mark Sams and Leah Crewe volunteered and were accepted to the Committee.

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Some concern was expressed at the bad attendance of the PCSO sessions. This could result in them being stopped. Three people were at the last one.
- There is a musical evening with supper on 9<sup>th</sup> April and a few tickets are still available.... anyone interested should speak to Allan.
- A few tickets (£5.75 each) are also still available for a visit to the BBC studio on Oxford Road. The tour starts at 12.30 and lasts for two hours.... Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> May.
- David Pilling advised that a resident wished to donate 3-4 flowering cherry trees. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting, together with WPRAs purchasing more trees.
- There is a protruding tree root on the footpath by the wall, opposite the shops. Gary Hulme to be contacted.
- Allan had received an email from Reg Barritt regarding a petition to do with the University of Chester, student accommodation and its effect on the City of Chester. It was available for anyone to read and sign.
- Leah reported that the derelict garages at the back of the shops need attention as they are an accident waiting to happen. Again this item will be discussed at the next committee meeting.
- A request for one of two litter bins half-way down Rowcliffe Avenue was received. A note will be sent to the Council.

Cllr Richard Short took questions from the floor and advised he would not be standing in this area again due to de-selection.

Allan concluded by thanking Cllr Richard Short for his services to the area and for being such an excellent councillor. Julie Sams thanked Allan for standing in as Chairman while she was away and then inviting her to return this year.

The next committee meeting will be held at Brian's house (48 Merton Drive) on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm.