

WESTMINSTER PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 30th March 2016 at Westminster Park Community Centre

MINUTES

1. **Present:** 47 residents (see separate list).
Apologies: Richard Short, Sandra Magilton.
2. **Minutes of meeting held on 15th April 2015:** Agreed as a true record.
Proposed by Peter Cocker, Seconded by Bob Tricklebank.
3. **Matters arising:** None.
4. **Chairman's Report:** This is the seventeenth year of the Residents' Association and we continue to initiate and respond to events. This has been another busy year, and I thank our excellent Committee for their contributions. Thanks also to our Councillors, Neil Sullivan and Razia Daniels who help us, and thanks to CPSO Chris Fox who has been here for seven years. We also work with the Friends of Westminster Park. Over the years our activities and organisations have included Evergreen, our Over 60s Club and the Gardening Club, who every year plant bulbs around the Estate and we can thank for the daffodils on show. The social events we hold include the annual Quiz, which last year coincided with Hallowe'en and Sandra has organised decorations and catering. The Christmas Light Switch On when local shops supply food and drink, the school choir sing Christmas songs and the Mayor came to switch on the lights. Our concerns have been firstly the development of new houses off Wrexham Road, and the two 'Care in the Community' HMOs in Vincent Drive, both of which we have ongoing involvement with. More recently there is the matter of car parking on Fir Tree Avenue and neighbouring streets by Kings School pupils. There are over 1200 households in our area who all receive our newsletter, the WP News, now edited by Jennifer Crew who has introduced changes including colour and photographs. We also have a website and use email contact to pass on news, as well as displaying it on our notice boards. After a total of nine years as Chairman I am delighted to hand over to Pauline Brown, who has agreed to take over.

/Contd.

5. Treasurer's Report: I would like to start by thanking the Independent Examiner of the Annual Report Tony Travers of Henry R Davis & Co, Accountants, Queensferry for his time in reviewing the annual accounts. Subs of £776 represents 388 members, marginally lower than 2014 which was our highest ever. I would point out that subs have been kept at £2 per household since inception.

This year's social event was a return to our popular Quiz Night which was a sell out and showed a surplus of £187.

The 'best kept garden' competition was again held with vouchers to value of £70 being awarded. Further bulb planting costing £44 took place whilst the various events held gave a surplus of £49 mainly due to the sale of plants.

The 'Christmas Tree and Lights Switch On' cost of £725 was fully offset by a grant from the budget of our CWaC local Councillors. In addition there was generous support from our local shops.

The Evergreen sub-group continues to have numerous activities and is managed by an active committee with a surplus of £1,165 being carried forward for their future use.

Expenditure was higher by £190 mainly printing £110 (Newsletter and two years' subscription forms).

Overall a surplus for 2015 of £241 with the Bank and Cash balance remaining healthy at over £2,200. Nick Ryan - Treasurer

6. Election of Officers:

Brian handed over as Chairman to Pauline Brown who was the only nominee. She thanked Brian for all his efforts and for taking over from David Pilling the previous Chair who suffered from ill health. Brian had held the role previously and will continue to Chair the Sub-Committee representing our interests with the property developers on Wrexham Road.

Thanks also to all the Committee members who continue to serve their local community by giving up their time organising events, improving the area and representing the best interests of all the residents in Westminster Park.

Please support Evergreen, our Over 60s Club, which has a fabulous programme of events and a full membership and also the Gardening Club, who are hosting an event next Wednesday 6th April.

Thanks to our local Councillors Razia Daniels and Neil Sullivan who hold regular monthly surgeries at the local shops. Their details and the details of our MP Chris Matheson are on the front page of the Welcome Pack. We are particularly grateful to the Councillors for supporting our Christmas event which gets better each year and hope that we can continue to receive their support for this event.

Thanks also to PCSO Chris Fox who keeps us informed of any crime in the area.

/Contd.

Pauline introduced herself although she has served on the Committee for several years not everyone might know her. Originally from Liverpool, lived in South Africa for 16 years returning to the UK in 1991 and has lived in Rowcliffe Avenue for over 20 years with a son who attended the Kings School.

There is currently a vacancy for Vice Chair, Nick Ryan plans to retire from the Committee and from his role of Treasurer at the end of this Financial Year. Penny White is happy to continue as Secretary, Jennifer Crew as Editor of the WP News and Dave Craggs as Website Co-ordinator.

Other existing Committee members are happy to continue: Brian Westcott, Olwen Bellis, Susan Eva, Sandra Magilton, Richard Short, Sue Britton and Rosemary Mason. There were no other nominees.

Proposed by Anne Sykes, Seconded by Christine Westcott.

PCSO Chris Fox spoke briefly to inform us of a reorganisation of Chester LPO which is now based in Blacon. We have a new PC covering our area. However Westminster Park is a very safe neighbourhood with little crime. He urged us to sign up to the Cheshire Police Alert service which sends information out on current events and crime figures. Neil Sullivan added that our local Police support is fantastic and having Chris resident in our area for so long contributes.

Gardening Club: Mary Pole spoke of the local Gardening Club run by Mike Pollard and herself which has been going for seven years. It is very informal and the next meeting is next Wednesday regarding Herbs. There is a good programme of events for this year.

- 7. Wrexham Road Development:** In December 2014 permission was granted to allow this land which had been part of the Green Belt to be used for development. The land had been bought in 1989/90 by Developers and is currently owned by Wimpey and Taylor Woodrow who have formed a consortium called Paycause to develop the site. There is an additional piece close to Sherbourne Avenue which was not part of the Green Belt and is owned by Gladman.

Paycause produced a plan for 1300 houses and held a public consultation at Kings School in July 2015 with various consultants re drainage, traffic etc, in attendance.

The Sub-Committee talked to them to ensure that their plans were not detrimental to Westminster Park. Our main concern is the impact on the traffic situation.

A further public consultation was due to be held in November 2015 prior to submission of formal detailed planning application. This has not happened yet. Brian spoke to Paycause recently, they declined to come to this meeting, he and Bob Tricklebank met with the developers and the Planning Consultant and learned that the original timetable had slipped but various studies are ongoing.

They now plan to hold a Public Consultation in May/June 2016 and submit their planning application in the summer (by September it is assumed). There have been studies on drainage with Welsh Water and upgrading of the sewage works and pumping stations have taken place or are ongoing. Regarding traffic issues, they believe they can improve the flow around the Overleigh Roundabout. There was a suggestions that residents could walk or cycle. This remains a big issue. Traffic on A55/A483 is being monitored. Field tests have been undertaken to look at archaeology. The 'Eco space' which was to be left on Lache Lane now appears to have houses on it. The Developers are 'looking at all options' which could mean more than 1300 houses.

It was reported that it would take fifteen years to build with ten houses being built a year plus affordable houses. (Doesn't add up?!) This can be discussed further in May.

There is a Primary School proposed and a 'Commercial area' to include a pub and shops. Access will be from Wrexham Road from three roundabouts. Neil Sullivan spoke out about the school, this is likely to appear in year 7-10 of the development. Belgrave is currently over subscribed though there is some capacity in Overleigh, St Clare's and the Lache.

Mary Williams asked about medical facilities. There is no provision at the moment but this should appear in their application. There are also no proposals re traffic. There was much discussion about this and the long delayed Western Relief Road scheme.

Sherbourne Avenue: Gladman with Milne Housing applied for 41 houses to be built on their site with access via Sherbourne Avenue. Lots of objections were raised and this was refused. Some minor adjustments were made and they re-applied which was also refused.

They have now revised their plans to 31 houses, of which 9 are affordable, more green space. A pedestrian/cycle route and a buffer between Wrexham Road which is an improvement. However this does not conform to Strat 3, we do not want piecemeal development, this site should be part of the overall development. Objections will be sent in from the Association and from individuals who wish to. There must not be access from this to Wrexham Road (or from Wrexham Road development to Sherbourne Avenue).

/Contd.

8. Any Other Business

Parking: Mike Pollard spoke about parking at Kings School which is now restricted meaning that 6th formers have been banned from parking on the school site. This has meant that they now park on Fir Tree Avenue and neighbouring streets Cottage Road and Manor Road. 32 or 35 cars can be parked their all day Monday to Friday. Residents have written to the school and involved Councillors and the MP. The RA is being asked to write to the Governors of the School. Pauline asked for a draft.

Neil Sullivan said that there has been no agreement with the Council on this situation and pressure is to be put on to the school to deal with the problems.

Tankers have been causing traffic problems in Lache Lane, this is apparently connected with spraying on fields. This has now been dealt with.

Olwen Bellis brought up the broken fencing opposite the Nuffield Hospital which despite contacting the Council has not been dealt with. The Councillors told us Highways have it on their schedule. We will send another letter.

Pauline thanked everyone for attending.