

WESTMINSTER PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 11th April at 8pm at the
Westminster Park Community Centre

MINUTES

1. **Present / Apologies:** 46 attended (listed separately)
Apologies received from Mary and Dick Pole.
2. **Minutes** of meeting held on 12 April 2017 were accepted as a true record by those who attended. Proposed: Mike Pollard, Seconded: Brian Westcott.
3. Matters arising: none.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Thank you for attending this evening. I opened last year's AGM with the comment that 2016 had flown by and I can honestly say that 2017 has gone just as quickly.
As ever, the Community remains vibrant with lots of activities to report on:
 - Wrexham Road Housing Development is yet to be finalised and Brian Westcott will report on that later in the meeting.
 - Small development of houses is well under way – Kings View.
 - Our local Councillors Neil Sullivan, Razia Daniels keep in regular touch as does our MP Chris Matheson and our Local PSCO Lauren Davies has been replaced by Tim Cooper who we look forward to meeting.
 - Our Annual Christmas event which again was a great success, well supported and much appreciated by the Community. A big thank you to the Councillors for their continued financial support and to all the Committee Members who pull out the stops each year to organise the event.
 - We recently held a second Quiz evening last week in addition to our regular quiz in October.
 - Parking by students from the King's School remains an issue and Brian Westcott will give an update later in the meeting.
 - Evergreen and the Garden Club continue to put on excellent, well supported events for the local community adding to the diversity of what we achieve locally.
 - Our Newsletter is both colourful and full of helpful information. Jennifer Crew, the Editor is to be congratulated for doing a great job and the addition of images makes interesting reading. Volunteer hand deliver a copy to each household so thanks to them.
 - Our local primary school Belgrave Primary School will celebrate its Golden Anniversary this year so if you do have any photos of the school do let them have them.

Lots going on and more to think about. Later in the year we will consider an organised "litter pick" and don't forget to report any pot holes for repairing to the Council. It is important that we invest in the area we live in.

A personal thank you to the Committee for their hard work serving the Community and an open invitation to anyone who would like to join us as we are always looking to expand our numbers. Many hands make light work!!

5. **Treasurer's Report:** I would like to thank Nick Ryan for his continues support. As you know Nick was the Residents' Association treasurer for many years and now has agreed to give his time as our Independent Examiner of the Annual Report for 2017/18. Thank you, Nick.

Subscriptions of £699 represents 349 members for 2017/18, this number is 47 lower than last year. A little disappointing as this represents just over 29% of the households in the Community. Donations were also down by £24.

The social events consisted of 2 quiz nights, both being very popular, which gave a surplus totalling £545. A big improvement on last year.

The 'Best kept garden' competition was again held with vouchers to the value of £70 being awarded. The Gardening Club continues with their annual bulb planting at a cost of £90. This was offset this year by a generous donation of £45.

The Christmas lights switch-on was well supported by our Residents, Councillors, School and local shops. The event was supported by a generous grant from our councillors 'Members' Budget' of £500.

'Evergreen' over 60 club continues to have a thriving programme of events and well attended by its 107 members. It is managed by an active team of hard working committee members. A surplus of £465 is being carried forward for their future use.

Expenditure was slightly higher by £138 on last year, but increased advertising income has reduced this down from the previous year by £200.

Overall a surplus of £443 is carried forward with Bank and Cash balance standing at £2056

6. **Committee** and Officers elected: No proposals had been received from anyone to join the Committee. The existing Committee have indicated that they are willing to stay in place with all officers remaining in place.

Proposed: Peter Cocker Seconded: Nick Ryan

7. **Items to be discussed:**

(i) Addition to the Constitution: Section 5. MEMBERSHIP

'Members who have moved away out of area eg. To a Care Home and wish to continue their membership, eg. To remain members of Evergreen, may do so as Associate Members (with no voting rights) as long as they continue to pay the relevant fees. This proposal is intended to enable members to retain contact with friends, and alleviate social isolation that may result from a move from the immediate area.

This item was voted in by a majority show of hands.

Proposed: Moir Cocker Seconded: Christine Westcott

(ii) A proposal to increase subs to £3 wef from 1 January 2019.

Christine Westcott asked if we needed more money as we have a good balance of £2000+ in the bank account at the end of the year.

It was pointed out that only social events bring in extra money and there will soon be a need to replace eg the Christmas lights in the trees outside the shops. The Councillors paid for them originally and help us with grants but the grants are coming to an end and we need to build up our resources.

There was a suggestion that Associate members pay a lesser fee, eg £2.

Celia Hart asked if members could pay by Direct Debit and add a donation if wished.

The item was voted in by a majority show of hands.

Proposed: Neil Sullivan Seconded: Charlotte Pulman

(iii) GDPR wef 25 May 2018

Over the years we have collected email addresses and other data for members. Now we need permission to store and use the data. Dave Craggs has set up a new website, the portal where we store member's information. Members have access and can control what emails can be sent, what subjects, information etc, and can be removed.

This will be explained in the newsletter.

Gardening Club etc could be included.

Emails must be sent bcc so addresses are not visible to others.

Dave is open to suggestions or ideas for improvement. Log on to the website, members should have received a link to it.

Member have to opt in rather than opt out.

Subscription forms will be amended show consent can be given.

Gardening Club: Mike Pollard said that the talk by Richard Smedley on 'Edible Landscapes' has been changed from 18 April to 25th April.

Wrexham Road Development: Brian Westcott gave an update on the development. Not a lot to say, it has gone very quiet. The Public Meeting in October produced responses which were put together and sent to CWAC in January with our concerns: traffic, housing styles, drainage, education and ecology. This was shown on the website and summarised in the Newsletter. We have asked individuals to put in their own responses, there is still time to comment on all the applications.

Traffic implications are the main objection. Highways England and now involved and consultants have been appointed and this is ongoing. Our aim here is to maintain our quality of life.

Neil Sullivan (Councillor) spoke to say that traffic impact is the biggest issue involving Wrexham Road and Lache lane. The Councillors are not satisfied with the proposals for dealing with traffic and will object together with Jane Mercer (Lache). There are serious implications with the Post House roundabout with queuing on the A55.

The Western Relief Road (WRR) is being discussed with CWAC and the Welsh Assembly, there is a bid for funding for a route via Saltney which could take some of the pressure off. The Planning Committee could be considering the applications in the summer, June or perhaps September. Anyone can make objection at any date, and lots of individual objections will make a difference.

The Grosvenor Estate, Business Park and Kings School have objected. No answers have been given to the objections. Assumptions that have been made have been challenged.

Sue Speed asked about newt mitigation, Jennifer said this has been included.

Education: There is agreement that there will be a new school and it will be early in the process. Talks have been held with the Christleton Trust and another Trust has shown interest. The School should be ready as soon as possible when the houses are built.

Sandra pointed out that very few objections have been sent to CWAC. The website is complicated and a friend has produced a set of instructions to assist.

Kings School carparking: Sixth formers are continuing to park in Westminster Park and residents are objecting to cars outside their houses all day.

Brian Westcott has been to two meetings where it has been discussed. This causes difficulties to residents and Belgrave School vehicles. The new Headmaster at Kings School is very amenable and chairs the Transport Committee but there is not much they can do. The Park and Ride scheme did not work as it was not flexible enough.

There was a meeting with the residents at Kings School with very frank discussions. There has been a suggestion of restricted parking for 2-3 hours but Neil said there is no Council

policy to do so. Since the Nursery School was built and cars could not be parked there on safety grounds this problem has occurred, in effect moving the safety issue to Westminster Park.

Mike Pollard has a letter sent to the Council signed by 20 residents which he will pass on to Brian.

Fire engine and ambulance access is important and it was suggested to involve the new PCSO.

Brian Dickinson mentioned Public Nuisance. Parking has increased significantly and the pupils are a nuisance and he asked that the Council stop this Statutory Nuisance. Neil Sullivan responded saying that the Highways Engineer had visited and there were no grounds for yellow lines and there were no cars blocking drives and has revisited. He could not see the basis for Statutory Nuisance and would need more proof. Lots of streets in Chester are in a worse situation. The preference is for the School to deal with it on campus but they are not offering to do it, looking at more sustainable transport.

Mike Pollard stated that the parking is causing blind junctions.

The question was raised whether Dee Valley has bought the land where the pumping station was built. Neil will clarify the position.

Olwen Bellis has contacted the Councillors to arrange for another litter bin by the bus stop by the Nuffield Hospital.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm