

Queens Park Residents Association

Minutes of Meeting held on 11th August 2009

Present:

Chairman: Owen Jones

Vice Chair: Brian Burnett

Secretary: Emma Sefolli

Treasurer: Corrine Jones

Committee members: Sarah Fox

Steve Gater

(Graham Jeffs Not present nor at meeting dated 14th July)

Members of public: Mike Davies, Alice Wright, J Major, Steve Gater, Brian Burnett, Corrine Jones, Dave Entwhistle, Emma Sefolli, Sarah Fox, J Pledds(apologies, I cannot read the handwriting), M Venton, Owen Jones

1/Apologies

Rosemary Lovell, Wanda McDonnell and Eimer Broughton all send their apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

2/Minutes of last meeting (AGM)

People agree that the blocked drains are a priority from the last meeting and that we need to contact the Street Doctor as soon as possible to get them unblocked.

Dave Entwhistle and Corrine Jones advise us that they wrote a letter to Sally Beardsworth a few days after the last meeting to ask her if there was anyway she could get some money donated to the QPRA.

A raffle was discussed to try to raise funds for the QPRA, this needs to be discussed in more detail.

The QPRA used to organise events to raise funds, however as a lot of these were calendar events such as Halloween, the Working Men's Club started to organise them, meaning the QPRA had to stop.

The church hall has been offered as a venue for any fund raising activities, but as yet, no events have been organised to make use of this facility.

3/Matters arising

The matter of funding the QPRA is priority. As said previously, Corrine Jones wrote a letter to Sally Beardsworth to ask for a donation, as this is what Sally advised us to do at the last meeting dated 11th July. To date, there has been no reply. This needs to be chased up.

We also discussed a membership fee of £1 per household to belong to the QPRA and in turn, people will be entered into a raffle in which they can win £50. Vistaprint was discussed as a way of printing up membership cards. If you are a new customer of Vistaprint, then you can get 250 cards free of charge, just a little amount to pay on postage. It was suggested to use house numbers and street names as a way to identify the membership. Corrine and Michael said they would have a look on Vistaprint's website, to try to find a design for the cards.

It was discussed at the last meeting to send out a newsletter to inform residents of the success of the AGM. It would be a good idea to write on the letter about the membership idea, to forewarn people and also, to get Pete Middleton to put it on the web site (Dave will contact Pete to ask him to action this)

Brian Burnett mentioned an event that can be organised to raise funds. Pete has a blues band which could be a really fun way to get people together and also raise money. To hire the Working Men's Club, costs between £60-£90. Corrine has pointed out that before we can do anymore events, we do need money as currently, there are no funds (also discussed in last meeting).

It was also put forward that anyone coming to a QPRA meeting pays a £1 which can go towards funding? Some people were for this idea but others said it is hard enough to get people to meetings in the first place, without trying to get money out of people as well. Will this put people off coming along?

It was pointed out that the website renewal fee needs paying in November. (£60 renewal fee). This is another reason why we need to pursue Sally Beardsworth for the funding as soon as possible.

Alice mentioned that The Cock Hotel has a function room, and she believes it has no rent to pay. She will look into this for future events.

Finally, the blocked drains. Everyone agreed the best way to deal with this, is that each road is designated to a person, and that person is responsible for checking which drains are blocked and to report it to the street doctor, and follow up the on the progress. The list is as follows: Emma-Clarence Avenue, Brian-Osborne Road, Owen-Queens Park Parade, Steve-Kingsthorpe Grove(it was also mentioned that there are some trees in this street that hit your head, so this will be reported by Steve also), Jean-Balmoral Road, Sarah-Cecil Road, Alice-Stanhope Road, Dave/Corrine-Cranbrook Road.

4/Agenda

It was mentioned that the work on the flats at the top of Osborne Road and Kingsthorpe Grove seems to be a bit hit and miss with builders actually working, therefore it is taking quite a while to be done and is a bit of an eye sore.

It was also mentioned that a single storey extension being done on no 87 Queens Park Parade but it does not seem to be causing anyone any problems.

Owen Jones asked for a reminder to be put into the minutes for the council to notify him of any planning applications that are put through. He has asked them previously to notify him, however he does not seem to have received anything.

5/Security matters

Mike Davies, the Neighbourhood Warden, said that it is the St. David's area that seems to be the problem area. He said that a lot of break in's are happening because the burglars are trying to get car keys to steal cars. It was said that burglaries that have happened are largely due to windows and doors being left open! Also do not leave valuables on display in your cars.

6/Street Scene

Mike Davies brought up the "phantom dog" that is pooing in Cecil Road. He has been up and down that street at different times of day and night and never seen a dog pooing without it's owner picking it up after? (there used to be dog wardens but due to cut back's it is now a Neighbourhood Wardens job)

Bins seem to be left on streets all the time now, not just on bin days? Mike Davies said that if people have small front gardens, due to "bin fires", they are allowed now to leave their bins on the streets where the path is big enough not to cause an obstruction.

It was discussed about students not putting their rubbish out for collection and then cats coming along and eating at the food that is in them, and then rubbish being strewn all over the floor. Apparently, the universities are giving out fines to their students if this is reported to them. It was also discussed if the police have any authority to deal with people who leave old sofas, etc in their gardens, which is an eye sore but apparently they do not have any authority as it is private property.

People are anxious about cars being parked on pavements causing obstruction to pedestrians and also to residents with garages. Pete the policeman is going to be informed as the police can give a £30 fixed penalty for causing obstruction.

7/AOB

None

Meeting closed 21.20