

# **FORTESCUE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

*You are reminded of the restrictive covenants which attach to all houses on the estate. No extensions, conservatories or other external alterations are permitted without the prior written consent of the Residents Association.*

## **MINUTES OF THE 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FORTESCUE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (FPRA) HELD ON MONDAY 14TH MAY 2012**

In attendance: 12 residents including 6 Committee Members

The chairman Giles Norman formally welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Ray Wood, reported that 80% of the income generated was spent on the gardens and 12% on repairs and maintenance. Ray advises that the balances are both adequate and healthy. Over £2k of overdue fees have been received as a result of legal action on defaulters. 93% of the fees for 2011 are already in the bank. Only four houses are still in arrears but the trend is improving year on year. Over 63% of fees for 2012 are already in and this is expected to rise as standing orders are processed.

The committee made the point that all new owners require a shareholder's certificate and there is a cost of £50.00 for the solicitor's fees. Most of the local solicitors are aware of this but some do not advise their clients upon purchase.

The chairman thanked Ray for his good work in improving our finances over the past year and the Treasurer's report was formally accepted by the AGM.

### **Maintenance Fees for 2012**

The fees are currently £240 per annum (reduced to £220 for early payment) – it was proposed and agreed by the meeting to maintain this fee for 2012 since we have received no increase in gardening fees and our debt recovery is more efficient.

### **Gardens Report**

Betty Wood advises that Gavin Jones continue to do an excellent job in the gardens working on a weekly basis. They will be planting flowers for the Jubilee from next week – we had been waiting for the dry period to end. There are some areas which may appear rather bare at the moment but this is temporary as we wait for the right conditions to continue planting.

The tree company visit twice per year to inspect the trees on the estate, many of which we are obliged to maintain by law.

There continues to be a problem with dog fouling in certain areas and we ask you to be vigilant and let us know who the persistent offenders are – some of whom have been noted to live on Hampton Road.

Residents are encouraged to contact Betty at no 56 if they have any gardening issues and she will do her best to accommodate them. Gavin Jones have been taking care of our estate now for around 20 years and apparently we were their first contract so they do feel quite a strong loyalty to FPRA. The current team also look after the London Eye.

### **Neighbourhood Watch - Charles Owens**

Charles Owens advises that all FPRA shareholders automatically become members of the Neighbourhood Watch. Crime rate is very low in general. We have noted some stealing of plants from the estate recently

together with our 'Residents Only' sign on the Loch Fyne Gate. This will be replaced. Both graffiti and fly tipping has been greatly reduced around the estate thanks to fast removal by the council.

There has also been a case of lead from one of the resident's roofs being rolled up and ready to be removed along Wellesley Road but this theft was thwarted.

Residents report the frequent visits of a white open back van driving fast around the estate looking for opportunities to take items from driveways and open garages. Take care what is left outside your property and do take the registration number of any suspicious vehicle and report to us or to the police.

### **Improvements to Estate**

The railings are to be creosoted asap – weather permitting - and a second notice board is to be installed close to house no 25 on the first road bend within the estate.

We are also close to finding a solution to lighting the entrance plinth – the solar powered light was not of sufficient strength to be useful and has now stopped working completely so we will revert to the plan to install very low energy mains lighting.

We have discreetly installed some 'private estate' signs at the entrances.

We continue to replace and repair communal gates when required. Please contact one of the committee members for any faulty gates. Also please do not put locks on gates since this is a safety hazard.

### **Drainage problems on estate**

Charles advises that we proceeded with the clearing of the main street drains since the council were taking too long to attend to this. All the main storm drains are now clear and we are attempting to obtain a refund for the £900 we paid from the council. No further flooding of garages on the estate has been detected. Since the change in the law please note that Thames Water are now responsible for any drainage/sewage issues from each property edge to the street.

**FPRA web site** **HYPERLINK** "<http://www.fortescuepark.co.uk>" [www.fortescuepark.co.uk](http://www.fortescuepark.co.uk)

As you are already aware we do have our own website which is kept updated. Any suggestions for additional information or improvements to actual information would be very welcome. Please contact Clare via email or telephone. If you would prefer to receive copies of minutes or newsletters etc by email please let us have your details. We also have a facebook page for FP – details on website.

**AOB Bunting** - This will be going up prior to the Jubilee and will remain until after the Olympics in August.  
**Summer BBQ** - can residents let us know if they would like to celebrate the summer BBQ over the Jubilee weekend or at some other time in late July? We will install a couple of marquees over the Jubilee weekend for use of residents.

**Our community postman** – Mick sends his thanks to all those who supported his desire to stay as our local

postie and who have made his return to Fortescue Park so welcome.

**Building works at St. James' school:** Residents raised concerns about the current building works at the school particularly the large vehicles running close to the perimeter wall. Our thanks to Lloyd who has recently carried out a complete survey of the perimeter and internal walls .

**Election of Committee:** Our new member Lloyd Reynolds was formally elected to join the committee and all the current members were formally re-elected.

**Next ladies evening : 29.05.2012 at the Old Goat on Hampton Road from 8pm**

Our apologies to residents who were not aware of the date of the AGM. We posted a formal notice on the noticeboard by the Loch Fyne gate and also on the website but the notices for each resident did not go out as planned.

Committee members Ray Wood no 56/ Giles Norman no 62/ Vanessa Cozens no 6 /  
Charles Owens no 74/ Betty Wood no 56/ Lloyd Reynolds no 6b  
Wellesley/ Clare Marsden no 91

Fortescue Park Residents Association

Page PAGE 1 of NUMPAGES 2