

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 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FORTESCUE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (FPRA) HELD ON MONDAY 13TH MAY 2013

In attendance: 45 residents including 7 Committee Members
A representative from Gavin Jones – Anthony Mason
Cllr Clare Head, David Marlow & David Porter

The chairman Giles Norman formally welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the committee.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Ray Wood, reported that 74% 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 £4k of overdue fees has been received as a result of legal action on defaulters and Ray will continue to pursue the remaining £2k debt using legal action where necessary.

The Treasurer's report was formally accepted by the AGM.

Maintenance Fees for 2014

The fees are currently £240 per annum (reduced to £220 for early payment) – it was proposed and agreed by the meeting to increase this fee for 2014 to £240 pa for early payment and to £270 pa for late payers. There has been no increase since 2008 and this increase is needed to cover inflation and contingency monies.

Gardens Report

Betty Wood advises that it is very possible that the large Horse Chestnut tree at the Loch Fyne Gate will have to be taken down and replaced after tests carried out by the experts returned negative results. The council will be coming to look at the tree and if agreed that it is unsafe then work will proceed. It will be very costly and hence the need for increased fees.

Betty Wood advises that Gavin Jones continue to do an excellent job in the gardens working on a weekly basis. They will be planting mixed flowers in the first week of June.

Anthony Mason from Gavin Jones told the meeting that they were very happy to continue working with Fortescue Park and the two current gardeners would continue until at least the end of the year. There was a need to use the leaf blowers weekly but understood the break in tranquillity and would use sparingly. Gavin Jones will also donate £100 to a charity of our choice.

Residents requested the gardeners to keep the bushes cut back especially around no 115 to allow buggies etc to get through. Betty has also mentioned that the gardeners will put in extra hours to carry out a one-off clearing of the alleyways at the back of houses. Residents themselves should be in fact keep these areas clear and not leave any form of refuse. Some residents have been sent letters to this effect. You are all asked to be considerate and not waste the annual fees by expecting others to clear up.

Residents are encouraged to contact Betty at no 56 (email to FPRA) and not the gardeners themselves if they have any gardening issues and she will do her best to accommodate them.

Special thanks to Laura, Robin & Denis for the lovely flower planting on Wellesley Road.

One resident thanked the gardening team for making the bushes around the estate look so nice and

manicured.

Neighbourhood Watch - Charles Owens

Charles Owens advises that all FPRA shareholders automatically become members of the Neighbourhood Watch. The crime rate is the lowest in the London area.

Take care what is left outside your property, keep your garages locked, don't leave keys visible inside your homes and do take the registration number of any suspicious vehicle and report to us (Charles at no 74) or to the police (non-emergency no 101). Any abandoned vehicles report to council (see their website) not the police.

One resident mentioned persistent offenders using the St James' school playing fields – however this is a matter for the school to deal with. The same applies to teenagers drinking in the playground on Wellesley Road - contact the local police or council.

The issue of house to house vendors was raised – Charles advises a pedlar's certificate is required issued by a police force which is highly unlikely in the case of the current pedlars. Just say NO!

Improvements to Estate

Giles thanked the Mistrys at no 2 for allowing us to tap into their electricity and finally light up the entrance plinth – it is to be noted the low voltage bulb is both eco friendly and bat friendly!

Gates: Residents asked if we can make them safer by installing key punches. They are also fire escapes so the idea of locking them is not appropriate – they need to be accessible from both sides. FPRA is responsible for the maintenance of the communal gates and a programme is under way however if any of the white communal gates require maintenance please email FPRA. Some residents have problems opening the gate at the Loch Fyne entrance so this will be looked at. It is also in the plans to have this painted shortly.

The estate walls are surveyed regularly for any signs of weakening and parents are requested not to allow their children to use the alleyways to climb into the school playing grounds.

Charles advises that we are still attempting to obtain a refund for the £900 we paid from the council for drainage clearance.

Strawberry Hill area

The councillors present at the meeting cleared up the issue of whether Fortescue Park remained within the boundaries of the village of Strawberry Hill with a resounding YES ! There was no conspiracy, no political agenda simply a questionnaire which was open to interpretation. Cllr Clare Head advised the residents that Cllr Pam Fleming was now totally convinced and the map is due to be re-done confirming the traditional boundaries. The second phase spoken about at the SHRA meeting related to future meetings about informing residents what is happening in the various 'villages'.

Giles mentioned an idea the committee had to change our signage to re-enforce our status within Strawberry Hill by adding this to the signage into Shaftesbury Way and Wellesley Road. Cllr Porter mentioned there was a fund called the 'Civic Pride' of £5K which we should follow up to see if this can apply to this plan. Those at the meeting were in favour of this action.

Questions asked about further building at St James' – but none proposed to the council's knowledge

Question posed about litter at Strawberry Hill station – on embankments – letter should be sent to Cllr Head who can address this with Network Rail.

Contractors working in Stanley Road have dumped broken paving slabs and rubbish on the FPRA land by St James' – Cllr Head will also look into this. She also mentioned that they are actively looking at ways to improve the access particularly for emergency vehicles down old Stanley Road. Parents dropping off children at school is a major

problem.

Speeding in Hampton Road – concerns about this area between the Mall and the Green - can we have more chicanes down this road perhaps? – a question for the councillors!

AOB Parking on estate roads - Refuse collectors often are unable to access the whole estate – having to reverse at times. This is also impact on emergency vehicles. Giles commented that we have two options – request the introduction of controlled parking – meaning unattractive road signage/ much reduced parking spaces/ ticket inspectors constantly wandering around **OR** encourage neighbours to park considerately and legally. This means leaving corners clear, using your garages and driveways, and not blocking kerbs for pedestrians because this is a ticketable offence. Those present at the meeting were not generally in favour of controlled parking.

Summer BBQ - we will plan this for the end of the school term in July but will advise at short notice due to inclement weather in previous years. Look out for notices on our boards and website and also our facebook page **HYPERLINK** "<https://www.facebook.com/groups/272846452798308/>" \t "_blank" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/272846452798308/>

Flowering Doorstep competition – we will have Squires vouchers for three winners as usual at the summer BBQ

Bunting – Giles asked those present if we should put bunting up during July & August and this was voted in with a special thanks to James Levey who has the courage to climb the ladder!

Next Ladies evening : Wednesday June 5th at the Old Goat on Hampton Road from 8pm - Giles asked those present if they wanted a ‘Gents night’ – so interested parties should contact Giles

Improvements suggestions: Comment from one resident to circulate request sheets to residents. Alternatively, please send your suggestions/recommendations to our email address or drop a line to any one of the Committee members. Can any residents who were unable to attend the AGM send their email addresses to the address below and we can start cutting down on paper and time!!

Election of Committee: All the current members agreed to continue and were formally re-elected. There was also a vote of thanks for the committee!

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

HYPERLINK "http://www.fortescuepark.co.uk" www.fortescuepark.co.uk

Fortescue Park Residents Association

Page PAGE 2 of NUMPAGES 3