

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 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FORTESCUE PARK RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION (FPRA) HELD ON MONDAY 8TH MAY 2017

In attendance: 35 residents including 8 Committee Members

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

1. Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer, Dominic Beattie, prepared a pie chart showing the breakdown of the p & l spending and income for 2016 (with 2015 as a comparison) with approximately £17k spent on the gardens and trees. There is good liquidity in the association – over £60k partly coming from outstanding debtors recovered from earlier years and Dominic confirms having filed the 2016 accounts. We will post to the website shortly.

Dominic thanked all those who changed their standing orders – some still need some adjustment where under or over payments have been made and he will correct this on the invoices for 2018 if necessary.

A question was raised concerning the increase in fees and the level of equity considered adequate for the FPRA. Giles replied that there has been no increase in fees over several years and the grave concern over the damaged school wall boundary is not completely clear yet. The school owners are still discussing the cost of the temporary fence they erected and further wall concerns. If we have the need to raise £100k then how would we do this. There are also some large trees that will need to be replaced and we feel a large buffer is needed – 2-3 years reserve being a good idea.

2. Maintenance Fees for 2018

The fees are currently £330 per annum (reduced to £300 for early payment or by Standing order) – the Committee proposed the fees should remain as per 2017 and those present were in agreement.

3. Gardens & Communal Areas Report

Gardens

Christine Ryan advises that the new team led by Ryan and Ben do an excellent job in the gardens working on a weekly basis and they were approved for re-appointment. Christine at no 49 was also thanked for her work since the gardens are looking lovely. It was acknowledged that Betty, who previously looked after the gardens was a hard act to follow.

Christine is concentrating efforts on enhancing the existing landscape and renovating crowded areas. There is some maintenance work to be carried out by the Tree Company around the estate. Ivy will be removed from walls where possible.

Christine is planning to enter FP in Richmond-in-Bloom in July however this will depend on how the bedding plants look. Residents can also apply individually. We have purchased a hose and water meter and do need volunteers to supply water – please let Christine know if you can assist. Recently 45 litres of water cost just £0.05p. Also donations of plants by residents that are not required are welcome and we will try to find somewhere to place them around the estate.

Communal areas/Passageways

Lloyd Reynolds advised that the wall adjacent to no 33 is finally repaired and strengthened after 18 months of trying to gain approved access. The main wind-damaged wall is also repaired – we elected to proceed with a dwarf brick wall and the rest was panel fencing. The costs were much lower and there was no need to encroach on other residents' gardens by increasing the thickness of the brick wall. Nos. 39 – 51 have

been repaired and costs have been shared with the insurers. Nos. 35 & 37 will make their own decisions regarding their wall expense. The costs worked out at £ 225 per linea meter as opposed to £ 1000 per linea meter for brick replacement. However, as mentioned earlier the school is reserving the right to request financing of the panels they erected and /or put up a new wall – a cost which could reach circa £150k. We are of course vigorously rebutting this suggestion.

It has been noticed that the Stanley Gate can easily be pushed open without a key so we are currently looking into reinforcing the gate and securing the lock.

All the signage around the estate has been refurbished with gold paint and there is a new slate sign which we have been holding for some time (buy one get one free!) at the Stanley Gate entrance. Paving slabs have been corrected in communal areas and three new side access gates are being installed. The remaining side access gates are all to be repainted in white gloss in the coming days. We will not be adding locks since these are access gates and please ensure gates are left unlocked whilst the painter is at work. It was mentioned that there is no gate behind the houses 44 -78 and those fed from this open passageway. It is a wide aperture and no gate ever existed in this area but we can look at the possibilities.

4. Neighbourhood Watch & Policing - Charles Owens

Charles Owens commented that crime is still very low in our area of South Twickenham – only 4 crimes per 1000 residents. There have been a total of 12 crimes reported over the year – 6 concerning anti-social behaviour, 6 actual crimes – of which 3 thefts and vehicle crimes and one burglary. This occurred in FP in the mid afternoon and the patio window was smashed and the house ransacked. At the time there was a lot of building works going on around the neighbourhood but there has been a pattern of similar crimes in the area. Garage doors should be kept closed when not in use.

The majority of crimes are close to Strawberry Hill Station (bicycles stolen etc) but on occasion crimes are recorded at SH when in fact they took place out of the area. We have an additional local PC and Charles is in regular contact with them. He also chairs Safer Neighbourhood board which has a fund of £ 28k for the whole borough.

Anti moped gates will be installed at the Crane Park entrances.

Charles also managed to obtain a sizeable refund from Richmond Council for the clearance of the drains after chasing this for several years.

There was mention of fly-tipping in the alleyways – Clare and Christine make regular inspections to ensure this is not becoming a problem again. There is some panel fencing at the rear of no. 117 which will need to be removed by the resident.

It was mentioned that a builder may be sleeping in his van on the estate but nothing confirmed – keep aware of those parked on the estate and let a committee member know if anything is of concern.

5. Elect or reappoint committee members

Those present elected to re-appoint the Committee for the following year and the Committee accepted.

AOB - Guest Speaker : Rachael Davis from house no. 72

Rachael will be sending a report of her findings to all residents relating to the current covenants so we will not cover this issue in these minutes.

- Giles re-affirmed that there are No proposals to change the covenants that we have been appointed to protect.

- St. Marys' expansion plans – closes on 22nd May so important to lodge your concerns – the development will impact our neighbourhood.

- Strawberry Hill villages plans –rejuvenation of station area with a modern and interesting design – check website for information and input.

- White Line – a resident requested putting a white line at the top of the steps leading from the Stanley

Road gate to help avoid accidents .

Summer BBQ & Flowering Doorstep competition - suggested date is Sunday 16th July (weather permitting) and we will as usual provide 10 vouchers for the best doorstep displays. Any volunteers for installing bunting for around six weeks from July to August would be appreciated otherwise we will ask Terry Savage.

There was a general thanks to the Committee for the work they put in from the residents present at the meeting

Committee members Giles Norman no 62/ Vanessa Cozens no 6 / Charles Owens no 74/ Lloyd Reynolds no 6b Wellesley/ Clare Marsden no 91 / Treasurer Dominic Beattie/Paul Butler no 21/ Jason Malaure no 33/ Christine Ryan no 49

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