

## 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 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FORTESCUE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (FPRA) HELD BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

Joined by: 24 residents including 8 Committee Members

The chair, Giles Norman, formally welcomed everyone to the online meeting and introduced the members of the committee. He explained that due to the Covid situation last year our AGM was delayed so there has only been nine months between the last AGM and this one.

#### 1. Treasurer's Report – Mike Dennis

Our Treasurer provided us with summary cash flow charts covering 2019 and 2020. He explained that our expenses increased in 2020 due to an increase in gardening costs and a substantial increase in our insurance. These increased costs are diminishing our reserves year on year but we still have a healthy reserve of approx. £75k (equivalent to two years expenses).

One resident asked what is the basis for the size of the sinking fund? Giles explained we would expect to be able to cover two years maintenance expenses but we should always have a fund to assist with any unexpected issues such as major wall repairs or substantial tree surgery. Historically there has always been an objective to maintain a reserve of two years' worth of fees.

The full accounts for 2020 are on the FP website and many thanks to Mike Kay who offers his accounting skills to support the treasurer each year.

It has been decided not to continue with the FP contribution to Strawberry Hill RA since the newsletter is now online but we encourage all residents to contribute £5 individually.

At this point the Minutes of the AGM 2020 were formally approved by those attending and the Treasurer's report was also formally approved. It was also agreed the fees would remain the same for 2022 .

#### 2. Gardens Report – Christine Ryan

I hope that you will all agree that the gardens are looking very good due to our dedicated gardeners. We are experiencing extremes in weather this year - very hot a month or so ago and the recent biblical rains. This has not been good for some of our older trees and we have already lost some and several more are dying. However, we have planted two Prunus (Cherry) trees on Wellesley Road and we will continue to replace trees wherever possible. I hope you will all have noticed the lush green grass we have at the moment (proving the rain is good for something!) as we have had all the green areas renovated. Reducing the amount of bedding plants and replacing with perennials and shrubs has proved successful as less water is needed. However, every growing plant does need water in very dry periods and it would be appreciated if you could water anything near you that looks as though it needs it. There were not as many Blooming Doorsteps this year but those that did have displays were a joy to see. Hopefully we can encourage more of you to participate next year. We've had quite a few gifts of plants this year from residents moving on and we have found a home for every one of them. Finally, I would like to thank Vanessa, Paul and Chris for their valuable help and support.

#### 3. Neighbourhood Watch

This position is still vacant if anyone is interested in acting as a link between the estate and the local police

#### **4. Community Events : Paul/Vanessa**

We have decided under the circumstances to delay the BBQ to Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup> ( from 2pm on the top green. ( Christine did voice her concern about protecting the beautiful new grass). Events will continue to be advertised on both our Facebook Page and the WhatsApp group both of which have proved enormously useful during the pandemic

2021 Xmas will see our Carol singing evening followed by mulled wine and mince pies. This year the plan is to use the small Xmas trees planted around the estate and decorate with lights and baubles. The large tree proved to be expensive and unstable.

Paul advises that the Sunflower competition to be judged soon with or without slugs!

**Election of Committee:** All the current members agreed to continue and were formally re-elected. A resident has approached us regarding becoming a committee member and we will confirm asap.

#### **AOB : Surface water flooding**

A lot of residents are experiencing problems with drainage but Charles states it is not a new problem but more cyclical and the estate is 50 years old.

The original plans are now available on the FP website for surface water drains and flow and sewage drains and flow. For those requiring more clarification for their particular property and area around their property we have copies of large estate maps which we can section off by scanning depending on the area of the estate. The gullies in every resident's drive must be kept clear of silt and debris to avoid potential flooding of your own garages and those of your neighbours. For most houses, the rainwater from the front of the houses joins the Thames Water drains whilst at the back it goes into soakaways. The 4" downpipe at the end of the section of houses is a shared responsibility between those houses. Please bear in mind that we do not know for certain if the developer followed the plans.

#### **Wall along St James off Wellesley Road**

In Lloyd's opinion it is just a movement in the wall and not of immediate concern. However, the school may take a different view.

#### **Solar panels**

Lloyd and Giles have looked into this and believe that even with the panels we would still be 70% dependent on the National Grid. Still more to look into regarding this on an individual basis.

#### **Committee members**

Giles Norman no 62/ Vanessa Cozens no 6/ Christine Ryan no 49/Charles Owens no 74/ / Lloyd Reynolds no 6b Wellesley/ Clare Marsden no 91/ Paul Butler no 21/ Mike Dennis no 85

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