

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Victoria Road Group Held on Tuesday 2 October 2012**

**Present:** Manda (in the Chair); Anna, Gordon, Sam, Ali, Mary, Paul, Mick, Philippa, Betty, Janet, Sally

**Apologies:** Jelly, Carol, John, Jonathan

### **1. Minutes of the last meeting (16<sup>th</sup> July) and matters arising.**

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Matters Arising

1. Oona is no longer our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. We had agreed to give her a bouquet, but she said she would prefer a donation to the Parkinsons Disease Society. A sum of £30 was agreed. Mary will do this. A card was passed round and further signatures collected. **Sam** has tried to contact the Police about the role of the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, but has had no response. He will try again.

2. Skip: only £60 was received for the use of this, and it wasn't full in the end. We were not sure whether this was because the day for its arrival had been changed, or its location towards the east end of the road, or if it was the wrong kind of skip (as it could not take bricks, etc). Paul reported that a builders' skip is much more expensive. It was agreed to wait a couple of years before considering hiring another.

### **2. Events – Media Madness**

Media Madness is on 17<sup>th</sup> November at No.53 (the home of Heike and Dominic) from 10.30 – 12.30. If the hosts are happy about it items may be delivered the evening before. **Mary** will check arrangements etc. with Heike. Cakes are welcome. Sally suggested that we place an additional focus on children's books this year, as well as games, CDs and DVDs and this was agreed. **Paul, Mary and Mick** offered to help set up and **Manda, Mick and Sally** will clear up at the end and take the surplus books to Oxfam. **Paul** will put them in under his Gift Aid form.

### **3. Events – Christmas Party**

Christmas Party is on 9<sup>th</sup> December at Sally and Jonathan's, no.59. If their building works are not finished, the party will relocate to Sam and Ali's. The carollers will meet at no.105 and the party begin at 6pm. It was noted that John may not be able to lead the singing this year; Mick offered to step in as necessary.

A notice about Media Madness, to be done by **Paul**, will go out at the beginning of November with the date of the Christmas party also advertised (and also the Quiz, see

later). Invitations for the Christmas party will go out mid-November. **Ali and Philippa** will deliver the first lot of notices, **Sam and Mick** the second. We will meet to sort out the details in late November.

Sam's suggestion of a budget of £50 for the Christmas party was agreed; as funds are beginning to run a little low, it was agreed that we should accept any donations which may be offered (at Media Madness and at the Party).

#### **4. Events – Quiz Night**

Mick has booked the Hall for the date agreed at the last meeting - 23 February 2013. It was agreed that this was the main fundraiser and that we **must** encourage people (friends, family etc) to come. The date should go on the first circular we send (as above). Consideration was given to alternative dates as Sam and Ali were otherwise engaged, but others present could not make the two backup dates, so the 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb remained unchanged.

#### **5. Pavements (additional agenda item)**

Paul reported that the pavements in Victoria Road are in a bad condition but that the stretch outside No.4 is particularly terrible. Manda and Paul met Mr Hatton, Highways Engineer Supervisor, from the City Council last week (at 7 am!). He explained that the council has little money for mending pavements but he did mark the worst places in white for repair. The County Council deals with damage done by builders, as at no.4 and Mr Hatton would liaise on our behalf.

Mr Hatton said that the water run-off from the spring line on the North side is not the Council's responsibility. He estimated it might cost a minimum of £2,000 to create a gully for the water to run across to the gutter. Janet said she has investigated this in the past and was told by someone else in the Council that, as the water is bubbling up on her land, she would not be permitted to divert it into the gutters. During the inspection walk, Mr Hatton had said he thought that as the matter was not straightforward, a feasibility study by specialists would be needed and this might cost around £500.

Janet emphasised that she has always been happy to fix her own if she can. **Manda** agreed to pass Mr Hatton's contact details to Janet. Paul wondered if VRG would invest in a box of grit and sand to deal with ice in the winter. Ali suggested consideration should be given to insurance companies' responsibilities.

Sam suggested that VRG should ask a lawyer about general/broader responsibilities for pavements – e.g. snow, water, gravel. **Paul and Mary** agreed to ask their friend who is a lawyer – although probably not one with this particular knowledge. We will revisit the issue of a salt box at the next meeting.

On his inspection walk, Paul, Manda and Mr Hatton discussed the issue of cars parked half on the pavement. Paul suggested a general note to remind people that it is illegal to and Sam pointed out that this practice also enables traffic to travel faster – which we don't want. Mr Hatton also noticed that several hedges encroached on the pavement. Paul offered to print and deliver a notice about both these issues and that of the need for householders to sweep gravel from their drives off the pavement.

Sam would like to have a general discussion about being a good neighbour, for next meeting.

Janet suggested a day for tidying up your pavement (in the USA it is standard practice for people to sweep snow etc), but Mick wondered if that might be divisive here. Philippa thought it would annoy people. It was agreed that a notice should go to all residents, along the lines suggested by Paul, updating residents on the meeting with Mr Hatton, the actions the Council will take and the things that residents themselves could do to help. Paul circulated a draft which people thought struck a balanced tone. **Paul** agreed to print and circulate, under the VRG logo.

## **6. Any Other Business**

Manda reported that **Carol (Recycling champion)** aimed to give us an update at the next meeting. Batteries can now be put out on top of wheelie bins (any colour) for collection but they are still accumulating in the bin at no.46. Mick will do a notice for the noticeboard about battery collection.

**Manda** asked about any new Welcome Packs needed (13, 48, 35 and 41 were done since July) – she will deliver to Jat and Emily moving into 102 on Saturday, and to new people at number 40.

Sam reminded us that our parking permits are due for renewal.

Sam distributed leaflets for the ‘Kicking the Bucket’ Festival of living and death.

Mick enquired if anyone knew a good surveyor. It was suggested that he get himself onto the 7 roads distribution list, managed to Lynn Ahmed as these kinds of requests are often circulated there.

**Next Meeting:** 28<sup>th</sup> November 8pm at Sam and Ali’s, No.56