

## Minutes of the Victoria Road Group meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Present: Mick, Paul, Manda (minutes), Sam, Alfred, Jessica, Pen, Vickie, Anna, Gordon, Bob, Jonathan (chair), Sally.

Apologies: Mary, Ali

1. **Minutes of previous meeting.** Correction that the balance in the bank was £250, and that Jessica and Alfred had tendered their apologies.

2. **Notice Board.** As agreed, after the last meeting, £100 was paid to Peter. Now that the funds are available (see item 3) it was agreed to pay Peter a further £100 so that the cost of materials is properly covered.

3. **Review of the quiz** – lots of positive feedback. Questions well-judged. Good atmosphere. Well compered by Ali. Seventy-four tickets sold. Circulating all seven roads paid off and made it a financial success (see next item). Sam brought Ali's written feedback, which chimed with others' comments and added that more copies of the sheets were needed next time (detailed notes to be added to Quiz file). Noted that Peter Amies offered to help set questions next time. Paul passed on Mary's feedback that more help was needed for setting up next time. Bob said that the jackpot seemed quite large and we might consider splitting it 50/50 between the winner and VRG next time (though noted this would change how it's been done for several years so would need to be communicated clearly). Thanks were offered to Ali, Sally, Sam, Paul and all who helped.

4. **Treasurer's report** – Anna gave the group an update on finances. The quiz took £764.10 in all (£444 in tickets, £303.10 from the bar and a donation of £20). It cost £335.87 to run, so net proceeds were around £429. Added to carried forward funds, the group now has £615, £100 of which will be paid to Peter (item 2 above) = £515.

We know we'll have around £120 to pay for insurance later in the year, and we try to run with around £200 in the bank (to pay up front costs for running a fundraiser), so the remaining £195 is available to fund normal activities; this should be more than enough to see us through a typical year.

5. **Future events – Green Balloon Day** – set for Sat 21<sup>st</sup> May with Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> as backstop if weather on Sat terrible. Pen and Jessica offered to deliver leaflets (VR only).

1<sup>st</sup> lot of leaflets to go out 1<sup>st</sup> week of May.

2<sup>nd</sup> lot of leaflets to go out the week before the event. Jonathan to source balloons.

Noted that Jessica away that week until the Weds. Manda offered to help with delivery if needed earlier that week.

Mick and Jonathan offered to collect any leftover items suitable for charity after the event.

It was agreed that the theme this year would be Plants (as the event is a little later than usual). It was also agreed that Paul would set up Peter Street's mice for The Great Mouse Trail for children and get chocolate mice for prizes.

Paul and Mary offered their front for the tea area and they will source the provisions. They have a gazebo.

Jonathan would draft and print the leaflets, adding the Plants theme, the Mouse Trail and reminding people to bring mugs and cakes.

Jonathan will make the final decision about the weather on the day.

In the event that non-VR residents start taking items from the street, it was agreed that we should politely explain that it's for residents only, but that if the person would care to return later, they can take what they like. This seemed to strike the right balance between VRers, others in our neighbourhood and the wish to see things re-used.

Film Night – Sally and Jonathan have not forgotten that they are down to host the next film night. Mick to help with choice of film.

Garden Party – date set for 17<sup>th</sup> July. Jonathan to check with Mary McKnight re hosting, with Barbara Harriss-White as backup (and first choice for next year).

**6. Welcome packs** – Recent arrivals 2B, 89 and the other half of Peter and Suzie's house (where Diana Melrose used to live). Jonathan is holding the pack at the moment. Vickie offered to help with marking up changes and delivering/knocking on doors to say 'hello'.

Jessica suggested that the Pack be put on the website, and the website address be put on the notice board. Jonathan to action.

There was a short discussion about near neighbours in Kings Cross, Corner House on Water Eaton Road etc. and it was agreed that we should err on the side of inclusivity.

## **7. AOB**

**Safari Supper** – Date was set for Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October Although those who had previously participated were very keen for a reprise, we could do with extending understanding and participation more widely. Thoughts were – earlier notice of the date and more explanation of what it is (noted that some call it a 'progressive supper'). Could also attract people by publicising the event more afterwards – e.g. photos on website, using the backs of leaflets.

Mailing List – migration from the old to new lists did not progress smoothly and Jonathan still managing both; turned out to be more complicated than expected to get people to move across. Jonathan plans to take his laptop to Green Balloon Day to help move to new system. Also add info on how to subscribe onto leaflets. Noted that our web address costs £11 for two years.

Discussed whether paper leafleting had had its day, but agreed to stick with it.

Mick and Philippa were thanked for hosting this meeting.

Alfred and Jessica were thanked for their donation to the Quiz receipts.

**8. Date of Next meeting** – Weds 8<sup>th</sup> June at Sally and Jonathan's house, number 59.