

Minutes of a meeting of the Victoria Road Group On Monday 14 November at No.59

Present: Sam (Chair); Sally; Mireille; Mike; Jessica; Alfred; Anna; Gordon; Paul; Mary; Vicky; Bob; Pen

Apologies: Ali; Stefan; Sue; Barbara; Jonathan; Philippa; Mick

The Minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

Finance: Anna reported that there is a balance of £564.72, of which £82 is cash

The insurance for third party liability has expired; the next year's quote is £157.91. Anna asked if it's worth getting another quote and Vicky suggested looking on Money Supermarket for a cheaper deal. **Paul** said he will look for a better deal – to start before the Christmas party. It was agreed that it is well worth having the insurance for peace of mind.

Safari Supper

There were a few more participants (28) than last year, and it seemed to have been enjoyed by all. Sally said that the prior organisation worked very well. We discussed whether there is anything we could do to improve the evening.

Sam said it was a great pity that Sue, who had worked very hard on the planning, had then been unable to attend herself. A warm vote of thanks was offered to **Sue**.

Anna mentioned that someone had expressed concern about 'competitive cooking', but most people felt that this had not been the case. Mary wondered how we could encourage more people to participate in other events.

Christmas Drinks Party

The party this year is on 11th December, at 6.00. Penny and Derek, at No.51, have kindly offered to host it. It was agreed that the invitations should go out as soon as possible now. **Paul** will set up the invitation and **Sally and Jonathan** will photocopy it. **Pen, Mireille, Mike, Vicky and Jessica** all volunteered to deliver the invitations. Pen recommended taking a wooden spatula to push them through letter-boxes! It was agreed to allow up to £100 expenditure for the party. **Pen and Mary** will prepare the punch; **Mary** will identify the ingredients for that, and napkins and soft drinks and **Bob** will buy the wine and brandy. **Everyone** will help clear/wash-up.

Carol-Singing

This precedes the drinks party, at 5.15. **Mick** has volunteered to co-ordinate this, barring absence through work, in which case **Paul** will, and he will work with Mick on it. Carol-singers, and anyone with a portable musical instrument should meet outside 102A at 5.15. This will need to be included on the drinks invite.

Activities for 2017

Sam wondered whether or not we should change the usual events; but the established ones are:

Media Madness

Sunday afternoon, 5 February, 3-5pm. Mike and Mireille (No.50) offered to host this.

Garden Party

This event is always popular. It was agreed that it should be before the end of term and it was fixed for 16th July.

Would anyone like to offer their garden? Ideally, it should have a side entrance, some shade and no deep pond or other hazards.

Green Balloon Day

We discussed whether the format for this needs to be changed. Paul remembered that it has been suggested that it focuses on one house. Special activities have always seemed to work well – in the past there have been Morris Dancers (on 1st May), a Pet Show and Balloon sculpting. Ali is keen to revitalise GBD and has suggested a Task Force to plan it. Volunteers for this are: **Ali, Paul, Mary, Sally, and Vicky**. Their brief is to come to the next meeting with suggestions. Gordon wondered about another photograph competition or, as Anna suggested, a photo exhibition, which could be at the end of Green Balloon Day or the Garden Party. Sam said that the two Film Nights were a great success but can't accommodate many people at once. However, he would encourage people to do it. Paul recommended just publicising that on the email list, rather than doing a flyer. Gordon suggested a movie-lending system; Sam asked how that could be organised – with a database-catalogue on the website? Someone would need to compile and administer it. Gordon will have a go at setting this up. Paul suggested a board-game evening.

Chairperson

Sam pointed out that this is the time of year when the holder of this role usually changes. He had taken over from Jonathan during the course of the year, because of Jonathan's work commitments. Sam asked for a volunteer to take over, but there were none so he agreed to stay on. Jessica asked what is involved in being Chairperson of the Victoria Road Group:-

It is usually a term of one year and involves: chairing of meetings; making sure events were organised; making the odd announcement – votes of thanks etc; informing the group of events such as the funeral of a prominent resident of the road; and not much else.

Any Other Business

- Anna asked for another signatory to the bank account. Bob has already volunteered to do this, but has not yet had the forms to sign.
- Mary brought up her concern that the flyers we distribute may well be ignored as junk-mail and feels that they are insufficiently distinguishable from other things that get pushed through the door – often people are unaware of upcoming events despite the flyers. Alfred suggested getting it redesigned, preferably by a professional graphic designer. Sam knows an economically-priced designer and will ask him. It was felt that we should have an easily recognisable logo and template for different flyers. Paul said we should then keep strictly to the template.

Sally was thanked for her hospitality.

The Next Meeting is on Sunday 15 January at 5.00, at No.56