

Minutes of a Victoria Road Group Meeting on Monday 4th September 2017-09-05

Apologies: Paul; Mike; Mireille; Vickie; Sally; Ali

Present: Sam (Chair); Sue; Jean; Pen; Jonathan; Anna; Gordon; Philippa; Mick; Jessica; Alfred; Bob; Felipe; Mary

Matters arising from the last Minutes

1. Cutteslowe Community Centre has thanked VRG for our donation of £200. They're doing well with their fundraising and they are hoping to re-open the Children's Centre in a different form, for part of the week.
2. **VRG Logo** Jonathan had produced a new logo for VRG publications. Peter had done something but he felt that it was less suitable than Jonathan's and so we will go with Jonathan's. Many thanks to him for his work on this.
3. **Welcome Pack** Jonathan showed us the new version of the Welcome Pack – an easy-to-use A5 version – for comments. Jean suggested adding emergency phone numbers and Gordon suggested adding the fact that it is now possible to get 24-hour access to the Library. If anyone has further suggestions, they should email Jonathan with them.
4. There was discussion about how to organise getting copies of it to new households. Jonathan would like to have it on the blog so that people can print it off for new neighbours; he can print one or two at home as they're needed. At the moment it should go to Nos: 37, 12, 41, 53 and 55 which Sam will organise.
5. **Events**

Garden Party

This had been a very pleasant afternoon, hosted by the Bromleys. It hadn't been hugely well attended and there was some discussion about whether it had been affected by the fact that it was only a week after the Seven Roads Group event. Mick thought probably not. Jessica suggested that there should be more liaison between the two groups and that this should be fairly easy, given the people involved. Many thanks to Sally and Jonathan for hosting this event in their lovely garden.

Future Events

Safari Supper – 21 October

It was agreed that the first mailing about this should go out about six weeks before the event, which means 10th September, and the second one 3-4 weeks later, 2 weeks before the event. Paul had already offered to write the flyer and Jonathan will print it. Jonathan said that

we could do with 5 or 6 more couples., and reiterated that single people are just as welcome as couples.
Sam will dig out the minutes of last year's post-Safari Supper meeting. He reminded us that homes are needed for the before-supper gathering and for the post-supper one.
Mary, Pen and Jean will distribute the first flyer.
Sub-committee: Jonathan; Jessica; Alfred; Ali/Sam.

Christmas Drinks and Carols – 10 December

Would anyone like to volunteer to host it this year? Jessica and Alfred are happy to do it, but it would be good to have someone offering for the first time.

Mick and Paul will liaise over the carol-singing.

Other Possible Events

Media Madness; Film Night; Scrabble Tournament; Quiz.
Mick suggested talks by local experts, on a smallish scale
Sam thought we should put in some definite dates, so:

Media Madness – 4 February 2018 at Mick and Philippa's (*I'm not entirely sure I've got this date right*) **in the afternoon**

Film Night Jean has kindly offered to host this on 1st March at 8pm. This will be an email notification only and, because of space limitations, will need to be on a first-come-first-served booking basis.

Scrabble Tournament Jean said this can be done online. Mick suggested having it in a hall with fewer tiles each and a time-limit for each move. Mick and Gordon will give it some thought.

6. New Chairperson Needed

Sam asked for a volunteer to take over as Chair as his year is coming to an end. It is not an onerous job – a matter of chairing meetings and co-ordinating things. Please volunteer at the next meeting, or nominate someone else. The last few Chairpersons have been men, so it would be nice to have a woman.

7. Finances

We have £333.66 in the bank and £23.99 in cash. Sam thanked Anna for looking after the money.

8. Any Other Business

Jean raised the question of homeless people in Summertown; what can we do? Philippa said that there are schemes about letting people stay in unused spaces, but there doesn't seem to be one here; the Barclays Bank site has been empty for three years, could that not be used? Jean knows that there are experts on this subject and Sam suggested that this should be one of our Expert Talks. Jonathan

suggested that we all write to politicians (VRG doesn't do this as a body) and Philippa said that there are some organisations in The Big Issue who might be able to advise us. Philippa and Jean will enquire.

Jessica is concerned about Easihotels having taken the lease on the Majestic Wine site, but not having applied for planning permission. Her concern is that it will bring more fast-food outlets and more big groups of tourists. Sam says that he feels it would be a better alternative than more student or office accommodation. He recommended that we should contact our councillors if we are concerned. Philippa would prefer it to be social housing and Mary agreed.

The Next Meeting is on Tuesday 11 November at No.59

Many thanks to Anna and Gordon for hosting this meeting