

Victoria Road Group

Notes of the meeting held on Friday 10 August 2018 at Mick and Philippa's, no.102a

Present:

Philippa O'Connor (Chair), Jonathan Bromley (notes), Paul Lewis, Mary Lewis, Mick O'Connor, Sally Bromley, Bob Crabtree, Sam Clarke, Ali Clarke, Gordon Buchanan, Anna Buchanan, Sally+Jonathan, Bill Dutton, Diana Dutton

1 Apologies

Sue Bates, Jessica, Alfred, Barbara, and Vicky.

2 Welcome

The meeting welcomed Bill and Diana back to Victoria Road.

3 Finance

Anna presented the current financial situation (details appended to these notes). The VRG bank balance currently stands at £373.25. Significant forthcoming expenses include insurance (about £70) and the Christmas drinks event (about £100).

Green Balloon Day had taken £153 for plants and £133 at the bar. Total expenses were £130 (drink, prizes etc), a profit of £155.

Paul noted that buying polypin of beer usually loses money and we should probably get bottles in future.

It was noted that we had made a small wedding gift to Jonathan and Ann-Katrin (no.2a); they had been consistent supporters of VRG activities.

The meeting expressed gratitude to Anna for continuing to look after our finances.

4 Green Balloon Day 2018 review

This year we had arranged a community lunch and put effort into arranging road closure.

Points from a discussion about the success of the event:

- We overestimated the number of people for lunch, so it looked sparse.
- Sam has photos to count numbers, probably 40-50
- There was some discussion around balance between the effort required and the event's value (and numbers attending).
- Ali noted that various children greatly enjoyed it, adults had a good time. We should ask whether it's a good event that we are able to offer, not whether it's good return on effort.
- High value as social event for children
- Sam noted that recyclable toys were separated out, which incidentally provided a nice play area for children
- Sally thought recyclables were not given enough emphasis.
- Gordon pointed out that it would have been grim if rainy.
- Several noted that last year's afternoon/evening event with BBQ worked rather better.
- Chair thanked Ali for her work in implementing the road closure. It had required her to call on every home twice, and this alone was felt to be valuable.

- Paul: the plant stall is a lot of work (but Mary says it's manageable). The plant stall also has high social value and provides a useful focus.
- Sally pointed out that this year there had been a big success getting younger people to help with set up (thanks to Mick, whose plan was very useful).

Suggestions for adjustments to the event for next year:

- Ali: we need to keep work to a minimum, but the event has great community value. We should continue to refine/reduce the workload.
- Agreed that the afternoon/evening BBQ in 2017 provided better timing and focus than a shared lunch.
- Chair noted that the 2017 pet show and drumming went down well.
- Closing the eastern end may be seen to exclude half the road. It's possible instead to close from Kings Cross Road westwards about halfway to Banbury Road; this was felt to be a good idea for next year.

5 Garden Party 2018

Please note **action items for those people noted in bold text.**

The date is already set: 9th September at No.16 (Jean Knox). There is a good patio, and Jean has kindly offered use of her large sitting room if wet. We will set up **Sam's** gazebo on the patio.

An invitation needs to be circulated soon. It should be printed to a high standard on about A6 size heavy card – **Jonathan** was authorized to spend up to about £15 on printing early next week. **Mick** and **Diana** will distribute invitations no later than the weekend of 18th August.

Sam and Ali will provide the two VRG trestle tables. **Jonathan** will provide 17 plastic chairs.

Paul to pass urn and teapots to Sam and Ali before going away.

Philippa to ask Janet for cups, but Sam and Ali have mugs available as a backup.

We will use napkins rather than plates for cakes - **Anna and Ali** to provide.

The only consumables required are milk, tea, coffee, sugar and soft drinks – **Anna** will purchase.

Jonathan and Sally will provide teaspoons.

Ali, Sam, Jonathan and Sally will make some children's games available (Jenga, boules etc).

It was agreed that there should be no line dancing, and noted that Sam refuses to make tea.

A tea rota needs to be organized. **Ali** will do it without the use of digital technology.

Jonathan, Sam, Bill, Diana and Mick offered to help set up.

Ali and Philippa will help with clearing up, but it is generally easy to get help on the day.

Philippa will provide labels for self identification.

6 Other events in 2018

We will hold a Christmas event as before with carol singing on 16th December. It will cost about £100. Noted that we need fundraising of about £300 every year and should hold a fundraising event (quiz?) soon.

A film night (Sam and Ali, or Jean Knox?) should be fixed for end October or early November – this can be done outside the meeting.

We will not hold an autumn Safari Supper this year.

7 Dates for 2019

Chair noted that we had been obliged to shift the dates of some traditional VRG events this year because of clashes with Seven Roads events. We should set our dates for 2019 as soon as possible to avoid this. Ali, who is chair of Seven Roads committee, agreed to check their dates and communicate with Philippa, and also will check the impact of our dates at the Seven Roads committee meeting on 2nd September. Several key organisers are in both groups and must not be overloaded.

We believe that it is close to the 25th anniversary of VRG and we should consider celebrating that on invitations and other material next year. [Post-meeting note: it is confirmed that the first GBD took place on 24 September 1994.]

Proposed dates:

- Media Madness 27th January 2019, 3pm
- Quiz or other fundraiser: 2nd March 2019 - **Philippa** will check Church Hall availability
- Green Balloon Day: 1st June 2019
- Garden party: 14th July 2019

8 AOB

New neighbours have moved in, or are expected soon, at numbers 2a, 7, 33, 12, 13 and 41. Jonathan will ask for review of the existing welcome pack before delivering to those addresses.

At the garden party we will try to remind residents that they are welcome to join the email lists.

Gordon asked if the list of recommended service providers could be revived. There was a somewhat inconclusive discussion, with concerns about the reliability and long-term value of such recommendations. We should revisit the idea.

9 Date of next meeting

Sunday 4th November 2018 at Jonathan and Sally's (no.59), 4:00-5:30pm. That meeting will need to elect a new Chair.

The meeting adjourned after thanking Mick and Philippa for their hospitality.

APPENDIX: Green Balloon Day 2018 accounts

Expenses	£	Takings	£
Wine	34.95		
Beer (actual cost £62 – Sam took the remainder for £15)	47.00		
Other drinks	9.55		
Lemonade	3.00		
Napkins	3.00		
Ice	11.97		
Flowers	16.00	Bar	133.10
Balloons	5.00	Plants	153.05
TOTALS	130.47		286.15
		PROFIT	155.68

Previous assets were £217.57; after GBD profits the current total is £373.25.