

Minutes of the Victoria Road Group Meeting
17 January 2019
at Bill and Diana's House

Apologies: Pip, Sally, Jonathan, Vickie, Bob, Sam, Jean, Mireille. Ali sent apologies but arrived later

Create rota for note-taking: Sally had suggested setting up a rota for taking the minutes. Paul proposed that this was unnecessary and all present agreed

Finnce; We have £187, having paid £83 for this year's insurance and £93 for the Christmas party expenses.

The next expenses will be for the Quiz Night – the hall was £92 last time and the expenses came to £335. We made a profit of £431. 74 tickets were sold. We therefore need to make a profit of between £300-£400.

Insurance: see above. We are now covered for £5million.

Events: Christmas drinks and carols: it was felt that fewer people than usual had attended, but it was pouring with rain, which probably kept people at home. It was pleasing to welcome several new families to the road.

It was agreed that it would be much more effective to send proper printed invitations, on card, to this, as we do for the Garden Party. It would also be helpful to put a note on the invitation about contingency plans for the carols in the event of bad weather.

Future Events: Media Madness is on Sunday 27 January, from 3.30-5.30 at No.46 (Paul and Mary's). We swap all media, except VHS tapes. Jessica told us that the Animal Sanctuary Shop on South Parade still takes VHS tapes. Jonathan and Mick will take the leftover books to Oxfam.

Quiz: 23rd February in the lower Church Hall. The first flyer should go out three weeks before the quiz, i.e. by 31st January, if not before. We agreed to invite Hamilton Road initially. People should book places in advance, by emailing chair@vrgoxford.org.uk, then pay on the door. Jessica pointed out that the 7RG quiz had ended up oversubscribed at the last minute, so we agreed to leaflet only Victoria Road, Hamilton Road and King's Cross Road. There will be slightly different wording for the latter two roads.

Paul will write the leaflets, *Jonathan* will print them and *Barbara* will deliver them. It should be made clear on the leaflets that this is a Fundraising Event, with a bar, not BYO.

The teams should be a maximum of six members and the tickets will be £7

Questions The question-setting team meets for the first time on 19th January.

Philippa will be question-asker, assisted by *Anna*.

Setting-up Team: *Bill, Paul, Mary, Mick*. *Mary* will greet people and introduce people to other teams if they have come on their own.

Bar: *Bill, Paul, Mary, Mick*

Purchase of drinks: *Mick* will ask *Bob* if he'll do it; if not *Paul* will volunteer. We agreed to offer only wine and bottled beer (lager and bitter) and soft drinks and

fizzy water. It was agreed that whoever bought the wine should decide on prices and Anna said we need to have a 50% markup.

Philippa has emailed the church about chairs and tables (there is another event in the upstairs hall)

Mick will check with Jonathan about a PA system for the question-asker.

Green Balloon Day: 11th May . We began by discussion whether or not we should revert to the original version of GBD, and those present were in favour of the old simpler version. **However** This year is the 25th Anniversary of Green Balloon Day, so it should be special. Bill and Mick suggested a display of photographs of all VRG (originally VRRG) events over the 25 years. Paul suggested that people could put out their recyclables in front of their houses from about 4.00 pm, then the road be closed (eastern end) for a celebration with a barbecue and bar in the evening. It would be nice to invite any past residents we know. Mick suggested putting together a film about 1994, and someone pointed out that one can buy such things from Smiths. Bill enquired what business had followed the dairy on the corner. We need to have another meeting specifically for GBD.

(A further discussion took place after the Chair and other members of the meeting had to leave):-

If the road is to be closed, permission needs to be asked soon. *Ali* will do this, and canvas homeowners from King's Cross eastwards. *Paul* will ask Andrew if he would be willing for us to use his front garden.

Garden Party 8th September: Barbara offered to host this, if no-one else offers.

Welcome Packs: there are new residents at nos.41, 27, 12, 7, 13. Have they had welcome packs?

Matters arising: Jean has said she is happy to host another film night.

Children's Film Night: good idea. *Mick* is happy to go round to families with young children to ask if they'd be interested. Diana pointed out that a parent would need to be in charge!

Any Other Business: Gordon was concerned about an email regarding the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway having been on the VRG email system. He felt that it wasn't in the spirit of the VRG being apolitical. It was agreed that no-one should speak 'for' the VRG, because we're not a representative group, but that it's alright to give information, or an individual's opinion. We don't give a view on planning or parking issues.

Ali asked if we want to re-state that we don't represent the road as a whole.

Information from an individual is acceptable

We don't want discussion of debates/campaigns

We'd need a special meeting of the whole road to do something political

Gordon is against people using communications and the noticeboard for political means.

Sally has suggested fixing a regular day of the week for meetings but, as this would mean excluding some regular members/workers, we agreed to keep to the system of rotating days of the week.

Next Meeting: March 31st 5.00pm at No.56