

# *Rivermead Residents Association*

## **Minutes of Committee Meeting, Flat 6, 16th November 2009, 7.30pm**

### **Present**

Rachel Goodinson (Chair) [RG], Tim McCormick (Vice-Chair) [TM], Peter Walsh (Treasurer) [PW], Nicki Puckey (Secretary) [NP], Cat Coombs [CC], Jean Minshall [JM], Phil Lockett [PL], Gill Catchpole [GC], Marina Webster [MW], Marilyn Ash [MA].

### **Apologies**

Apologies received from Tim Gregory.

### **Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising**

RG proposed the minutes as accurate, seconded by MW.

### **Committee membership and hand over**

Each member present introduced themselves and hand over of elected positions confirmed.

### **Correspondence from the chair**

RG briefed the committee about the proposed embankment flood defences, the concerns with the proposed playground and skate board park. One resident had started a petition which was pinned on the notice boards, but has since been removed from most. RG had advised him that it would be better if the Council received individual responses/concerns rather than one petition as people have different views. The plans are not yet finalised and there is a general concern about the fate of the Bandstand.

### **Correspondence from the secretary**

TM had checked the emails and had received an email from a resident enquiring about the latest lease situation. RG had responded to the resident to say they will be updated. NP as new secretary will need to have details to access the secretary emails for future correspondence - to be arranged with TM.

### **Treasurer's report / Website**

New signatory for the account will be arranged for PW. PW reported there was @ £100 in the bank account at the moment. PW also agreed to update the website and arrange email changeovers and to upload minutes and newsletters as necessary.

### **Membership**

An up to date membership list has been prepared by RG and PW will update the list with the date subs are paid.

### **Communication**

At the AGM concerns were raised about the lack of communication between Freshwater, the committee and residents. GC volunteered to be "communications officer" and liaise with Peter Porter [PP] with regard to ongoing issues with residents with a view to keeping PP 'in the loop' with the items addressed at the meetings. GC highlighted several items were discussed:-

- notice boards should be kept up to date, GC said she would do this.
- membership of the association, and lack of numbers, how to encourage people to join/take an interest.
- how to sort out 'niggles' and concerns that residents have. It was suggested that after each meeting a notice should be put on the notice boards highlighting the main items discussed so residents are aware of current issues. Also to place a notice a couple of weeks before each meeting to ask residents to flag up any items they wished to raise. This should improve general communication with residents and maybe encourage new members to join the association/committee. NP agreed to do this.
- Freshwater and PP were not invited to this year's AGM. An oversight this year but must be done next year as this gives us an opportunity to thank PP for his work etc.

- There are concerns from residents about the finished standard of the renovations and the intended internal decorations which are due to be done at some time. An update via the notice boards could ease residents concerns.
- It was discussed that cards (ie. condolence/sympathy cards etc) could be sent to the families of deceased residents. There are a number of long standing residents and a couple of them had recently passed away and it was said that it would be a nice touch to send a card from the residents of Rivermead to their families if this was possible. This would need someone to get such information from PP or from the cleaner (Sue) and GC said she would endeavour to do this.
- Also GC will ask PP of any other issues which should be brought to the attention of the committee.

### **Leases**

RG reported that there are currently 21 people interested in renewing their lease. The solicitor has written to say he will speak to one specific person to save having to contact all 21 people. PW volunteered to be the liaison person for the Lease Sub-Committee. PL agreed to assist PW with the correspondence as needed. MW and TM also to be part of the lease sub-committee. A meeting was arranged to progress this. PL said he would enquire with his neighbours who had expressed their interest to see if they would join the sub-committee as well.

### **Any other business**

Discussion as to whether to send Xmas cards to members of the Association. General consensus was 'yes'. CC agreed to buy the cards, which would be charity cards. JM and MA volunteered to write the cards and deliver them through member's letterboxes.

Newsletters would continue to be delivered to all residents with updated information on items discussed by the committee and would continue to encourage residents to join the Association/Committee.

### **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting was arranged for Monday 11th January 2010 in flat 58.