



Annual General Meeting of Victoria Park Community Group (VPCG) on Monday 6th March 2023

In attendance

The committee:

Chair - Maria Trevis (MT), Secretary - Quinten Taylor (QT), Mara Campbell (MC) – Treasurer

Garret Simpson (GS), Stephen Wallis (SW), Federico Campbell (FC), Cllr Karen Rowland (KR), Cllr Mohammed Ayub (MAb), PCSO Charlie Wakeling (CW), PCSO Amy Audus (AA), Marie Arndt (MAr), Sheilagh Molloy (SM), Jackie Jackson (JJ)

Apologies: Karen Mocko, Jaba Njalian, Anna Soloviova, Cllr Tony Page

1. Welcome

MT welcomed everyone to the first VPCG AGM and introduced the trustees and committee to the meeting.

2. Previous AGM minutes

None – this is the first AGM.

3. Chair-person's annual report (attached)

MT gave brief highlights of the year, including key events such as:

- the 150 person Jubilee Picnic,
- 2x Litter Picks
- New tree drought watering
- Planter bulb planting

She gave thanks for the organisers and volunteers of these events. MT also highlighted new connections made between VPCG, the locals PCSOs, Civitas Academy, Lifespring Church and the Reading Council.

She highlighted current and future challenges, in particular the communication with issues with certain residents (secure flats etc) and running a sustainable group, as currently the same three people are both the Trustees and Committee.

There has been really successful fundraising via Reading Lions and Rotary Club.

Priorities for the year ahead include the erection of a community noticeboard in the park and funding a Big Clean Up day.

4. Secretary's annual report

QT gave a brief oral report – that the secretary had produced minutes of meeting in a timely and accurate fashion.

5. Treasurer's annual report (attached)

MC reported that the year gone was based around setting-up the basic functions for the group such as the Bank account (with Metro Bank). She gave thanks to Specialist Accounting Solutions Limited who have assisted her. She informed the meeting that VPCG's financial year runs from 1 Feb-31 Jan. The years past has seen the group raise £1200 in grants and donations.

6. Election of Trustees

The following were elected by the meeting to serve a further year's term as Trustees:

- QT (Proposed by SW, Seconded by SM)
- MT (Proposed by QT, Seconded by MAT)
- MC (Proposed by GS, Seconded by SW)

7. Election of Committee

The following were elected by the meeting to serve a year's term on the committee:

- Chair: MT (Seconded by QT)
- Treasurer: MC (Seconded by FC)
- Secretary: QT (Seconded by MAT)
- Ordinary member: SM (Seconded by QT)
- Ordinary member: MAT (Seconded by MT)

8. AOB

KR outlined the assistance the Councillors can offer, such as delivery of newsletters/flyers with their surgery advertisement materials.

KR outlined the proposed improvement in playground facilities at Victoria Park, such as the installation of new equipment and the 'designing out' of crime.

KR also talked about the proposed 'School Streets' initiative (in conjunction with Civitas Academy) to improve air quality and congestion. It is currently with their Board of Governors.

PCSO CW gave a brief explanation of her outreach work in the local community. She agreed to write an article for VPCG about it, which will appear on the website.

CW also gave the attendees a reminder to report incidents on 101 or online.

CW and KR highlighted the Safer Neighbourhood Forum meetings planned for the year ahead and recommended the VPCG send a representative to each. MT agreed to share dates and the committee will look to share that responsibility between them.

MT: Urged attendees to use The Love Clean Streets app in order to help keep on top of the fly-tipping which is currently prevalent in the area.

SM proposed a vote of thanks to the Trustees and Committee for all their hard work for the year passed, which was gratefully accepted.

9. Date of next meeting

The next AGM will be held on Monday 4th March 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.24pm. The secretary will send round all documents associated with the AGM alongside the minutes. These will also be uploaded to the website.

The minutes are hereby signed-off as accurate by the following trustees:

Maria Trevis (Chair)

Mara Campbell (Secretary)

Quinten Taylor (Secretary)