

# THE CRESIDENTS

## OF WIMBLEDON PARK

### **Minutes of AGM held on 11 March 2018 at 7.30pm at 17 Crescent Gardens**

Present were: Bob Ball, Janet and Frank Carter, Judith and Flavio Centofanti, Ute and Douglas Dallimer, Beate Eberhardt, Peter Griffiths, Shirley Hatherly, Mary Healey, Veronica and Vincent O'Sullivan, Robin and Peter Rhind, Tom Riddell, and Susanna and Aron Thompson. Apologies were received from John Peake.

#### **1. Minutes of previous AGM**

The Chairman (Douglas Dallimer) opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and introducing Peter Griffiths who had recently moved into the area with his family. Douglas asked whether anyone present had any comments on the minutes of the last AGM, held on 14 September 2017. He noted that these had been published on The Cresidents website and a copy was available at the meeting for perusal. The minutes were then adopted as correct, proposed by Mary and seconded by Judith. Douglas mentioned that the committee had decided to convene the AGM earlier this year as it seemed sensible to hold it closer after the calendar year accounts.

#### **2. Chairman's Report**

Douglas reported on matters from 2017:

- Events held during 2017 were: a quiz; summer drinks; wine tasting; lighting up ceremony and a Christmas treasure hunt for children organised by Judith, followed by Christmas drinks. The events were successful and the surpluses from the Quiz (£162) and Wine Tasting (£400) had been donated to the Faith in Action Merton Homelessness Project and the Wimbledon Guild respectively
- Rubbish in the streets had been a challenge. John Peake, Frank and Douglas had been picking up litter because street cleaning work by the council contractors had not been adequate.
- The lights which The Cresidents had been using on the tree in the Christ the King garden each Christmas had reached the end of their life and would need to be replaced for next year. Douglas had investigated and identified suitable replacements, which would not be available until September.
- Planning suitable events to attract families with children continued to be difficult – ideas would be invited later in the meeting.
- The Cresidents had been interested in the proposals for development of the Woodman site. Douglas was not confident that the pub would be successfully redeveloped – he felt that the lease terms may not be sufficiently attractive to prospective operators.

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### **3. Presentation of accounts**

Ute presented the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017, which had been published on the website. A number of copies were circulated for perusal.

Ute noted:

- the balance held at the start of the year (ie 1 January 2017) was £8,500;
- the balance at the end of the year (ie 31 December 2017) was £7,779 which was down £721 from the start of the year;
- the reason the balance had reduced was primarily due to the costs of insurance (£208), and the costs associated with the Christmas Lighting up ceremony (£611). These included the costs of the loudspeaker hire, parking suspension fees, and the cherry picker hire to install the lights on the tree; and the costs of small gifts for children.
- most events are intended to break even with any profit usually being donated to a local charity.

Veronica commented that £7,779 at year end was a healthy balance. Ute agreed, and explained that it was largely historical. In earlier years the Cresidents had done a lot more fund raising. The main reason was that there had been two or so years of deliberate fund raising at each event when our lift campaign was active. The recent announcement by TfL that Wimbledon Park would be included in the next tranche of stations to have a lift installed was noted. Tom confirmed that he had updated the relevant page of the Cresidents website, and commented that the website stats showed it was having approximately 200 visits per month. Douglas reported that one of the local agents told him that he had been recommending the website to prospective buyers who wanted to know more about the area, which no doubt explained the higher than expected figures.

Flavio asked Ute why donations were allocated to events in the accounts. Ute explained that during the last couple of years, when the Cresidents were not fundraising for their own purposes, the committee nominated a different local charity to receive any surplus from each event, and included the details on the flier for the event.

The accounts were adopted, proposed by Shirley, seconded by Judith.

### **4. Election of Committee Members**

Douglas invited existing committee members to indicate whether they were willing to continue, and anyone else present to nominate themselves should they like to join the committee. The existing members Douglas (chairman), Ute (treasurer), Mary, Susanna, Aron, Beate, Tom and Judith confirmed they were willing to continue,

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Judith noting that she would not always be able to attend given various clashes. The above were reappointed by the meeting.

### **5. Future Events**

Douglas invited any suggestions for new events and ideas for involving residents, noting that the Committee had already planned some core events: a Quiz, to be held on 11 May; a Wine Tasting, probably in October; the Christmas lighting up ceremony as usual, Christmas drinks, and another treasure hunt for children if Judith was willing to organise it again.

Various ideas were suggested for the committee to consider:

- Holding more than one wine tasting a year
- Making the Christmas drinks a fancy dress party
- New Years Eve party
- A Pantomime (Judith mentioned from past experience that adults and children would really enjoy it, and it was a good way to get the next generation involved, but a fair bit of work was involved in organising it)
- Street party

Vincent commented that he thought the practice of having young locals serving at Crescent functions was excellent.

### **6. AOB**

Aron updated the meeting on his dealings with the council over possible changes to the parking scheme. The next step would be a consultation but the council will not decide whether to proceed with that until April. If it did go ahead the process would take upwards of a year. Discussion followed of potential issues when the football stadium is built in Plough Lane, including parking problems, rubbish, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Aron also updated the meeting on his approaches to the Gym about customers speeding through the Crescent. The Gym had been apologetic and stated that it had reminded members, but there had not been any meaningful action or change.

Problems with rubbish were discussed, including the expected changes in collection bin arrangements next year, the continual mess at the steps up to Durnsford Road railway bridge, and the efforts by John, Frank and Douglas to keep our neighbourhood tidier. Various culprits were blamed including wind, builders and visitors but no real solutions were identified.

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Bob reported that JJ Stores had closed after being fined for employing illegal immigrants, and the pizza store in Durnsford Road had been fined over hygiene standards.

There was speculation about possible usage changes to local business premises including the former Barclays Bank building and the Chinese takeaway, but no new updates were available.

There being no other business, Douglas thanked Beate and Tom for hosting the AGM, and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.