

MOORPOOL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on 13th October 2005, at the Moorpool Hall

Present: Committee: Jackie Holder (Chair), Louise Wynne-Williams (Vice-Chair), Carol Ashling (Secretary), Gill Morgan (Treasurer), Mike Frost, Emma Gray, Carole MacFadyean, Mike O'Malley, Sheila Preece and Jan Scott. Apologies: Tim Beavis

Guests: Cllr. John Alden, Steve Beauchampe (Author: Played in Birmingham), Poppy Brady (B'ham Post), Chris Hargreaves (Head of Conservation Dept. B'ham.City Council), Cllr. Peter Hollingsworth), Gisela Stuart (MP), Cllr. Mike Whitby.

Clubs: Representatives from the clubs on the Estate were present as were over 100 Residents.

1. The Chair opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending, especially for the good turn-out, and introduced the special guests.
2. Last year's AGM minutes were approved.
3. Chair's Report. The Chair thanked the committee for their hard work throughout the year. She introduced the proposals for an updated Constitution. Gill Morgan was introduced as our new Treasurer.
4. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted.
5. Membership Fees: The Chair explained the need for subscription fees of £5 per household or £3 per individual and what these fees would be used for. This proposal was approved unanimously.
6. Conservation. The Chair introduced Louise Wynne- Williams and Jan Scott, who have been working on Conservation issues for the Committee, and thanked them for their efforts. Louise Wynne- Williams outlined the current status of Conservation on the Estate and explained the situation regarding the Covenants that govern developments. Both she and Jan Scott have been in communication with Birmingham City Council and with the Conservation Department and should be kept informed about all relevant planning applications. She introduced Chris Hargreaves from the Conservation department, who is supporting the effort to upgrade the conservation status, Steve Beauchampe, an author with a keen interest in the history of the estate, Gisela Stuart, who is very involved and supportive, and referred to the article in the Birmingham News (13/10/05). She explained the need for a vote to evaluate whether residents are in favour of raising the Conservation status on the Estate. The Chair then asked for a show of hands to see whether there is agreement on this issue . It was unanimously agreed that the Conservation status of the estate should be upgraded to a 4(2) level.
7. The floor was opened to questions and debate. Asked about the implications of raising the Conservation status level, Chris Hargreaves explained that Article 4(2) would make the Conservation status of the Moor Pool Estate similar to that of the Bournville Estate. It has been introduced in parts of Moseley, where it is working well. There would be a process of public consultation and a need for overwhelming support. Every resident will be given the opportunity to give their views. An appraisal will then be produced for the Birmingham City Council.

A question was asked about whether Grainger have a legal binding for the management of the Estate. Louise Wynne-Williams said that Grainger sends letters about the Covenants when people want to change their frontages. The Covenants are enforceable.

In answer to a query about garage and allotment use, Mike Whitby reassured the meeting that there are very stringent planning policies in place when it comes to allotments and changing their use. He said that Article 4(2) would give the Council more authority and that the Council are doing all they can to protect and preserve these little diadems around the city. However, the garages are a different story. The Council are legally bound to build more houses, but they do want to support the Moor Pool Conservation. There are new powers to ensure landlords take responsibilities. Mike Whitby said that BCC could take over the garages, do them up and rent them out, if Grainger agreed.

Gisela Stuart asked why the Moor Pool Estate has not yet had the protection of Article 4(2) when it was asked for a year ago? Chris Hargreaves answered that it is now being addressed and is a priority. It has to have a process of consultation which should begin after Christmas.

A comment was made that we all need to care for our environment and we can all help to look after the Estate. This was generally agreed.

At this point John Alden apologised as he had to leave.

The Chair then asked for a show of hands to indicate how much support there was for the Conservation of the Estate. The vote was unanimously supported.

8. Allotments. Mick O'Malley said that the allotments are a major part of life on the Estate, used to grow vegetables or fruit, to have as a wildflower garden, or simply as a place to relax. There are 70 plots on the Estate. He suggested that if anyone would like to rent one, they can contact Grainger and send a copy of the response to Jackie Holder or Mike Frost. If anyone is interested in forming an allotment association, could they contact him.

9. The Duck. Mike Frost asked for contributions to the 'Duck'. Also, with the upcoming celebration of the Centenary of the Estate in 2008, he will be working on a Booklet and has a need for any photos, stories etc from the past.

10. Committee Elections. The following were elected. For Vice-Chair, Louise Wynne Williams; for Conservation, Jan Scott; also Louise Griffiths, Amanda Boardman, Griff Griffiths and Mick O'Malley..

11. Any Other Business. A query was raised about traffic arrangements on the Estate. There are worries about access for emergency service vehicles. Mike Whitby said that he had taken their traffic manager around to see what could be done. Among their options is a one-way system with double yellow lines. They have the funding for this and will begin with a public consultation. He acknowledged that bin lorries do the most damage, and is looking into using smaller vehicles.

Thanks were given to Steve Pitchford for donating his services setting us up with a website: www.moorpool.com.

The Chair noted there were books and leaflets available on tenancies & leaseholder.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm.