

CHANNEL ISLES & DISTRICT TENANTS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (CIDTRA)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 22.09.05. at Rozel Court at 7pm.

Attendance: Paul Hennessey (Chair); Sylvie O'Halloran (Treasurer); Paul O'Donovan (TPU); Helen Prohett (Lordshill Housing Office); Edward Lang (Cidtra); Gary Waters (Cidtra); Donna Emmett & Paul Godfray (Neighbourhood Wardens); Alison Holdaway (Cidtra); Ann Maylott (Maybush Housing Office); Mark Humphries (Fostara); George Potheary & Julia Kennedy (Soton City Council Community Safety); Podge Eldridge (Secretary Cidtra); there were 15 Local Residents.

1. Apologies: D Harryman & Peter Marsh Jenks (City Councillors); Sharon Samples(Lordshill Housing Office); Kevin Sawers (S.V.S.); Paula Diaper (Neighbourhood Partnerships); PC Goodall (Local Beat Officer); Chris Payne (Drew Smith); Nicola O'Rourke (Swaythling Housing Association); Jo Van Tright (Vice-Chair Cidtra).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: were agreed as a true record

3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising as most were covered by the agenda.

4. Annual Report: Paul asked if everyone had the Annual Report, included in the report was an application to SVS to refurbish the Kitchen at Rozel Court to enable the staff to cater for residents that cannot cook for themselves, and asked if there were any comments. Sylvie said that there were several places where she thought gates had not been installed as did some of the residents. Paul explained that the gates were designed to slow down youths riding cycles and motorcycles and no matter how many gates were installed local and youths from further afield will find a way around them. Paul Godfray mentioned there were still some gates to be installed Paul Hennessey would arrange to contact Keith May (SCC) to inspect the area. The Financial Report was included with the annual report in the yellow booklet. These were accepted.

At this point in the meeting the entire committee stood down for the Election of Officers, Paul O'Donovan to conduct the election, he also gave a vote of thanks to the committee for their work during 2004/2005.

The nominations for all the Offices were the same as last year except for the position of Treasurer, Paul O'Donovan asked each person if they were happy to stand again and there being no objections from the meeting he announced that all were re-elected. He then dealt with the election of the Treasurer's post, Gary Waters was nominated, there being no further nominations Gary Waters was elected Treasurer for the Association. Paul O'Donovan thanked everyone for their cooperation and said he looked forward to working with the Association again in the coming year.

Paul Hennessey again took the chair and thanked Paul O'Donovan and the TPU for their help and assistance to us during the year and the year to come.

The New Committee for 2005/2006 is as follows, Chair: Paul Hennessey, Secretary: Podge Eldridge, Treasurer: Gary Waters, Committee Members: Alison Holdaway, Karen Hunt, Edward Lang, Sylvie O'Halloran, Jo Van Tright, there were no takers for the remaining seats but this was left open.

5. Changes to the Constitution: There were 5 changes agreed and these will be in the amended Constitution being produced and will be circulated to the committee and the TPU, a copy of the changes were included in the Annual Report in the yellow booklet. Paul explained the changes to the meeting and the affect on the Association; this was accepted by the meeting.

6. Maintenance Report: Paul gave the report of maintenance problems over the last year and the repairs / improvements carried out by Council Staff and the help given by the Local Housing Offices, and Councillors to the Association.

Paul and Helen Prohett had recently carried out a Maintenance Inspection around the estate, the results will be made known at the next meeting, it was asked to be noted that the lighting on the estate has been repaired where it had been reported. With the forthcoming Jersey Close Development there may be some problems best left to completion of this Project. Mr. Waters, a resident raised the question of re-surfacing car parks, another resident said the car park markings were in need of repainting because it made parking difficult, as above this needs to be done when all building work had been completed. Ann Maylott said there had been several complaints on Car Parking to a question from the meeting but she could see no way forward at present. Gary Waters mentioned that Outer Shirley Regeneration had helped finance some of the off road parking bays around Millbrook Estate, and it had relieved parking problems. At this point Paul told the meeting he had reported the repairs required to Action Line. Other residents mentioned that some signs and name plates were in need of repainting or replacing, LHO will attend to this.

7. Jersey Close Development: It was reported that there was a delay in Demolition because the Asbestos removal filtration equipment had been vandalised, Drew Smith the Builders had submitted a report and it was included in the Annual Report yellow booklet.

8. Lower Brownhill Road Garden: The garden project is almost complete; the Pergola we were going to have at a cost of £250.00 would need planning permission, this cost could not be sustained at present. It was suggested we contact Outer Shirley Regeneration to help out with the finance this will be discussed at the next meeting. An opening Party will take place soon.

9. Questions for any Councillors: Unfortunately the ward Councillors had given their apologies taking into account the Labour Party Conference it not unexpected. The question raised was why Thornhill Estate Area were given more money than Outer Shirley Regeneration Board, Paul O'Donovan tried to explain that Thornhill Estate had quite a lot more problems and they had been for longer, it was suggested residents could attend the Local MP surgery and ask him as it was money from Central Government. Paul O'Donovan said he would try to find out what he could and report back to the Association, the Chairman thanked him for his offer of help.

10. What Powers do the Police or other Authorities have regarding Travellers moving onto Land owned by the public, designated as playing fields/parkland.

To answer this question there were two City Council Community Safety Department Officers that attended the meeting, George Pothecary and Julia Kennedy, they explained the process the Council or Private Landowners have to go through to secure an order to evict the travellers. Julia Kennedy said it was a long and difficult process and it had to name the individual families, this in itself takes time and it could take as long as 4 weeks to obtain an order and by that time some had moved off. There was a very lively debate on the issues that the residents raised such as Rubbish, Cars, Gas Bottles and Human Excreta left behind and the cost to the Council Tax Payers.

George and Julia did their best to explain that the Travellers had Legal Rights as did the Local Authority and said it was an ongoing battle to put in place measures to deter the Travellers. The City Council have taken remedial action to strengthen the locks on the entrances to playing field gates and parks and the position of a long term solution to protect these open spaces was under review. George and Julia left some handouts to explain what they had talked about and said they could be contacted via the City Council.

The Chairman thanked them both for coming along to try and give the meeting an idea of what problems were involved in their role of Community Safety Officers in dealing with the Travelling Community.

11 A.O.B: (1) A Resident of the estate reported that there was Drinking and Drug taking going on in the area of the Jersey Close Square and it needs to be addressed by the Police. The residents said they had telephoned the Police several times but by the time they arrive the culprits have gone. Paul said the Local Beat Officer had been in contact with himself and the Vice-Chair and would be asked to visit the resident.

(2) It was suggested that we invite a representative from the Police to meetings. This was already done but we would stress the importance of this in future.

(3) Drew Smith to be approached on the subject of extra lighting in the Car Parking Areas on completion of the building project.

(4) Mark Humphries Chair of the Federation of Southampton Tenants and Residents Association asked if he could say a few words about the problems the Northam residents faced which are similar to ours and how they solved them. He told the meeting it was vital to use the Police, Community Wardens, Local Housing Services, and any other body that could help it was important to report all incidents then something will have to be done. Mark ended by asking residents to attend the next meeting of F.O.S.T.A.R.A. being held at the Civic Centre at 7pm on the 12th of October 2005 in Committee Room 3 he said we would be welcome.

The Chairman thanked Mark for his comments.

There being no further Business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and reminded residents that the date of the next meeting will be the 24.11.05. at Rozel Court at 7pm.

Signed_____ Date_____