

FLAG committee meeting 28 Sep 2023

Minutes

Present: Lorna, Luan, Annie Popoola, Kath, Quentin, Pam, Pelagia, Kathleen, Sylvia

Apologies: Vicky, Paul, Maria, Michael, Cheryl, Jeanette, (Sylvia for lateness)

1. **Minutes** of last meeting agreed. Matters arising from last meeting:
 - Community Green day did well, with lots of money raised for school. Thanks to Annie's church for their donation.
 - Canal and River Trust did the new mural on school wall, it has had a good reception.
 - Open City tours were a success, with 45 attenders and good presentations.
2. **AGM.**

Delayed due to consultation and then availability of key council officers and school hall, now fixed 17 October at 7pm.

Chris Vavlekis, Head of Estates and Neighbourhoods, will present on outcome from consultation, and police Sergeant will update on crime and robberies. Noted that planters are used by some to hide weapons and drugs.

Annie, Kathleen, Luan, Pelagia, Kath and Michael all happy to stand again for committee, suggested asking Melissa and maybe Tui. Everyone to encourage people to attend AGM. Kath suggested we could have slips for people to raise other issues, if they're not confident to speak in public, and a box to collect them. This was agreed as a good idea.
3. **Newsletter** due back from printers Monday – Kath, Luan and Kathleen volunteered to help distribute.
4. **Leaseholders** – recognised that we need separate meeting, request sent to head of leasehold services. We will announce this at AGM.
5. **Website** – we have bought domain name, and hosting, and Damian Erskine the contractor expects to have basic site up in a week or so, we can start sending him content.
6. **Car repairs.** This has expanded and road often blocked by low-loaders. We have reported to council many times. They don't seem to be being ticketed. Both Parking and ASB teams involved, and the housing association contacted. We have written to Leader's office asking for intervention. Kath will ask about housing association ASB policy.
7. **Dogs** – we are still chasing bigger signs.
8. **Soup Festival** – Pelagia reported this will be at school, Fri Oct 20, 2-3.30 for pensioners, then takeaway for parents etc 3.30-4.30. All vegetarian.
9. **School ESOL sessions** – bid for funding not successful but they will do some sessions anyway, 10 weeks with 3-4 spaces left, from 11 to 1pm. Hope to repeat maths lessons for adults in future.
10. **Mental health issues.** Following recent crises, we wrote to Housing for information about what residents should do if they were worried about someone. Reply not helpful so we have escalated to Director level. We are covering the issue in the newsletter with information on who to contact in case of harmful behaviour (to person or others). Important to stress harm to the person or to others, including alarm and distress. NB Section 136 powers cannot always be used eg if person is in their own home. Kath will raise with the mental health crisis team. We could maybe have mental health first aid sessions. Lynette at Mind useful contact.
11. **Code of Conduct**

Quentin introduced latest version of the Code which Paul has been working on. This includes some improvements to the process for dealing with individual complaints, and streamlining

the WhatsApp moderation so that any of three appointed people can delete posts if they breach our policies, keep a copy of them for reference, and tell the person concerned why. These changes were agreed. Thanks to Paul for his work on this. We also agreed that, subject to any other interpretation from Residents Involvement team, this would be reported to the AGM in a report of work but not subject to decision there.

12. Other business.

- We have asked for bulbs for planting in October/November
- School has been donated big planters by TfL
- Burger van in Armadale – this belongs to former shop person, so we can try to get them contacted to remove it
- Empty properties – including in RGQ blocks? To raise with Housing.
- Quentin reported that attempts to get the Council to repair the storage facility at the end of Erskine Crescent had got nowhere so instead a cupboard at the bottom of the staircase serving 70-76 Kessock Close had been cleared. This was now being used to store FLAG materials (bunting, banner, litter pickers etc) and a notice had been put on the door. Everyone on that staircase had been asked if they were using the cupboard. We have notified Housing and offered to return the keys to the Erskine facility. Approval was given to reimburse Quentin the cost of the lock (approx. £10).