



MOOR POOL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Friday 20th November, 2009
The Moor Pool Hall.



Present: Rob Sutton, Janine Sutton, Hazel Bruce, Duncan Gallimore, Lesley Pearson, Gill Morgan, Tina Hackett, Liz Muir

- 1) **Apologies:** Norma Mason, Vanessa Cusack, David Cusack, Marilyn Jones, Martin Jones, Beryl Beavis, Phil Shelton, Igor Cusack, Rachel New.
- 2) The Chair asked all those able to, to stand for a moments silence to remember those no longer with us.
- 3) **Minutes:** Agreed as printed: Emma Moyes with Andrew Hackett seconding.
- 4) **Matters arising.** No matters arising.
- 5) **Chairman's Report.** Rob Sutton gave a recap of year's events and achievements: Scarecrow competition comprised about a dozen entries, with all ages getting involved. Coffee mornings occasionally using the bowling green had been highly successful. Will try to do this more often next year. Moor Pool Festival on 12th September was an opportunity for people to see the facilities of the Estate, particularly the snooker and skittles clubs. Many people attended including some from outside the estate. A few visitors became Friends of the Estate and we will try to increase in coming years by spreading the word. Events to come: Centenary of the Hall on 5th November 2010 to include a History Plate ceremony with a 'bash' to be arranged for the evening. The Duck is now approximately monthly and we are trying to keep all updated on planning and events on the Estate (Suggestions for further funding requested) Website – Andrew Hackett has been updating with documents, pictures, a sale/buy section as well as birthdates (free currently – potentially review in future!). Downloads available, including Nettlefold's original planning documents. Moor Pool In Bloom started as an idea to 'spruce up' the Estate and has grown considerably. Coftons nursery part of City Council donated many plants. Liz Muir, Hazel Bruce, Duncan Gallimore, Igor Cusack and others have done a lot of work clearing and planting. Groups of residents for example at The Square) have had many ideas for improvement. Planting by street signs and in Park Edge - also talking to Grainger about further planting/clearing and to stop further deterioration (tree pruning, fences, benches) Looking at grant applications for future work. Many thanks to Liz Muir for all her hard work. Now want to get residents to 'take ownership of their patch' to continue the work for next 20 years. Discussions with Bournville re long term future. Funding? What if Grainger sold? Would the Estate be broken up? City Council have made £7000 available for viability project. Bournville Village Trust to manage the project (would need to pay them and other professionals such as surveyors, etc.) For full funding, need Grainger to provide balance of funding which they are not prepared to do at this stage. English Heritage, Victorian Society had resubmitted objections to planning applications when they became more aware of Moor Pools significance and intactness as a well-kept garden suburb that was relatively unknown. Potential for Heritage Lottery funding. Planning provisionally approved in January. Despite some obstruction, government guidance had allowed us to see information re planning agreements and as a result of the Associations intervention changes were made. One major change – garages initially below/above builders' yard behind Carless Avenue (picture shown of timber garage for refurbishment!). Further efforts required to ensure trees safeguarded, access protected, etc. The Chair thanked the MRG for the superb job fighting to save the Estate so far. Carol Walk - 13th December 4:15 in hall followed by walk around Estate. Participants advised to dress up warm, bring lights (description of route given) Mince pies and mulled wine to be provided. From 3:00, Major Mustard to provide entertainment (for young and old!) in the Lower Hall (£3 children, 50p adults). The Chair also thanked the Queens Park Symphonia for their performance at the Hall and reminded everyone about Moor Pool Players Christmas performance.
- 6) **Treasurer's Report.** Great increase in subs this year and called for subs for next year (to pay for the Duck, events by MRA) Subs still paid by a minority on estate Donations increased – thanks given Coffee mornings - £111.62 added (@ £1/head). Thanks to all for cakes and biscuits. MIB received £500 from BCC – much spent). Exceeding income/expenditure (£335 last year). Subs still £5/£3 which

is good value. Rob Sutton thanked Gill Morgan for all her hard work. Rob Sutton then thanked an anonymous individual for a large MIB donation. Request for funding next year from BCC.

- 7) **Questions.** Terry Stevens – Grainger applying for higher rents – what can be done? Ken Abbott and Gisela Stuart mentioned a previously set limit. Last year it was £84/week, Grainger applied for £101, it was restricted to £89. Hazel Bruce had the same 4 years ago – they wanted extra rent for new windows but because it was protected they couldn't and it went to a tribunal. Andrew Hackett – MRG to find exact legal position and publish in Duck. Gisela Stuart – the more people appeal the better Hazel Bruce – Rent assessor once came to look around a flat actually reduced the rent by 50p. Rob Sutton – asked anyone with expertise in this area to help. Mike Whitby – BCC will have evidence of similar – will pass on to MRA. The more people involved, the better the likely result. Will give advice to BCC – 'make sure tenants rights are enshrined'. Control Council mowers – some plants mown down already in Wentworth. Liz Muir – Invite to walk around estate – aware of the problem. John Alden – MiB to be encouraged. 2010 Birmingham likely to be entering City in Bloom. As council, they will be encouraging associations to take part – will speak to garden contractors re mowing. Will be approached to plant more. (Round of applause). Rob Sutton – Association offered planters around Circle but there were legal issues and paperwork. Request to Council for thoughts on self-funded planters and how bodies such as the MRA could be allowed to do this for mutual benefit. Cllrs MW/JA will raise issue at next meeting.
- 8) **Election of Committee Members.** Request for Secretary which had remained open all year – no takers. Rob Sutton had decided to seek re-election a year early. Gillian Morgan proposed Rob Sutton who was carried by a majority of hands (Round of applause) Nominations for Liz Muir, Jonathan Pearson, Mike Frost, Igor Cusack. Lesley Pearson to be co-opted member. Liz, Jonathan, Mike and Igor voted by majority onto Committee.
- 9) **MRG.** Andrew Hackett spoke as Chair of the MRG. Thanks to MRG and co-opted members, residents (financial and moral help), national and local politicians, Phil Simpson and Emma Moyes for 100s if not 1000s of hours work on behalf of everyone. All aware of the July 9th application for planning being granted with no right of appeal by objectors. Only option to challenge the process with a Judicial Review. With few resources, a meeting on October 4th raised £10,000 for legal costs, but the application was turned down by the Judge. Waiting to hear from the Council about any costs. Emma Moyes gave a more detailed summary thanking all for their support and explained process of JR and reasons for failure. Not asking if the decision is right – just the process and if mistakes had been made rendering the decision unreasonable. Grainger would have resubmitted plans. The £10,000 raised in 2 hours from people on Sunday morning was a staggering amount. Stages could take: Application for judge to look at papers – preliminary overview was an arguable point to be made. Often if refused, granted at oral stage. Permission at paper stage refused and further funds limited without asking residents for further contribution. If had made it to oral stage, more likely to have succeeded (due to allotments) MRG made pragmatic decision not to pursue matter but the battle not over. Exercise was not a total failure as the outcomes of Section 106 G with BCC tightened and amended (JR). Character appraisal – endeavours of GS raised in parliament to amend policy. Hope BCC will put in place for future applications The support given demonstrated overwhelming community spirit. As a result, some success – it was the best possible outcome from the worst possible scenario. Reiterated that in going for the JR we could say that we did everything possible. Next is the part of the MRG: Trees, environment, monitor character appraisal, all future issues. Hope to continue. Ironic that 100 years ago, people bought shares to buy estate, now doing the same to try to save it. AH asked for questions – none. Considered disbanding MRG but still work to do. When houses built must ensure compliance with 106 agreement and other conditions. No doubt more applications likely and Character Appraisal still awaited. Must ensure communal areas are maintained and can't take continuance for granted – prepared to stand again. The meeting agreed MRG should continue (round of applause).
- 10) **Closing Address.** Rob Sutton thanked the MRG for their efforts and reminded everyone we need MRG for monitoring. Wouldn't be where we are without them – particularly Emma (Presentation of flowers) Even if all gave flowers, not enough to thank her. Rob Sutton spoke of pensioners who gave more than their weekly pensions (saying 'sock it to them') which was a tremendous example of how residents felt about the way the Estate had been treated. Thanks to all supporters in their efforts to save Moor Pool.
Rob thanked everyone for attending and asked everyone to support the shop reminding that Christmas cards available (part colour).