



Windmill Estate Maintenance Company Ltd

NEWSLETTER FOLLOWING AGM - 3 October 2022

So nice to see such a good turnout for our AGM and we would like to thank all those who gave up their time to join us. Minutes will be available on our website as well as the accounts which were made available. We explained what our committee did, some major expenses over recent years and what plans were in the pipeline for the estate such as replacement tree planting and tarmac issues, for which we await quotations. Parking and Poop (dogs that is!) ALWAYS a bugbear - we appeal for common sense and respect .. we also appealed for more members to help us keep working for you.

Having explained how the annual maintenance fee was being spent, we discussed the inevitable rise in next year's charge which, of course, was not welcome. WEMC had worked hard to retain the current charge of £80 but our reserves are low and depending on how costs and expenses pan out in the coming months, there may well be an increase up to maximum of £10 pa extra from 2023. In 1969 the annual charge on our **brand new** estate was £10 per property. The equivalent in today's money is over £150; add in the fact that the estate is now 50 years old and requires more upkeep (just like the rest of us) we believe even £90 still represents good value for money. We like to hear from around the Estate and our Committee would love to hear from you if you're interested in joining our team – see below for contact details – after all if this were handed to a private company, rather than our volunteer residents, each property would be paying hundreds more per year!

The big issue at our meeting was concern over Hughenden Parish Council's proposal regarding streetlights on and around our Estate. HPC - *with very little information given to those who would actually be affected* - planned to cease responsibility early in 2023 leaving us literally in the dark! One thought they had was that WEMC should take this over and charge residents accordingly! Obviously we denied any responsibility and certainly have no legal right to ask for payment for lighting we all assumed covered within our council tax. We explained our objections (health, safety, crime, accident rate etc) and that we had mailshot the Estate requesting they also email HPC as it was thought our residents "didn't care" and we need to show that we do!

We informed those attending that 2 days later Widmer End Residents Association would be holding their AGM where two HPC councillors would explain the issues and thankfully many of our residents aired their views re the importance of lighting on our Estate. A number of residents and committee members then attended the council meeting at North Dean Village Hall on 11 October to highlight the importance we place on our lights. After **HPC's next meeting on 8 November (everyone welcome)** we hope this proposal will be rescinded and compromises found to retain the lighting we have relied on over the past 50 years. Your ongoing support in contacting clerk@hughenden-pc.gov.uk with your objections is really important and much appreciated.

Last but not least our administrator, Helen, is leaving us after over 10 years hard work and we want to thank her for all her gallant efforts in keeping us in line and on track. Thankfully Alice from 14 Cowslip Road is stepping in and we warmly welcome her onto our team. To ensure WEMC will be more contactable via phone and social media please note:

Our email address remains wemc67@yahoo.co.uk

Telephone number is 07394 332262 and you can find us on Facebook