

ALEXANDRA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2018
ALEXANDRA PUBLIC HOUSE, PARISH LANE
MINUTES

1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR (Graham Taylor-Russell)

Graham welcomed those in attendance and introduced Linda Power (Victor Road Rep) and Christine Purcell (Committee Member)

Apologies were received from Adrian, Franco, Anna and Marge (Victor Road) and current committee members; Neil Coe (Vice Chair/Conservation), Joel White (Committee Member), Susie White (Social Secretary), Laura Walker (Treasurer), Simone van Elk (Committee Member).

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2017

The minutes of the last AGM were tabled and agreed as a good and true record, and were therefore **proposed for** approval by the Chair, seconded by Peter Lindford.

3 CHAIR'S REPORT (Graham Taylor-Russell)

- Graham explained that he had only taken on the role of Chair following the 2017 AGM and was therefore on a steep learning curve.
- He expressed his thanks to Tim Walby (the previous Chair) and other committee members for their warm welcome and help with association work hand-over.
- Graham explained that the ARA committee was currently comprised of eight residents, himself, Neil Coe (Vice Chair/Planning and Conservation/APCA representative), Linda Power (Victor Road Representative), Joel White (Committee Member), Susie White (Social Secretary), Christine Purcell (Committee Member), Simone Van Elk (Committee Member), Laura Walker (Treasurer).
- It was noted that the Association is permitted to have up to 12 committee members and was therefore inviting any other interested residents to join. The role of Secretary needed filling and Neighbourhood Watch and Princes Road Reps were also required.
- Graham said that he hoped, with the support of the Association, to continue to build on the already strong community spirit on the estate and looked forward to celebrating the ARA's 60th year in 2019.

4 UPDATE ON FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Graham advised that the annual accounts for 2017 had been agreed by the then auditors, Kay and Diane. It was noted that there had been very little movement of the overall balance apart from the Heritage Street Lighting project money passing through the account. Otherwise the account had broken even for the period (up to 31st Oct 2017). The meeting agreed to **accept** the accounts for this period and to thank Kay and Diane for their work as auditors.

- It was unfortunately not possible to table the financial report for the subsequent period which will be brought forward for subsequent approval. This reflects a very recent change of treasurer. **The new treasurer (Laura Walker) is preparing a balance statement for the period to 31st July 2018 to pass to the current auditors (Owen Moore and Peter Dunn) as soon possible.**
- Graham noted that there had been little activity on the account so far this year. Surplus monies raised by the 2018 Panto had been donated to charity, split equally between St Christopher's Hospice and the Holy Trinity Church Foodbank. £40 was spent on street planters and £200 on refurbishment/site clearance of The Shed. It was hoped that 2018 subs would add approx £400 to the balance.
- Linda thanked residents for undertaking estate community work without remuneration.
- Graham raised the issue of a high price quote for Public Liability Insurance of £250. He suggested that it may be more economic to consider single event cover as required. This caused a discussion amongst the group in regards to possible implications of accident claims when using shed equipment (electrical or otherwise) and for those undertaking community gardening work. Do we have annual safety checks, disclaimers for equipment use? etc. It was the group consensus that we should be covered by full Public Liability Insurance. **Graham agreed that he would take this forward at the first committee meeting of the forthcoming year.**

5 SOCIAL EVENTS

- **Summary of activities in 2017/18**
 Christmas Cottage Streets Choir Procession (monies raised donated to charity)
 Pinocchio Christmas Panto (surplus monies raised donated to St.Christopher's Hospice and Foodbank)
 Meet the Neighbours in The Alexandra Nurseries (big thank you to John for allowing us to use the Nurseries!)
 Summer BBQ in Victor Road (big thank you to our Victor Road neighbours for allowing us to close off the end of their road!)
- **Events Planned for 2018/19**
 - 1} Christmas Cottage Streets Choir Procession - December 2019
 Being organised by Susie White
 - 2} The Cottages' Music & Dance Extravaganza - Saturday 9th February 2019
 An afternoon of music, singing (including a pop-choir) and dancing at the Holy Trinity Church. Being organised by Robin Middleton, Jane Ching and Susie White. Flyers being produced.
 - 3} Meet the Neighbours at the Alexandra Nurseries - Late April 2019
 Being organised by Chair (Graham) and Secretary (Debz)
 - 3} Open Gardens - Late June 2019
 A repeat of the ever popular biannual event, 21 gardens took part in 2017. Another chance to meet the neighbours and in some cases raise money for charity with the sale of cake and produce. Also an after party at the Nurseries to celebrate 60 years of the ARA?
 Being organised by Diane Brown with Adrian and Franco.

6 NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE 2018/19

- Graham recommended that all current members of the committee, still willing to serve, be re-elected and this was seconded.

- Debz Taylor-Russell volunteered to join the committee as Secretary, this was therefore proposed by Graham and seconded.
- Emma Dickson and Dominic Rathbone volunteered to join the committee and were both seconded and welcomed.

7 MEMBERS' SUGGESTIONS FOR EVENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES; OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

- Jessica Nott informed the group that the mural in the passageway had been removed by Ester to undertake repairs, before eventually returning to its original position. Linda said that she had rescued some fallen pieces and would pass them on.
- Robin asked if it would be possible to plant a couple of trees in the passageway. Graham said it could be considered but would involve liaising with the council and possible fundraising issues.
- Members queried if the Community Gardening team was still operating because of the untidiness at the end of Edward Road. Graham responded that Simone had got some volunteers together recently but that he would check the state of play with her.

8 ADVISORY PANEL ON CONSERVATION AREAS REPORT

- Graham gave a general introduction to and summary of the coverage and role played by Neil Coe and his work in trying to maintain the integrity of conservation areas.
- It was noted that one of the main areas of concern at present is the dilapidated condition of the Grade 2 Penge East station buildings and canopies. This also raised general comments about disabled access both there and at Penge West station.
- There appeared to be some general confusion in regards to which colours were suitable for use on the cottage exteriors and it was requested that **Neil is asked to put some colour advice in the next newsletter.**

10 Members Concerns/Matters for Discussion

- It was noted that there were problems with building vibration caused by large vehicles passing through the island at the end of Albert Road and over manhole/drainage further along Parish Lane, beyond Edward Road. This has been an ongoing situation, with the council intermittently re tarmac for a short-term fix. Would the council consider a 20 MPH speed limit? Also what can be done about the dangerous Penge Lane junction now that the Alex and Nurseries are making the area busier with pedestrians. **Can we approach the council again?**
- It was asked if we could find out who to approach about the overgrown privet hedge at the end of Edward Rd/Parish Lane. Is the house owned by Dulwich College? **Linda has list of rentals?**
- There were complaints about antisocial late noise in some of the cottage gardens. Could it be raised in the newsletter?
- Could there also be a reminder sent out about not feeding foxes.
- It was asked that newsletters and flyers are still used to communicate any community info as not everyone uses e-mail or Facebook.
- It was asked that meetings of the Alexandra Over 60s Friday Group, held at 4pm on the last Friday of every month, be publicised.
- There were discussions about a change of use for The Shed. Perhaps donations from the cottages' of table tennis, snooker table, board games etc?
- Graham thanked Linda and Steve for all their hard work in clearing out/tidying up the shed.

- It was also reported that the bee hives recently installed there appeared to be going strong and Judith says the bees are happy.
- The group was informed that Brian (previous organiser of The Shed) has been in hospital long term.
- Josef (landlord of The Alexandra) asked for feedback as he was considering applying to extend opening hours until 1am on Friday and Saturday nights (from midnight). The consensus was that this was possible but some living on the closer roads expressed concern about late night noise and antisocial behaviour by departing customers.