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Annual General Meeting

7:00pm Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2016

Woodberry Down Baptist Church

## **Annual General Meeting Minutes**

### **Attendance**

#### **Guests:**

Cllr Claire Kober (Leader, Haringey Council)

Cllr Dhiren Basu (Haringey Council)

Representatives from St. Ann's Re-Development Trust

Oscar Kato, St Mungos Broadway

#### **Residents:**

Anthea, Andrew, Miguel, Steven, David, Evelyn, Tom, G Edwards, Kate, Rhian, Debbie, Diego, Emma.

#### **Committee:**

Harriet, Bennie, Charles, Mary, Claire, Ruby, Chitra, Deborah.

#### **Apologies:**

Carol (Committee member), Molly, Fleur, Gerry and Paul.

**AGENDA: Note: the meeting changed the structure on the day as Claire Kober had to leave early but in order to make sense of the proceedings on paper the structure of the Agenda has been followed for the minutes.**

### **1. Welcome and introductions:**

The Chair, Bennie, opened the meeting and welcomed guests and residents.

### **2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (AGM):**

A vote was taken that the minutes of the AGM on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2015 be accepted as a true record. This was agreed without objection.

### **3. Chair's Report:**

Bennie gave an overview of the Committee, a group of residents who volunteer their time. We are always looking for involvement from others in the area. We take up things with the Council, we put on events and we get involved in issues, such as planning, waste collection etc. We have a relatively good profile for the area. It is useful that one of our Ward Councillors is also Leader. We used to hold two events but last year agreed on one, the summer park event which went really well.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer, Harriet, presented a short written report. We had received a grant of £1,500 restricted funds from the council for the Rose Garden (more on that later). We had also received a grant from the Council for our Summer event, which of course had all been used. Extra expenditure had gone into branded bunting for our events, publicity and other items for the summer event.

Our opening balance at September 2015 had been £436. Our closing Balance at August 2016 was £1738 of which £1500 was restricted. We also had a cash float of £97.07. This left us overall with £335.05 unrestricted funds.

#### **5. Appointment of Committee members:**

Bennie explained that the constitution allows for 12 places on the Committee + 2 representatives of organisations in the area. We always welcomed new members. Harriet explained that even those that were not members can be fully involved. A show of hands was made and three new residents wished to join and were welcomed.

Bennie and Harriet were confirmed as Chair and Treasurer.

Committee members and supporters:

Bennie  
Claire  
Deborah  
Harriet  
Carol

Mary

Ruby

Chitra

New members:

Rhian  
Debbie  
Diego

Organisation members

Charles  
Roger

Supporters (should be on mailing list)

Molly

Fleur

Abi

## **Discussion about current constitution:**

Harriet presented a small change in the constitution, proposed by the Committee. Formerly 3 General Meetings were required. The Committee had found this too onerous and had agreed to make it one. This change was accepted by the Meeting with no one voting against or abstaining.

## **THE NEW CONSTITUTION IS HEREBY AGREED, dated 2016.**

End of AGM BUSINESS

## **RESIDENTS MEETING (Actions in bold)**

**Local services update** – information will also be on the VCRA website.

Waste Management: several residents reported problems with a) fly-tipping and b) collections.

Claire Kober said that fly-tipping had become a serious problem for the council and was costing it £3 million a year, which was significant given the cuts that we are facing. Action was being taken. Fines were increasing, and so was enforcement activity. **Residents should report fly-tipping**, and the best way of doing this is to use the Haringey 'Report it' mobile app <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/contact/report-it/our-haringey> .

On waste collections, there was a lot of dissatisfaction. Collections were not made, or poorly carried out (taking for example only half what was in a bin). Also recycled bins that had become 'polluted' with non-recyclable materials were not taken at all. There are known households that continue to have overflowing bins. Nothing appears to be done about enforcement.

One resident reported that she had been visited by some very nice 'engagement' staff, either from council or Veolia who asked her questions about rubbish collection and then seemed to have ticked the box – as in work done. When she asked them what they were doing about 'engaging' with residents who did not pay attention to how they used their bins the answer was 'they are never in or do not answer their door'. Clearly, it is not an effective method of ensuring householders use their rubbish bins properly.

Residents reported that there was a family scrap business in the area, they did not always maintain their premises (it was in fact a home with a yard) and this made the road unsightly, attracted vandalism and further fly-tipping.

**It was agreed that waste management was now going to have to become a priority for the Committee to take up with the council and with Veolia.**

## **Safety and our environment:**

This is a standing item, however the safer neighbourhood team (invited) had not come to the meeting. No new information about safety was provided. Environment will be dealt with in other parts of the agenda including waste management.

## **Planning:**

Bennie gave some background as to the issues of the Franklin Street development. Despite objections from residents, planning permission had been granted. It was clear now that concerns

expressed by those objecting were being realised in that the builder was increasing the 'space' of the property by building downwards. Planning permission had not been sought for that and was retrospectively being sought.

Claire Kober recognised that this was an issue and reminded the meeting that planning permission process and objections were a complex problem. Changes in law and policy meant there was a presumption for giving planning permission.

Also brought up was a concern about a school on Amhurst Park, backing onto the gardens at Vartry. The school itself is on Hackney property. Claire and other residents were concerned about plans to raise the playing area which would be intrusive. This is a private faith school surrounded by residential properties. Particularly concerning to residents in Vartry is the noise amplification from the extension if this were to go ahead. The extension would breach existing walls and would also overlook gardens and backs of houses. It had proved difficult to find out who was responsible for ensuring that residents affected were appropriately advised about the proposal. Hackney residents had received a door-to-door leaflet about the proposed work with the date for objections. Haringey appear only to have tied a notice to a lamppost with the wrong date for putting in objections.

Claire Kober offered to work with the concerned residents on this issue. She knew the relevant officers at Hackney and felt a personal approach on this issue might be useful. She was also working with Hackney on an Area Action Plan which meant that there was continuing dialogue with planning and development, and she knew the lead officer in relation to that Plan.

### **Bicycle Hangers and Parking:**

Bicycle Hangers: A resident reported that despite her attempts she could not find out who was responsible for these and although she knew one was being put up in her area she was unable to find out how she could get access to it. Also the meeting agreed generally more were needed.

Claire Kober replied that this area had the most concentration of bike hangers than other areas in Tottenham, and she would continue to support their inclusion. **Chitra agreed to ensure that the resident had Molly's details as Molly had become a bit of an expert on access to bike hangers.** (This action has been done)

A resident said that now that cycling was on the increase in the area, it was time to revisit the street furniture and layout. Cars used Vartry Road as a cut-through to avoid using the main road Amhurst Park and it created a real traffic problem, also a danger to cyclists and residents, cars were often driven fast and carelessly on a residential street. Another resident reported that around 12 years ago traffic calming attempts were made, leading to the 'long bumps' on Vartry and also the narrowing of the road at the Holmdale Terrace end. It was clear these had not been successful (or had for a period of time).

It was further reported that the Holmdale Terrace was also often congested with traffic turning onto or off Amhurst Park, and it was also the 'Cycle SuperHighway'. Here again, the two councils Haringey and Hackney needed to work together to ensure safe traffic management. **Agreed to continue to raise with Councillors/Council.**

Parking: There was a general discussion about parking. In the last few years things had been getting progressively worse, with residents unable to find space to park. Councillor Basu and

others reported that the Volvo garage constantly used up parking spaces with their vehicles and discussions with them had had no results. One of the residents asked if there were any legal enforcement measures that could be used to ensure they parked only on their premises. The parking issue was, it was agreed, wider than the Volvo problem in any event. It was suggested that many commuters living further away drove their cars to our area, parked there and then took public transport to work, thereby avoiding congestion charge and traffic delays.

Bennie took a straw poll of how many attendees now wanted to explore parking restrictions, and a majority of the meeting indicated that they did, a smaller number objected and there were a few abstentions. **On the basis of that it was agreed to start discussions with the council and the residents generally about parking restrictions.**

Under this item the issue of the disruption caused by deliveries to and from the Dairy on Berkeley Road was raised. Mary stated that this had been a continual issue for years, and it had not been sorted out and it was getting worse. Another resident reported that they understood that the owners were seeking alternative premises as clearly the space that they had was insufficient. There had been an agreement at a previous meeting with Cllr Claire Kober and Cllr Joe Goldberg that they (councillors) would speak to the business however this had not been chased up.

**Agreed that the councillors should be requested to do this.**

#### **Franklin Street Rose Garden:**

As reported above, a grant of £1500 was made by the council to us for carrying out work on the Rose Garden which had suffered vandalism and neglect. Carol was leading on this issue and had been having quite a lot of trouble trying to find out a) who was responsible for the garden generally and b) how to ensure if we commissioned the work that it was all accountable.

Claire Kober explained that she was now working on this issue and it was sorted out, Deborah also provided some information about what needed to be done.

Claire Kober further explained that there was a small pot of money – £10,000 for works such as these and we could apply for more funding for these projects in the future. They would need to be in relation to environment or health-related (eg cycling, walking).

#### **Haringey Parks: Manchester and Paignton Park:**

Claire Kober reported that there were plans to ensure that regular maintenance was carried out. She warned that substantial cuts would affect smaller public spaces, however. Deborah reported that Manchester Gardens in particular was looking increasingly uncared for, and this inevitably led to greater misuse of the space. There also seemed to be problems with locking the Manchester Garden in the evening. Bennie reported that the locking time appeared to be at the end of the locking process for gardens in the area and this meant it was regularly locked much later than normal. A couple of residents (including Deborah) had keys and occasionally locked up if they noticed it was very late although Deborah no longer did this.

It was agreed that this was not an ideal situation, but that it might be that residents would continue to have to work individually or in groups to litter pick, prune and so on.

**Deborah reported that free bulbs would soon be available for planting and a planting day could be organised.**

Other agenda items other were subsumed under the ones above.

### **Any Other Business:**

Winter Shelter: Pastor Charles from Woodberry Down Baptist Church thanked the residents for their support and participation in the Winter Shelter in the past. He said that the church, in conjunction with other churches, would be having another shelter in winter, it would run from end of Jan to March. Please keep an eye on the website and support the shelter.

Street Prostitution: Cllr Basu reported that although the work years ago by the police and council had considerably reduced prostitution in the area, the residents needed to continue to be vigilant as he had noticed an increase again recently. The Safer Neighbourhood Team should be informed if residents saw corner prostitution / kerb crawling.

St Ann's Re-Development Trust: An update of developments with respect to the Trust was provided and residents were urged to get involved. The website is:  
<http://www.startharingey.co.uk/>

The Mental Health Trust was selling off a large amount of the land and the concern was that this would go to private developers who would do almost nothing to assist with the need for affordable/social housing in the area. The agreement currently was that they only needed to provide 14% of their homes for affordable homes. The Trust (named StART) aimed to bid for the land as a community trust, and if successful it would hold the land as a community asset in perpetuity. One of the main issues was funding. They were about to launch a 'crowdfunding' project to raise funds. We could sign up and be a member and support financially if we could.

Tube Noise: A resident reported to Claire Kober and the meeting that she and others on or near St Johns Road had been suffering acute disturbance from the loud noise by underground trains (Victoria Line). It was so loud it literally shook the house and rattled the windows, this now happened every 3 minutes. There had always been some noise, however since April 2015 works had been done underground that had made it much worse – a change of type of railway sleeper. The resident said that this had been a problem in other areas of London, like Baker Street and Notting Hill and Pimlico, however these areas, that had residents with much more wealth and power than in Tottenham, were managing to get meetings with TFL and the London Mayor to sort this out, and the problem in our area was simply being ignored. Many of the residents in this area did not even speak English and something needed to be done to assist them and others that were affected.

**Agreed to take this up with Claire Kober's support.** Residents were directed to the following website: [www.tubenoiseactiongroup.com](http://www.tubenoiseactiongroup.com).

There being no other business, Bennie thanked residents for attending the meeting and contributing so fully to matters of local interest. He urged residents to continue to be involved with the area's activities and keep an eye on the website: [www.vartry.org](http://www.vartry.org).

ENDS.