

BARBICAN ESTATE RESIDENTS CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, 20 January 2020

Minutes of the meeting held at Guildhall at 6.30 pm

Present

Members:

Christopher Makin (Chairman)	Heather Hawker - Speed House
Adam Hogg (Deputy Chairman)	Jane Samsworth - Defoe Tower
Ted Reilly (Deputy Chairman)	Fiona Lean - Ben Jonson House
Derek Penny - Bunyan Court	Hugo Dinis - Thomas More House
Jane Smith - Barbican Association	Mike Cribb - Andrewes House
John Taysum - Bryer Court	Nadia Bouzidi - Gilbert House
Janet Wells - John Trundle House	James Ball - Brandon Mews
John Tomlinson - Cromwell Tower	Tim Hollaway – Lambert Jones Mews
Fred Rodgers - Breton House	
Sandy Wilson - Shakespeare Tower	
Prof. Michael Swash - Willoughby House	
David Lawrence – Lauderdale Tower	

In Attendance

Mary Durcan CC Cripplegate
Helen Fentiman CC Aldersgate
Jim Durcan and Maggie Urry (Gardens Advisory Group) For item 9

Officers:

Julie Mayer - Town Clerks (items 1-4 only)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mark Bostock, Frobisher Crescent; Gordon Griffiths, Bunyan Court (represented by Derek Penny), Rodney Jagelman, Thomas More House (represented by Hugo Dinis). David Graves, and Mary Bonar.

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN

Being the only Member willing to serve, Christopher Makin was elected as Chairman for 2020/21.

4. **TO ELECT TWO DEPUTY CHAIRMEN**

Being the only Members willing to serve, Adam Hogg and Ted Reilly were elected as Deputy Chairmen for 2020/21.

The Town Clerk oversaw the election of the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen and then left the meeting. The minutes were taken by Ted Reilly, the Deputy Chairman.

5. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the RCC AGM of 28 January 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was a discussion on the role and impact of Social Media on the work of the RCC. It was felt that the work of the RCC was not adequately communicated to the wider Barbican community and that despite the challenges that Social Media presented the RCC should investigate its potential.

Nadia Bouzidi of Gilbert House agreed to share a paper outlining her experience of this medium to the RCC.

7. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE RCC'S TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members considered the current RCC Terms of reference; there were no suggested amendments.

8. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE RCC'S WORKING PARTIES**

8.1 **Working Parties' Membership**

Gardens Advisory Group (GAG)

Members noted that there are no vacancies on this working party, but further there were no members of the RCC serving on this group. Additionally, GAG members present felt that communications between the RCC and GAG could be improved.

To this end it was agreed that an RCC member be appointed to GAG. Mike Cribb of Andrewes House agreed to serve on GAG.

SLA Review

There were no volunteers for the single vacancy on this working party. Members were asked to canvass house groups to attempt to identify residents willing to serve.

Asset Maintenance

Although there were no vacancies on this working party members were advised of the sub-group that was to be formed to review the Garchey system. Volunteers were needed for this sub-group and John Taysum of Bryer Court and Tim Hollaway of Lambert Jones Mews agreed to serve.

John Taysum and Tim Hollaway also agreed to serve on the working group supporting the Conditions Survey report.

Underfloor Background Heating Leaseholder Service Charge

There were no vacancies on either of these working parties.

8.2 Working Parties' Terms of Reference

It was agreed that in future all working parties would submit progress reports to each RCC meeting.

Gardens Advisory Group (GAG)

GAG's terms of reference were confirmed, but there was some discussion relating to the interface between the BEO's work and the responsibilities of the City Corporation for the public realm. The absence of the City's Estate Landscape Management Strategy (ELMS) was noted and it was acknowledged that this absence made the work of GAG more difficult.

The poor condition of the planters around the Estate was discussed. It was reported that the BEO had a plan for replacing the existing timber planters with new concrete planters. The BEO would be asked to share this plan.

Other Working Parties

Members considered the current Terms of reference; apart from the Background Underfloor Heating Working Party (see below) there were no suggested amendments.

8.3 Proposal to modify the Terms of Reference for the Background Underfloor Heating Working Party (BUHWP)

Members considered and approved the proposed changes to the Terms of reference for the BUHWP.

9. PROPOSAL TO INCREASE BARBICAN GARDEN FUNDING

Jim Durcan presented the paper "Why we need to spend more on the Barbican private gardens". There was a comprehensive discussion. Members were supportive and in general agreement that Thomas More and Speed gardens were tired and needed additional resources. It was not clear exactly how the current budget for garden maintenance was being spent and how the additional money would be spent. It was noted that a new SLA, which would monitor the effectiveness of the spend, had been established.

It was agreed that GAG would bring back to the RCC meeting on 2 March:

1. a proposal that included details of current spending and details of the additional spending together with likely outcomes.
2. A copy of the new SLA with changes highlighted for ease of reference.

Members were generally in favour of the proposal and looked forward to seeing the details at the next meeting.

BARBICAN FUTURE STRATEGY

Sandy Wilson gave a verbal report on the work of the Strategy Steering Group. This group has been jointly established by the RCC and the BA. At this point it has no formal constitution.

Sandy identified three areas of current concentration, namely

- Estate-wide Energy Strategy
- The Garchey System
- Affecting change: This includes working more effectively with our Common Councillors to deliver benefits for residents and considering whether a neighbourhood plan would add value.

Members generally supported the initiative but there were some concerns relating to governance. It was not clear what were the terms of reference, what was the group's reporting structure and concerns were raised about the transparency of its activities.

Adam Hogg, a member of the group, summarised its activities as a response to the difficulties of making any changes under the current governance systems that managed change within the Barbican.

Members were supportive and welcomed the initiative but looked forward to clarity on the issues of governance and transparency.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items

12. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no items

The meeting ended at 20:35

Chairman

Contact Officer: