

JERICHO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 27 April 2010 at 7.30pm at St Barnabas School

Present: Adrian Arbib, Fr Jonathan Beswick, Helen Brock, Charlotte Christie, Dan Clarkson, Vivien Crew, Scott Ellis, David Feeny, Margaret Goodall, Carole Guberman, Aja Hansen, Ted Harris, David Hearn, Janet Horan, Paul Hornby, John Keyes, Jenny Mann, Derrick Morlan, Julianna Morlan, Jan Needle, Simon Norris, Sally Odd, Senia Pasetta, Susan Pead, Valerie Petts, Susanna Pressel, Josephine Seccombe, Shelagh Sneddon, Lieve Spaas, Peter Stalker, Peter Strong, George Taylor, Lulu Taylor, Ros Weatherall, Anne Wiles, Francis Woolley

1. APOLOGIES:

Clare Brant, Colin Cook, Paul Cullen, Jawaid Malik, Joelle Mann, Jessica Nakman, Liza Picard

2. MINUTES:

The minutes of the last AGM were agreed and signed by the Chair.
There were no matters arising.

3. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Charlotte Christie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

During the year the Association continued in its objectives to manage the Community Centre and to represent the views of the residents of Jericho within the City.

The Association continued to support the community café, which remained especially popular with older members of the community. The Committee continued to support the Youth Club, which was set up last year with funding and support from the City Council. It was running successfully on Friday evenings, with up to thirty young people attending every week.

We were disappointed that the playgroup had not been able to continue due to difficulties in establishing a proper organisational structure. But we would offer what support we could to re-start it if suitable staff came forward to take it on.

We continued to work closely with the other groups who had an interest in the Canalside development: the Boatyard, the Church and the Jericho Living Heritage Trust.

In order to comply with the legal requirements of the land agreement that we had with the developers and their Administrators, we had submitted an application for outline planning permission for the new Community Centre building. It would go to the planning committee when details of the flood assessment were completed.

Any work on the new Centre could not begin before the Canalside development had planning permission so it was unlikely to be in the near future. We had therefore agreed to improve the quality of the current building by decorating the main rooms and where necessary making repairs.

Achievements and performance

The Community Centre continued to be well used. There had been a greater fluctuation than usual in the number of regular bookings during the year, possibly due to the general financial climate. However we continued to maintain a high number of bookings for classes and there were still a number of users who had run classes regularly for many years. The Centre continued to be used throughout the day and into the evening most days of the week.

The Association ran a successful Street Fair in June 2009. Local musicians and dancers participated and the Bookbinders pub once again supported the event with live music into the evening. The event was run for community benefit, so we aimed to break even and any small profit was put to the new Community Centre fund.

The Committee did not yet meet all the requirements for VISIBLE accreditation but believed it would do so by mid 2010 and would apply for an assessment.

The Association continued to maintain a website and to distribute the community paper the Jericho Echo three or four times per year.

4. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

The Administrator, Sue Pead, reported that because the present Community Centre was such an old building, it needed constant repairs, for example electrical, plumbing and decorating. There were problems in finding suitable people to carry out the work. This was one reason why we were in need of a new Centre. The building was very busy, with between twenty five and thirty classes each week.

We ran a number of activities for children. The Mothers and Toddlers group met once a week on Thursday mornings. The youth club for 11-18 year olds started in January of last year, and was attracting up to thirty young people on Friday evenings. They had a website at www.myspace.com_jerichoyouthclub. There were also ballet classes for children, and a Sunday School on Sunday mornings. Three evenings a week we had an NCT (National Child Birth Trust) class on preparation for birth and childhood.

The café opened on Saturday mornings, run by Tracey Heppell, offering an excellent cooked breakfast, tea, coffee and homemade cakes. It was very popular with the older residents of Jericho.

We continued to offer a wide range of other activities including pilates, tai chi, wing chun, kung fu, other martial arts and muevo fitness classes for adults. There were classes in Egyptian dance, ballet, and tango, which was very popular with people of all ages. The University hired our rooms for dance classes in term time.

Life drawing classes were held at the Centre on Saturday morning and local artists continued to use the upstairs studios.

We also let out our four offices to the British Electrical Rope Sports Association (bungee jumping), Jericho Low Cost Counselling, Trading for Development (Fair Trade) and Jericho Complementary Health Practice.

The next Jericho Street Fair would be held on Saturday 12 June from 12 noon. Stalls were still available and everyone was encouraged to come and support the event.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Treasurer, Peter Stalker, presented draft accounts for the Community Association for the year ended 31 December 2008. These had been produced by accountants M Group Partnership. Our accounts were now computerised, with many thanks to Sue Pead for mastering the Sage system, and an accountant from M Group came each month to oversee the book keeping. This process was operating efficiently and enabled fast preparation of end of year accounts. The Treasurer recommended re-appointment of M Group as our accountants, which was unanimously approved by the meeting.

During 2009 total Income was £36,474. The large part of this continued to be from hiring of rooms at the Community centre for classes, events and private parties. Expenditure was £30,739, and consisted largely of the running costs of the community centre, including the wages for the administrator, cleaning and café. There was a surplus this year of £5,735. The total amount carried forward into 2010 was £95,994. This reserve was being saved towards the costs of the new community centre.

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

7. RESIGNATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The committee resigned and the President, Jan Needle, took over the proceedings. Jan thanked the chairman, Charlotte Christie for her chairmanship of the committee over the past year and also thanked all other members of the committee for their work during the year.

Nominations for the committee and officers' posts were submitted in writing in advance and all were approved by the meeting. The following were elected unopposed:

Chair: Charlotte Christie

Proposed by Rosemary Strawson, seconded by Sue Pead

Vice Chair: Paul Hornby

Proposed by Jenny Mann, seconded by Charlotte Christie

Treasurer: Peter Stalker

Proposed by Lulu Taylor, seconded by Paul Hornby

Hon Secretary: Jenny Mann

Proposed by Paul Hornby, seconded by Jan Needle

Committee members:

Adrian Arbib

Proposed by Valerie Petts, seconded by Jenny Mann

Jonathan Beswick

Proposed by Paul Hornby, seconded by Jenny Mann

Paul Cullen

Proposed by Ros Weatherall, seconded by Jenny Mann

Scott Ellis

Proposed by Peter Stalker, seconded by Ted Harris

David Hearn

Proposed by Stuart Matthews, seconded by Julie Nash

George Taylor

Proposed by Charlotte Christie, seconded by Susan Pead

John Keyes was subsequently co-opted onto the committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

FEEDBACK ON LOCAL NEWS

There was no guest speaker, but before and after the official business of the AGM, members of the community were invited to report to the meeting on current local news and activities.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm