

# JERICO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 5 May 2009 at 7.30pm at St Barnabas School

**Present:** John Adams, Alan Armitage, Adrian Arbib, Anne Ashby, Elisabeth Selva Barnes, Pat Berliner-Schleuter, Fr Jonathan Beswick, Helen Brock, Margaret Brown, Di Bushnell, Emma Cavell, Charlotte Christie, Lowrie Cochlin, David Clark, Genefer Clark, Paul Cullen, Carolyn Dutton, Richard Dutton, Scott Ellis, Hollie Franks, Margaret Goodall, Richard Grant, Carole Guberman, Mike Hanslett, Barbara Harvey, David Hearn, Paul Hornby, Penny Howe, Sheila Jones, Alison Kelly, John Keyes, Stuart Larkin, Peter Ledwith, Sue Ledwith, Daphne Lennie, Jenny Mann, Joelle Mann, Auriol Milford, Ian Miller, Gillian Nicholls, John Noans, Simon Norris, Susan Pead, Liza Picard, Susanna Pressel, Emmett Schleuter, Josephine Seccombe, Rachel Smith, Shelagh Sneddon, Lieve Spaas, Peter Stalker, Rosemary Strawson, Peter Strong, Edward Surridge, George Taylor, Lulu Taylor, Steve Watts, Ros Weatherall, Heathcote Williams, Bill Wilson, D Zaytseva

### 1. APOLOGIES:

2009: Lisa Bendall, Ann Beswick, Sebastian Brock, Colin Cook, Jessica Nakman, Jan Needle, Ines Smyth, Cynthia Watson

### 2. MINUTES:

The minutes of the last AGM were circulated and agreed, and were 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 had continued to manage the Community Centre and to represent the views of the residents of Jericho within the city. Charlotte thanked the present members of the committee for their hard work during the year, and our administrator Sue Pead for her tireless work running the Centre.

Last year there was some difficulty recruiting a Treasurer and we were very grateful to Liza Picard, who filled the role on an interim basis. We were now pleased to announce that Peter Stalker had volunteered to take on the role and he was co-opted in December.

Our new Constitution, as agreed at the 2008 AGM, had been accepted by the Charity Commission. We completed our submission to VISIBLE, a quality mark for community organisations, and were awaiting their assessment for accreditation.

Problems over the development of the Canalside site, including the Boatyard, continued to delay our plans to build a new Community centre. The lease was still under discussion with the Church Trustees and the City Council. We had reached an agreement with the latest developer, Spring Residential, over the provision of land for the Centre. However, Spring had now gone into administration. Their proposals went to Appeal in August 2008 and the Association joined forces with the Boatyard and the Jericho Living Heritage Trust to ensure that the community's objections to the overall scheme were made clear. The Association donated £5000 towards the costs of sharing a barrister with the JLHT. The outcome of the Appeal was the rejection of Spring's proposals.

Meanwhile we occupied the old Centre, with many thanks to Emmett Schleuter for his valuable DIY work maintaining the building.

We ran a successful 2008 Street Fair, with thanks to the Bookbinders for providing live music and outdoor refreshment. They intended to repeat their support at this year's Street Fair on Saturday 13 June. Everyone was invited to come along and volunteer to help.

We continued to support the community café, whose Saturday morning breakfast remained particularly popular with the older members of the community. A new youth club was opened in January, with funding and support from the City Council, and was running successfully on Friday evenings and attracting large numbers of local young people.

We continued to maintain a website and edited and distributed the community paper, the Jericho Echo.

### **Canalside update**

Draft outline plans for the new Community Centre were displayed and everyone was invited to inspect them during or after the meeting and make any comments that they wished.

Peter Strong for the Jericho Living heritage Trust reported that the affairs of Spring and its parent company Castlemore Holdings were now in the hands of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, who were expected to make a decision soon on what to do with the Canalside site. It was possible that the site would come to auction in a short time.

### **Conservation Area**

The City Council's Executive Board were due to meet on 20 May and would decide then whether to approve Jericho's request for Conservation Area status. The City planning officers were expected to recommend refusal. Everyone was urged to write to the Executive Board and support Jericho's case. Members of the public could attend the meeting at 5.00pm in the Town Hall.

## **4. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Sue Pead reported that there were ongoing problems with our occupancy of the old building, which needed constant repairs. The building was very busy, with between 35 and 40 classes per week.

The Mothers and Toddlers group met on Thursday mornings. The youth club had opened for 11-18 year olds, attracting around 30 young people on Friday evenings. There were also ballet classes for children, and a Sunday School on Sunday mornings. Four evenings a week we had an NCT (National Child Birth Trust) class on preparation for birth and childhood.

We continued to offer a wide range of other activities including pilates, tai chi, wing chun, kung fu, other martial arts and meditation. 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. The café opened on Saturday mornings, run by Tracey Hepple, offering a cooked breakfast, tea, coffee and homemade cakes. It was especially popular with the older residents of Jericho.

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 a new tenant, Jericho Complementary Health Practice.

The next Jericho Street Fair would be held on Saturday 13 June from 12 noon. Stalls were still available and everyone was encouraged to come and support the event.

## **5. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Peter Stalker presented inspection copies of the financial statements for the Community Association for the year ended 31 December 2008. These had been produced in record time by accountants M Group Partnership, as our accounts were now computerised, with many thanks to Sue Pead for mastering the Sage system. The Treasurer recommended re-appointment of M Group as our accountants, which was unanimously approved by the meeting.

During 2008 Income was £38,998, mostly from hirings and lettings of rooms at the Community centre for classes, events and private parties. Expenditure was £31,352, £5,000 of which was the donation towards the Appeal barrister's costs, as already mentioned. The remaining Expenditure 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 £7,646. The total amount now carried forward into 2009 was £90,259. This might seem a large amount, but 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 as our President Jan Needle was indisposed, Rosemary Strawson took over the proceedings in her place. 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 Peter Stalker, seconded by Scott Ellis

### **Vice Chair: Paul Hornby**

Proposed by Charlotte Christie, seconded by Paul Cullen

### **Treasurer: Peter Stalker**

Proposed by George Taylor, seconded by Liza Picard

### **Hon Secretary: Jenny Mann**

Proposed by Bill Wilson, seconded by Josephine Seccombe

### **Committee members:**

#### **Adrian Arbib**

Proposed by Jenny Mann, seconded by Peter Stalker

#### **Paul Cullen**

Proposed by Ros Weatherall, seconded by Paul Hornby

#### **Scott Ellis**

Proposed by Jenny Mann, seconded by Charlotte Christie

#### **Joelle Mann**

Proposed by Susan Pead, seconded by Liza Picard [Committee contd. overleaf...]

#### **George Taylor**

Proposed by Pat Berliner-Schleuter, seconded by Emmett Schleuter

**Bill Wilson**

Proposed by Jenny Mann, seconded by George Taylor

**David Hearn** and **John Keyes** was subsequently co-opted onto the committee.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Grantham House:** The building was now empty and boarded up. The last residents moved out in February 2009. The City Council had decided that it did not make sense to sell the site in the present financial climate. It would probably eventually be sold to a Housing Association for affordable homes.

**Local Police surgery:** Thursday 13 May at 3pm at the Community Centre.

**The Youth Club** were challenging the community to a rounders competition in St Barnabas School field on Friday from 7 to 9pm. There would also be a barbeque.

**Trees** on the Cripsey allotments had been chopped down by the City Council. This was a mistake, but there was a lack of support at the time to save them. We were urged to speak out in future.

**West Oxford Group**, as part of their Development for the Future, were refurbishing the waterside area at the end of the Hythe Bridge Arm of the canal.

**Traffic** was breaking the 20mph speed limit along Nelson and Walton Streets. We were asked to inform local police if we witnessed any such activities.

**Jenny Mann** has been awarded the Certificate of Honour in recognition of her service to the community of Oxford.

**Charlotte Christie:** The meeting unanimously thanked Charlotte for her chairmanship of the committee over the past year.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

David Clark gave an excellent talk on **The Oxford we have lost: recording the city's vernacular past**, illustrated with photographs including several Jericho buildings, past and present. The Oxfordshire Buildings Record used documentary evidence to research the history of buildings. Its aims were to encourage the recording of buildings, to promote research and to advance education. It had started to collect unpublished plans, drawings and descriptions. Anyone interested in joining, or in forming a Jericho group, could contact them at obr.org

The meeting closed at 9.30pm