

JERICO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 10 April 2008 at 7.30pm at St Barnabas School

Present: Kathy Anderson, Adrian Arbib, Elisabeth Selva Barnes, Eve Barsham, Pat Berliner, Fr Jonathan Beswick, Sebastian Brock, Helen Brock, Di Bushnell, Charlotte Christie, Colin Cook, Paul Cullen, Julie Dyson, Fred Ellis, Scott Ellis, Rosamund Forbes, Margaret Goodall, Richard Grant, Carole Guberman, Barbara Harvey, David Hearn, Paul Hornby, Adi Inskip, Sheila Jones, John Keyes, Daphne Lennie, Thorunn Lonsdale, Jenny McAuley, Bill MacKeith, Jay Macpherson, Jenny Mann, Joelle Mann, Auriol Milford, Jessica Nakman, Jan Needle, Pam Nixon, Ron Nixon, Sue Pead, Liz Peretz, Valerie Petts, Liza Picard, Stephanie Pirrie, Susanna Pressel, Colin Saunders, Helen Saunders, Emmett Schleuter, Lieve Spaas, Peter Stalker, Rosemary Strawson, May Streed, Clova Stuart-Hamilton, George Taylor, Lulu Taylor, Jenny Tordoff, Pat Turton, Anne Wiles, Heathcote Williams, LC Williamson

1. APOLOGIES:

Pandora Maxwell, Ros Weatherall, Zoe Cochlin

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 regular and new members. Since last year's meeting construction on some of the new dwellings on the Lucy's eagle Works site had been completed and we welcomed new residents who had moved in and become part of the Jericho community. We also welcomed the new vicar at St Barnabas, Fr Jonathan Beswick, and his family.

At the previous AGM we started to collect ideas on what facilities people would like to see in a new Community Centre. We were also in negotiation with Spring Residential, the developers of the Boatyard/Canalside site, to agree a piece of land for the new Centre, as required by the Planning Inspector's judgement. We had now agreed the land and in order to comply with legal requirements we would be submitting an outline planning application for the site. However we could not start our own building until the planning application had been agreed for the rest of the site, so we were still some way off starting the project. In the meantime we would continue to collect views and opinions on what the community would like to see.

During the year the Committee had also written to object to a number of other planning applications which we felt were inappropriate for Jericho. Most notable was the Autoworks site, where the proposal for high density flats and office space was refused.

The Community Centre was well used by a range of classes, which was the main source of our income. We continued to be very grateful to Sue Pead, our Administrator, who was active in making sure that we got maximum use of the premises. We were still in discussion with the Church Trustees and the City Council over the lease, which was complicated by the uncertain timescale for the future of the building.

The Association ran the annual Street Fair in June, which was once again a successful community event. This year's Street Fair would be held on Saturday 14 June.

The Committee had agreed to try to achieve recognition of good practice through VISIBLE, a quality mark for Community organisations. We were grateful for the support of Richard Grant from the City Council with this.

4. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Sue Pead reported that there was currently a problem with the Playgroup. It had closed at Christmas because of a lack of children coming forward to join. We were hoping to relaunch it, and were holding an open day for parents and children at the Centre in May. The Mothers and Toddlers group continued to meet on Thursday morning and there was a music group for young children on Monday morning. Three evenings a week we had an NCT (National Child Birth Trust) class on preparation for birth and childhood.

The Centre continued to offer a wide range of activities including pilates, tai chi, wing chun, kung fu, other martial arts and meditation for adults and children. There were classes in Egyptian dance, tango dancing, which was very popular with people of all ages, and ballet. The University hired our rooms for dance classes in term time. Altogether there were between 30 and 40 classes per week. 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, offering a cooked breakfast, tea, coffee and homemade cakes. It was run by Tracey Hepple and was especially popular with the older residents of Jericho.

The next Jericho Street Fair would be held on Saturday 14 June from 12 noon. Stalls were still available. Everyone was encouraged to come and support the event.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Liza Picard presented a summary of Community Association finances. It had been a successful year. In the past twelve months, the income from rents and lettings had risen by over £9,000 from just over £27,000 to £36,463. Our expenses had also risen, but overall the Community Centre made a healthy profit of £9,334, compared to nearly £7,000 in the previous year. The Street Fair also made a small profit.

Full details of the year's accounts would be found in the financial statement which were being prepared by MGroup Partnership.

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

6. NEW CONSTITUTION

The Constitution for the Community Association had been upgraded in line with advice from the Charities Commission, which had produced a model making legal responsibilities clearer. The only significant changes we had made related to the definition of membership and the area of Jericho. The Constitution now stated that all residents of the area defined by the parish boundary (bounded by the canal, Worcester College, Walton Street and Walton Well Road) were de facto members of the Association. Others who lived in the immediately adjacent area might apply for Associate membership. Previous references to affiliated membership had been removed. We had confirmed our election procedures and the numbers on the committee.

Full copies of the document were available at the meeting and it was also posted on the website, where it had been available for the previous three weeks.

Members unanimously voted to accept the new Constitution and to delegate authority to the Management Committee to make any minor amendments advised by the Charities Commission. The Committee would report back any changes to next year's AGM.

7. RESIGNATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The committee resigned and proceedings were taken over by Jan Needle, President of the Community Association. The following nominations were made:

Chair: Charlotte Christie

Proposed by Rosemary Strawson, seconded by Jessica Nakman

Vice Chair: David Hearn

Proposed by Joelle Mann, seconded by Jan Needle

Treasurer: Liza Picard

Proposed by Charlotte Christie, seconded by Sue Pead

Hon Secretary: Jenny Mann

Proposed by Scott Ellis, seconded by Valerie Petts

The above were carried unanimously.

Other committee members:

Adrian Arbib

Proposed by Paul Hornby, seconded by Rosemary Strawson

Paul Cullen

Proposed by Paul Hornby, seconded by George Taylor

Scott Ellis

Proposed by Charlotte Christie, seconded by Fred Ellis

Paul Hornby

Proposed by Fr Jonathan Beswick, seconded by Jan Needle

Joelle Mann

Proposed by Emmett Schleuter, seconded by Carole Guberman

Peter Stalker

Proposed by Pat Turton, seconded by Fred Ellis

George Taylor

Proposed by Pat Berliner, seconded by Liza Picard

All were elected unopposed.

John Keyes was subsequently co-opted onto the committee.

8. BOATYARD AND CANSIDE SITE

In December Spring's planning application for the Canalside was turned down and we had just heard that they had submitted an appeal, though no date had yet been set. The Community Association would continue to work closely with the Boatyard group and other interested parties to co-ordinate a response which reflected the strong opposition that existed within the community to this planning application. As soon as we knew the date for the appeal we would let everyone know.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members raised several matters of local concern.

Grantham House: There were complaints about elderly people being moved and the community being broken up. Colin Cook responded that the accommodation at Grantham House was now sub-standard. Many residents were moving into new accommodation on the Lucy's site and others were being housed elsewhere in the city if they preferred.

British Waterways moorings: Jessica Nakman spoke on behalf of the boaters of the Hythe Bridge Arm Residents' Association. BW were doubling their mooring fees over the next three years which would cause them financial distress. The Secretary agreed to write a letter of objection to BW on behalf of the Community Association.

This concluded the formal business of the AGM.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Heathcote Williams gave a fascinating talk illustrating how Jericho could claim to be the birthplace of the Pre-Raphaelite movement, due to the support and patronage of Thomas and Martha Combe, who lived in Walton Street and were also founders of St Barnabas church.

Adrian Arbib then provided a glimpse into Jericho's more recent past with an extract from Wally Peedle's film Jericho in the 1950s, which showed how local streets looked at the time and the community celebrating the Street Fair.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm