

JERICO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 19 April 2007, at 7.30pm at St Barnabas School

Present: Adrian Arbib, Alan Armitage, Phoebe Brooks, Charlotte Christie, Colin Cook, Mark Davies, Fred Ellis, Scott Ellis, Richard Ewing, Margaret Goodall, Richard Grant, Mike Hamblett, Ted Harris, Kathleen Heasman, Richard Hillier, Mona Janes, John Keyes, Daphne Lennie, Alison Lewis, Ann Luke, Trevor Luke, Jenny Mann, Joelle Mann, Coral Martin, Sarah Murphy, Jeanne Needle, Sarah Parnell, Sue Pead, Liz Peretz, Viv Peto, Liza Picard, Susanna Pressel, Rose Prevejer, John Radford, Lieve Spaas, Peter Stalker, George Taylor, Lulu Taylor, Cynthia Watson, Ros Weatherall, Bee Wee, Anne Wiles, Bill Wilson, Fr Michael Wright,

GUEST SPEAKER:

(This item was taken first.) Paul Roberts, Director of Turnberry Consulting, showed the latest plans for the Radcliffe Infirmary site and outlined the University's ideas for the project. The original listed building facing onto Woodstock Road would be preserved but the other buildings would be removed. The site would be laid out to focus on sightlines to the Tower of the Winds. The new development would mostly consist of library and other facilities for the university, but would include surgeries and additional support services for the local doctors' practices.

1. APOLOGIES:

Paul Cullen, Patti Dale, Paul Hornby, Bill McKeith, Tom Richardson

2. MINUTES:

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

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The report was given by Charlotte Christie (formerly Vice Chair) who had taken over as Chair during the year. At the previous AGM George Taylor had been elected Chair, but stepped down at the end of December so that the Association could employ him as part-time fundraiser for the new community centre. Under our constitution no one may be a member of the Committee who is also employed by it. The meeting recorded its thanks to George for his services as Chair and for his current fundraising work.

There had been momentous changes in Jericho over the past year:

(i) The Radcliffe Infirmary finally closed.

(ii) The last part of Lucy's factory was demolished and we were looking forward to welcoming new residents into our community from the new development.

(iii) The planning application for the canalside site was again turned down.

The Association had been closely and actively involved in developments relating to the canalside. Together with the boaters we had reflected the community's strongly held views about the loss of the boatyard and proposals for the site. We expected a new application from Spring Residential shortly and we would be holding a public meeting to give residents an opportunity to see the plans, share views on it and find out how to register their views.

(iv) The other important aspect to the development was the possibility of a new community centre. The Planning Inspector found in our favour and concluded that sufficient space should be provided for a centre so we had been negotiating with the developer and with the city council to acquire an identified site. This process was almost complete. The area for the centre was completely separate from the remainder of the site. We had drawings of a possible outline for the new building and were ready to start consulting the community about what they would like to see in the new centre. There would be further opportunities to comment before a full plan was drawn up but all ideas would be welcome now. Stuart Larkin, our development consultant, and a representative from the architects were present to discuss this.

Because we were now dealing with much larger sums of money we recommended the appointment of professional accountants who would not only audit the accounts but take on some of the work of the Treasurer, as the job was much greater than previously. Our recommendation was The MGroup, based in the Banbury Road.

The meeting accepted this proposal with no objections.

Finally the Chair recorded thanks to all members of the committee who had given their time over the past year, particularly to Viv Peto, who was now standing down as Treasurer. Jeanne Needle thanked the committee for their work during the past year.

Jeanne Needle then gave thanks on behalf of everyone present to Fr Michael Wright the vicar of St Barnabas. This would be his last AGM as he was due to take retirement soon. He had been a good friend and supporter of the community Association for many years and we wished to record our gratitude and give him our best wishes for the future.

4. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

There was a Playgroup every weekday morning at the Centre, and a Mothers and Toddlers group once a week on Thursday morning. A music group for young children met on Monday mornings. Three evenings a week there was an NCT (National Child Birth Trust) class on preparation for birth and childhood.

The Centre continued to offer 30 to 40 classes per week with a wide range of activities, including pilates, tai chi and martial arts for adults and children. There were classes in Egyptian dance, tango dancing, which was very popular with people of all ages, and classical ballet. The University hired our rooms for dance classes.

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

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

The Jericho Street Fair would be held on Saturday 9 June from 12 noon. Stalls were still available. Everyone was encouraged to come and support the event.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer gave a verbal report and copies of the figures were made available. Overall it had been another successful financial year for the community association.

Our total income during 2006 exceeded expenditure by nearly £7,000 and our total assets were now over £75,000. The reason for this high total was mainly due to grants received towards the development of the proposed new centre.

The accounts for the running of the present community centre were presented separately from those relating to the new centre.

Community Centre

The main income for the centre is generated from renting out rooms for classes, private functions and some offices and studios, which this year totalled over £27,000, an increase of about £500 over the previous year. The Street Fair made a profit of £540. The café was now almost breaking even, and this year was only subsidised by about £100. Our main expenses remained wages and the general running costs of the centre, and these remained about the same as last year.

One additional expense was £3,230 for legal fees regarding a new lease for the community centre. This had been paid on behalf of the St Barnabas Church Trustees and it was expected that this would be repaid to us in the future.

We had transferred £11,750 of our own money to the New Centre Fund. This was as part of our agreement with Oxford City Council when they gave us the grants towards the new centre. In addition, we had transferred £18,250 of our own savings into the New Centre Fund towards future expenses, making a total transfer of £30,000. Despite this re-arrangement of our funds, the Jericho Community Centre still held a balance of over £26,500.

New Community Centre Development Fund

This year we received a grant of £8,250 from Oxford City Council, to add to the £25,000 received from them in the previous year. This sum is allocated as ‘pump priming money’, and is intended to go towards the professional, legal, consultancy and planning costs involved in negotiations over the new centre land, and on the design and planning of the building.

This year the New Centre Fund paid out £11,750 on professional consultancy fees and nearly £3,000 to solicitors. The Fund currently held a balance of nearly £47,000.

Overall it had been a very healthy and exciting year.

Finally, Viv Peto announced her resignation as Treasurer of the Community Association.

Note: Full details of the year’s accounts are to be found in the financial statement prepared by MGroup Partnership, who are in the process of setting up a computerised system for recording the Association’s finances.

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

6. ELECTION OF A NEW COMMITTEE:

The committee resigned and proceedings were taken over by Jeanne Needle, President of the Community Association.

The following nominations were made:

Chair: Charlotte Christie

Proposed by Fr Michael Wright, seconded by Viv Peto

Vice Chair: left temporarily vacant

Treasurer: left temporarily vacant

Hon Secretary: Jenny Mann

Proposed by Sue Pead, seconded by Liza Picard

The above were carried unanimously.

Other committee members:

Phoebe Brooks

Proposed by Jenny Mann, seconded by Liza Picard

Paul Cullen

Proposed by Jenny Mann, seconded by George Taylor

Paul Hornby

Proposed by Jenny Mann, seconded by Fr Michael Wright

John Keyes

Proposed by Viv Peto, seconded by George Taylor

Joelle Mann

Proposed by Cynthia Watson, seconded by Jeanne Needle

Pandora Maxwell

Proposed by Sue Pead, seconded by Jenny Mann

Viv Peto

Proposed by Charlotte Christie, seconded by Jenny Mann

Peter Stalker

Proposed by Viv Peto, seconded by Charlotte Christie

George Taylor

Proposed by Charlotte Christie, seconded by Fred Ellis

Bill Wilson

Proposed by Charlotte Christie, seconded by Peter Stalker

All were elected unopposed.

This concluded the formal business of the AGM.

Open Forum:

7. Recycling and refuse collection

City Councillor Jean Fooks and Street Scene Officer Malcolm Hart had been invited to explain the city council's policy. Malcolm Hart presented the current statistics on recycling for the City Council. The target was to recycle 40% of household waste by 2008 and to reduce the amount sent to landfill by 60% over the next thirteen years. By March 2007 the city was already recycling 32% of household waste, so it was well on target. The council would provide additional green and blue collection boxes and green sacks on request.

By 2009/10 it was intended to send all food waste for reprocessing. Planning consent was being sought for a food waste centre outside Oxford.

Concerns raised by those present included:

- Non recyclables, especially food waste, were only collected once every two weeks.
- The perceived problem of an increase in vermin, especially rats.
- The plethora of different bins and containers, which is particularly difficult to manage in the small houses of Jericho.
- Wheelie bins blocking the narrow pavements.
- The operatives appear to be worked too hard and to be rushed, so insufficient care is taken.
- Erratic collection, which sometimes misses out streets.

The council representatives listened to the comments raised but made it clear that the present two-weekly cycle of collections would continue, although modifications, such as the separate food waste collection, would be introduced.

8. Boatyard and planning applications for the Canalside site

There was no positive news on the boatyard. The facilities available at Yarnton were inadequate for the complete repair and maintenance of Oxford's narrowboats. However Spring Residential seemed to believe Yarnton to be an acceptable replacement for the boatyard in Jericho, and were basing their planning application on this claim.

9. New Community Centre

Planning consultant Stuart Larkin had prepared a questionnaire on the facilities people wanted to see in the new community centre, and invited everyone present to complete one. He and the architects welcomed contributions from the community, and would be carrying out further consultation with local people.

10. Any Other Business

Neighbourhood Specialist Police Officer Steve Gibbens was introduced. He now worked with two community police officers for the Jericho and Port Meadow area, as part of a policy of back to basics policing, with an emphasis on street presence. Jericho was generally a low crime area in Oxford, but there were three or four hot spots for trouble.

Residents could contact Steve about any concerns, including graffiti and activities of children, on 08458 505505 or steve.gibbens@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
The Crimestoppers number was 0800 555 111.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm