

The Barbican Association General Council

Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday 13th March 2025

At 7 pm in The Lilac Room

Present (crossed out not present):

Elected Members: Adam Hogg (Chair) Jan Marc Petroschka (Deputy Chair) Roy Sully (Hon Sec) Jane Smith (Planning Subcommittee Chair) Brendan Barnes David Bradshaw Randall Anderson Miranda Quinney Deborah Oliver	House Groups Represented: Graham Wallace (Andrewes) Helen Hulson (Ben Jonson) Humfrey Brandes (Brandon) Andy Hope (Breton) John Taysum (Bryer) Derek Penney (Bunyan) Paul Moriarty (Cromwell) Martin Farebrother (Defoe) Linda Partridge (Frobisher) Ian Dixon (Gilbert) Richard Collins (Lambert Jones) Gail Beer (Lauderdale) Martin Luff (Mountjoy) John Holme (Postern) Ania Korszun (Seddon) Sandy Wilson (Shakespeare) Graham Spickett-Jones (Speed) Brenda Szlesinger (Thomas More) Mary Bonar (Wallside) Fionnuala Hogan (Willoughby)
Other Members: Tony Swanson (Hon Treasurer) Jo Boait (RCC) Sandra Jenner (RCC) Hannah Logan Co-Opted Member (Parent Rep) Helen Hudson (Barbican Life) David Preston (Administrator & Membership Sec) Nigel Dixon (Assistant Treasurer)	
Deputies and Guests: Fred Rodgers (Breton) Alberto Garcia (Lauderdale) Kathleen Bailey (Mountjoy) Nathan Morse (Thomas More)	

1.	Apologies for Absence
	Gail Beer, Richard Collins, Andy Hope, Sandra Jenner, Ania Korszun, Martin Luff, Brenda Szlesinger had sent apologies for absence.

2.	Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 23rd January 2025
	An earlier version of the minutes was wrongly sent amongst the Meeting documents. The correct version of the Minutes was sent to all immediately after the meeting finished and was subsequently approved.
3.	Matter Arising
	<u>Item 11 City of London Elections</u> The Chair reported that he had contacted all house group chairs requesting their comments on the appropriateness of asking prospective candidates to support the BA manifesto. Only one responded with no guidance. It was agreed that the manifesto should not be part of the hustings
4.	Changes to the Constitution
	Following the January BAGC meeting, Brendan Barnes and Jane Smith had further worked on the Constitution, and a revised version was forwarded to all members prior to the March meeting. After a lengthy discussion, around issues such as liabilities and the removal or suspension of members and some phrases that needed revising for clarity, it was agreed that Jane and Brendan would make some recommended changes, and this version was to be sent to the BA Administrator to be distributed to all BAGC members. This final version would then be presented at the AGM on the 10 th of April.
5.	Planning
	The Chair presented his views on City of London planning, describing it as very loose. Moving forward he feels the BA should continue to strive for residents to be better treated. Fred Rodgers gave an example of what residents' need as no Saturday working. It was agreed that the BA elected representatives should develop a campaign to persuade the City to introduce policies that offered residents greater protection. Jan Marc Petroschka gave an overview of current planning activities. In regards 1 Silk Street, the main ambition is to minimise the impact on the area. Requests have been made regarding London Wall West and work is likely to begin at 45 Beech Street by the end of the year. Jane Smith had broadly welcomed the Barbican Renewal project but was concerned that little consideration of the likely noise and light impact of the proposals included in the initial high-level plans shared – it was expected this would be considered in the more detailed proposals anticipated in May. It also was hoped that much thought would go into the timings of the works, in terms of their sensitively planned alignment with other area building projects in the years ahead.

6 .	Legal Expenses
	The Chair reported that in return for the BA not objecting to its application to the 3rd Tier Tribunal the City would pay the legal expenses of £34,720 incurred. It was agreed that as challenging this application had little chance of a positive outcome and would involve further legal expenses this offer should be accepted subject to clarification as to how Capping the 24/5 cleaning costs would be implemented. Retrospective approval for Legal costs (inc. VAT) incurred by the BA since January was given: • Redrafting the Constitution £3014 • Advice on setting up a working party to seek restitution on faulty repairs, estimated figure £2,500 • Responding to a lessee's request for information, estimated figure £1440 • Instructing Council to represent BA at City Plan 2040 Consultation £9,000

7.	Annual General Meeting
	The Chair confirmed that all arrangements have been made for the AGM to take place on the 10th of April 2025 in the City of London School for Girls. Miranda has volunteered to run the bar and David Preston to set and tidy up, but others are needed as the numbers present is likely to require several others. It was pointed out that at last years AGM the Bar was an all-female affair which presented the BA in a bad light. Action: Volunteers to be help run the AGM refreshments, to set up and tidy up after.
8.	Succession
	Adam is standing in the City of London elections on 20th March. If successful, this would necessitate the election of new Chair. The Chair also stressed that there is need for 'new blood' amongst the elected members and asked all to encourage those with potentially much to offer to apply. There was some uncertainty about what the role entails, and it was agreed that a Job Description should be drawn up and distributed. Action: A Job Description of an Elected Member to be drawn up for approval and then distributed.

9.	Membership
	The Membership Secretary reported that, despite emails being sent to all BA members and notices in the Barbican Life magazine, hundreds of Standing Orders are yet to be cancelled, thus hindering the transition to a more automated system, named Membership Mojo. The previous system was essentially 'one membership per home' whereas the new system is 'one membership per person'. The impact of this is that if two people live in one residence the cost would be double the previous cost, with two memberships costing 2 times 5 pounds (10 GBP) whereas last year it would have been just one membership costing 5 GBP. It is too early to identify how many erstwhile joint members will elect to stay with just one membership or how many will opt for having their own membership. Current membership numbers are 2002. The BA needs to identify the number of residences that have at least one member and the Membership Secretary hopes to report on this at the BAGC on the 19th of June. It was agreed that reporting on membership numbers should be a standard item on future agendas. A standard format would be drawn up. Action: The Membership Secretary to produce draft template of a Membership report, to filled out and presented at each BAGC.
10	Membership Fees
	Following the BAGC In January, a working group, comprising Roy Sully, David Bradshaw, Brenda Szlesinger and Paul Moriarty, the Treasurer and Helen Hudson, was set up investigate the need for an increase in BA membership fees. Having considered the issue it was decided that the membership fee should remain set at 5 pounds at least until 2026.
11	Updates on the Website, RCC, and Security
	Over the past few months, a team has been working on updating the website and this is nearly ready to be launched. The BA is immensely grateful to BA member Stephan Solomonidis for applying his coding expertise here to make it a cleaner, faster and safer site. There is still some editing of some of the language and content of the old site documents to be transferred to the new site, but the team is hopeful that this will be completed soon. Jo Boait, the new Chair of the RCC, was welcomed by the BAGC. David Bradshaw provided a summative security report with nothing of significant import to report.
12	Twinning with Park Hill Estate Sheffield
	There was little enthusiasm or energy for the proposed twinning of the BA with the equivalent body at Park Hill Estate, Sheffield so it was decided not to pursue this.
13	AOB
	Adam Hogg stated this could be his last BAGC as Chair and thanked all members for the support he had been given over the past years. Adam was praised by members for all his hard work and given warm applause by all present.

14	Dates of future BAGC meetings in 2025
	Thursday 10th April 2025 (Annual General Meeting) City of London School for Girls Thursday 17th April (Elections) Lilac Room Thursday 19th June Lilac Room Thursday 21st August Lilac Room Thursday 23rd October Lilac Room