

The Barbican Association General Council

Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday 27th June 2024

At 7 pm in The Lilac Room

Present (crossed out not present):

Elected Members: Adam Hogg (Chair), Deputy Chair: Jan Marc Petroschka Hon Sec: Roy Sully Jane Smith (Planning Subcommittee Chair) Brendan Barnes David Bradshaw Randall Anderson Miranda Quinney	House Groups Represented: Lionel Meyringer (Andrewes) Helen Hulson (Ben Jonson) Humfrey Brandes (Brandon) Andy Hope (Breton) John Taysum (Bryer) Derek Penney (Bunyan) Paul Moriarty (Cromwell) Martin Farebrother Linda Partridge (Frobisher) Ian Dixon (Gilbert) Richard Collins (Lambert Jones) Gail Beer (Lauderdale) Martin Luff (Mountjoy) Ania Korszun (Seddon) Sandy Wilson (Shakespeare) Graham Spickett-Jones (Speed) Brenda Szlesinger (Thomas More) Miranda Quinney (John Trundle) Mary Bonar (Wallside) Fionnuala Hogan (Willoughby)
Other Members: Tony Swanson (Hon Treasurer) Sandra Jenner (RCC) Hannah Logan Co-Opted Member (Parent Rep) Helen Hudson	
Deputies and Guests: Jacqui Webster (Common Councillor) Tony Swanson (representing Lauderdale)	

1.	Welcome to New Members and Guest Speaker
	The Chairman welcomed Jacqui Webster, the Cripplegate Councillor who is the new lead member for resident engagement, together with Ania Korszun who had taken over from David Graves in Seddon House and Graham Spickett-Jones who had taken over from Nadia Bouzidi in Speed.
2	Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 25th April 2024
	With minor correction, the minutes were approved.

3.	Matter Arising
	The BAGC had agreed by e-mail a request from Jane Smith for £ 5,000 to meet legal expenses in relation to the BAGC's response to the proposed new City of London plan.
4.	Presentation by Jacqui Webster
	Jacqui had been asked by Chris Hayward to take forward the residential reset programme that had so far failed to produce any tangible results. Jacqui felt that improved communications were her highest priority. There was concern that progress would be inhibited by a lack of resource as Jacqui lacked staff to support her, and the forthcoming elections in March 2024 might mean that only partial progress could be made towards key performance indicators before the committee structure was recast. That said, the BAGC commended Jacqui for her efforts.
5.	Legal Status of the BAGC and House Groups as Recognised Tenant Associations
	An opinion had been obtained from the Federation of Private Resident Associations that the current two-tier structure was compatible with the Landlord and Tenant Act. The City of London as landlord had agreed the structure on 8th October 2021. In short, the BA was the RTA for estate-wide matters. House groups were the RTA for matters specific to their block. The rule of thumb test for what constituted "estate wide" was that it related to at least three blocks- the recent problems with roofs being a clear example. Two members, Graham and Fionnuala, expressed general concern but were not specific. They both said that they needed to take the matter back to their house groups. Fionnuala did not dispute the general shape of the relationship but felt there were other aspects of the relationship between the BA and house groups that needed to be looked and deeper questions answered in more detail. Confusion had arisen over the BAGC challenging the city in relation to the failure to issue a Section 20 notice for temporary staff in 2020. After considerable discussion the BAGC agreed three points for action: - Adam would issue another statement explaining the BAGC's position in relation to the Section 20 notice; - Jane would meet Fionnuala to discuss specific concerns; whereafter - A statement defining the relationship between the BAGC and House Groups would be prepared.
6	Consideration of Substantive issues raised by Nadia in e-mails of 7th May, 11th, 23rd and 24th June
	A discussion took place in an attempt to identify the substantive issues. The majority of members commented that they could not understand what the issues were particularly given the legal advice received. Two expressed general undefined concerns. The BAGC therefore felt that it could not recommend any action.

7	City of London Plan to 2040
	Jane had circulated a paper outlining issues which she had raised on behalf of the BAGC. The consultation was now closed. Jane thanked those who had given input. The BAGC thanked Jane and Jan-Marc for their efforts.
8	Membership Matters
	The BAGC thanked Helen Hudson for the paper she had circulated (attached). Good progress had been made towards the introduction of Membership Mojo. The possibility of introducing multi-year memberships was considered but the consensus was to retain annual renewals. The idea of additional categories of membership was considered but this was likely to require a change in the constitution.
9	Communications
	Miranda had circulated a paper suggesting that the newsletter be discontinued after one last issue and it should be replaced with an on-line equivalent that would be much more up-to-date. This was held to be a good plan with the caveat that non-members would no longer receive anything and would therefore not be inspired to join the BA. Humfrey volunteered to assist Miranda with her plans.
10	RCC Update
	Sandra briefed the BAGC. The RCC had met on 24th June and its minutes would be available on the CoL website as indeed was a video of the proceedings. The main points to note concerned: re-decorations, where the standards of work seemed to have risen but there still a problem of letting residents know when work was going to be done; the costs of contract management; and the failure to seek re-tenders for the lift contract in time which meant the old contract had had to be extended.
11	Security
	David reported some progress with the ASB leaflet that the BEO was due to produce.
12	Summer Parties 2024 and 2025
	Miranda and Hannah were thanked for their efforts. The 2024 party would take place on 1st September. Its costs were covered by a carry-forward of the grant awarded by the Business Improvement District last year. The timing of the BID grants meant that if work on the 2025 party was to proceed in good time, plans would have to be laid and spending commitments laid before a grant was confirmed. The BAGC therefore agreed to underwrite the 2025 party up to £ 3,300 with the expectation that the money would only be required if the further application for BID funding failed.
13	AOB
	None

14	Dates of future meetings
	Thursday 22 nd August 2024; Thursday 24 th October 2024; Thursday 23 rd January 2025; Thursday 20 th March 2025.