

The Barbican Association General Council
Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday 24th October 2024
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: Lionel Meyringer (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) Ania Korszun (Seddon) Sandy Wilson (Shakespeare) Graham Spickett-Jones (Speed) Brenda Szlesinger (Thomas More) Miranda Quinney (John Trundle) Mary Bonar (Wallside) Fionnuala Hogan (Wiltoughby) John Holme (Postern) Paul Swain (Lauderdale)
Other Members: Tony Swanson (Hon Treasurer) Sandra Jenner (RCC) Hannah Logan Co-Opted Member (Parent Rep) Helen Hudson (Membership) David Preston (BA Administrator)	
Deputies and Guests: Fred Rodgers (representing Breton) Liz Simpson (representing Seddon) Nathan Morse (representing Thomas More) Alderman Christopher Makin (Aldersgate Ward) as Observer Nadia Bouzidi (Speed House) as Observer Fiona Savory (Gilbert House) as Observer	

1.	Apologies for Absence and Welcome to the Administrator
	The Chairman welcomed David Preston who has taken up the role of Administrator which includes Membership management. Randall Anderson, David Bradshaw, Ian Dixon, Fionnuala Hogan, Andy Hope (represented by Fred Rodgers), Ania Korszun (represented by Liz Simpson), Hannah Logan, Deborah Oliver, Miranda Quinney, Brenda Szlesinger had all sent their apologies.
2	Minutes of meeting held on 22nd August 2024
	The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as accurate. Matters Arising: Item 6: Destination City Destination City is intending to form a 30-person Advisory Board, including 15 individuals with relevant expertise rather than merely representatives of certain specific bodies. The Chair has put his name forward and invited others also to do so. The 42-page Destination City independent review can be found on https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/assets/about-us/destination-city-independent-review-april-2024.pdf. Item 10: Planning Jane and Jan-Marc reported that a few house groups had commented on the City's proposal to extend 'Al-Fresco' dining as well as the Healthy Streets initiative. Jan-Marc stated that the consultation on the latter was yet to open. Item 11: Barbican Centre At a meeting on 23rd October 2024, the Barbican Centre agreed that the management plan would be updated and sent to the BA to comment/approve.
3.	Procedures for BAGC meetings
	Prior to the Meeting, Jane had sent around a paper on procedures for BAGC meetings which received positive feedback at the meeting. As a result, the paper with 8-points of Practical Action were approved as an agreed procedure for future BAGC meetings.

4.	Residential Reset
	Regarding the Residential Reset, the Chair thanked Jane for drafting the letter to residents and Humfrey for collating the responses from residents which were pulled together in the document presented here. The Chair added that he included GLERA and Middlesex Street in the distribution list of the letter sent out from which there has yet to be any response. Following a full discussion of the issue, the consensus was that it could now be sent on to Christopher Hayward via Jacqui Webster. Action: The Chair to forward the document to Christopher Hayward via Jacqui Webster
5.	Section 20 City's Application for dispensation
	The Chair reported that Richard Tomkins has exhausted the appeal procedure so the Tribunal's decision applies solely to him personally. The Tribunal agreed that the City of London had charged Barbican residents for things they had no right to. Any charges for cleaners in the 2023/4 year over £200k should not have been levied. It is understood that the City of London recognises that it must refund a total of approximately £170k to Barbican leaseholders. The City of London's decision on how this would be repaid is awaited. The City of London still must apply for dispensation for failing to consult over the employment of temporary workers in 2017. We are awaiting to see what form this will take and once we know we will make recommendation to the GC as to what action we should be taking.
6	Governance Review Paper
	The Chair welcomes this independent review and feels this is very important because it impacts on the Barbican Residential Committee (BRC), Residents Consultative Committee (RCC), Barbican Estate Office (BEO) as well as the Barbican Association. The discussion at the meeting revolved largely around the need to receive and analyse the Terms of References for the Review, as well as decide upon at the outset what the BA wants from this exercise.
7	Relationship between House Groups and BA
	Prior to the Meeting, Jane had sent around a paper on the Relationship between House Groups and the BA. Two house groups had emailed in some objections to the paper but the general feeling of the BAGC members present was that these objections were not very clear. Unfortunately, the two chairs were not present at the meeting to further clarify their House Groups concerns. Having carefully discussed the paper and the two House Group comments, some helpful clarifying amendments were suggested, including that the paper should be more clearly defined as a current position paper rather than a future strategic one. A vote was held approving the paper, subject to the suggested rewording. (Copy attached.)

8	Financial Redress for Excess Service Charges
	The document forwarded in advance of the meeting was noted. Many members believed that, given the work involved the 3 to 6 months' period of the project was very optimistic.
9	Financial Forecast BA Funds
	The Treasurer presented the forecast for the 2024 year. It was noted that at the year-end the accumulated funds were forecast to be up by £11k this year at £188k.
10	City of London Elections
	The City of London's Common Council election is to be held on the 20th March 2025. (a) Hustings The date of the Hustings for the election is yet to be decided but is likely to be one of 11th, 12th or 13th of March. Fred Rodgers agreed to make the arrangement. (b) Manifesto It was agreed that presenting candidates with a copy of a BA manifesto as had been done at previous election was a good idea. A copy of the previous one is attached for members to update and comment on to the Chair. Action: members. .
11	Membership
	Helen Hudson, erstwhile Membership Secretary presented a document reviewing the move to Membership Mojo. The Chair congratulated Helen, Ted and Jim Davies for setting up Membership Mojo and announced that David is now the Membership Secretary. A discussion took place on expanding the entry criteria for Associate Membership, but this was roundly rejected. A suggestion was made to increase the membership fee in 2025 but, given the BA's healthy financial position it was felt the fee structure should remain as it is for at least a further year, with a case to be made to residents in the second half of 2025 for a revised membership fee from January 2026. It was agreed that the idea should be floated at the 2025 AGM.
12	Succession Planning
	Adam is standing down as Chair next Spring and asked for members to suggest, seek and persuade suitable members of the BA to come forward to the Hon Secretary.

13	Dates of future meetings
	The dates of the next three meetings are as follows: Thursdays: 23rd January 2025; 13th March 2025; and the AGM on 10th April 2025
14	AOB
	There were no other items of business to consider.