

The Barbican Association General Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday 18th June 2026

At 630 pm in The Lilac Room

Present (crossed out not present):

Elected Members: Jan Marc Petroschka (Chair) Randall Anderson (Deputy Chair) Alessandro Ferrari David Preston (Secretary) Jane Quinn Sheila Robinson Stephan Solominidis Barnaby Spurrier François-Xavier Villemin	House Groups Represented: Graham Wallace (Andrewes) Helen Hulson (Ben Jonson) Humfrey Brandes (Brandon) Andy Hope (Breton) John Taysum (Bryer) Julia Robinson (Bunyan) Paul Moriarty (Cromwell) Martin Farebrother (Defoe) Linda Partridge (Frobisher) Annette Rudkin (Gilbert) Miranda Quinney (John Trundle) Richard Collins (Lambert Jones) Alberto Garciga (Lauderdale) Martin Luff (Mountjoy) John Holme (Postern) Jane Smith (Seddon) Paul Johnson (Shakespeare) Graham Spickett-Jones (Speed) Brendan Barnes (Thomas More) Nicola Baker (Wallside) Bernard Hughes (Willoughby)
Other Members: Christopher Attwood (Treasurer) Jo Boait (RCC) Nigel Dixon (Assistant Treasurer) Adam Hogg Hannah Logan Co-Opted Member (Parent Rep) Helen Hudson (Barbican Life) Richard Setchim	
Deputies and Guests: Fred Rodgers (Breton) Liz Hirst (Golden Lane Neighbourhood Forum) Charles-Etienne Lawrence	

1.	Apologies for Absence
	Nicola Baker, Brendan Barnes, Jo Boait, Richard Collins, Nigel Dixon, Andy Hope, Helen Hudson, Hannah Logan, Linda Partridge and Barnaby Spurrier had all sent apologies for absence.
2.	Approval of the Minutes of the meetings held on the 9th and 16th of April 2026
	The Minutes of the BAGC meetings held on the 9 th of April (AGM) and 16 th April 2026 were approved.
3.	Membership secretary's report
	The Barbican Association (BA) membership secretary reported that since the last major membership count, that took place in January 2026, the number of members had dropped 7% from 1491 to 1387. The number of leaseholder members had dropped 7.1% from 1295 to 1203. The secretary explained that most of both reductions in numbers was due to there being many members in January 2026 who had left the estate some while ago but had inadvertently left their Direct Debit/Standing Order active that continued to renew their membership. Consequently, the June data is a much more accurate reflection of the membership. The secretary stated that many new members are joining in numbers that should hopefully recover most of the lost numbers by the next membership audit in September.

4.	Barbican Summer Party planning
	Miranda Quinney, who is the planning lead for the Summer Party this year reported that posters will be displayed around the estate, including inside and outside the venue, St Giles' Cripplegate, to promote the event to be held on Saturday 12th September. Volunteers are needed to man entry stands and engage with residents to encourage membership sign-ups. The Barbican Association secretary will be there to offer immediate sign up of new members. A new initiative in 2026 is the introduction of QR codes at stalls which will provide information and links to various societies and The Barbican Association.
5.	Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Estate Management Working Party Chair
	Following David Bradshaw's resignation from the role at The Barbican Association Annual General Meeting in April, Bernard Hughes was nominated and approved as the new Anti-Social Behaviour and Estate Management Working Party Chair.
6.	Treasurer's Report
	The Treasurer reported that the combined cash balance on the Barbican Association bank accounts as of the 31st May 2026 was £148,972.51. Significant items since that date that will change that balance include: • Barbican Life advertising amounts receivable of c.£14,700 • Barbican Life expenses payable of c.£11,500. The March 2026 edition of the Barbican Life magazine generated net income before tax for the BA of c.£7,300 and the June 2026 edition of the magazine generated net income before tax for the BA of c.£6,600. Refunds and other adjustments relating to prior editions resulted in net income before tax for the BA of c.£12,300 for the year to date. BA membership subscriptions in the year to date have been c.£6,000. This represents the net amounts received directly from members still paying by standing order and via the Membershipmojo platform. As the costs of the platform can be reimbursed by the Corporation, some investigation is required to determine those amounts. Amounts still to be claimed from the Corporation for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026 are c.£13,300, with a further c.£7,700 of reimbursable expenses incurred so far in the current quarter. Approximately £25,800 has been spent on legal and professional fees in the year to date. Bank interest received in the year to date is c.£2,500. An adjustment has been made to the balance of the accumulated fund because of verifying the outstanding debtor balances with the help of the Assistant Treasurer. Other items represent amounts received from the Corporation regarding the summer party and amounts received currently under investigation.

7.	Tech News – Digital Cards, ASB Reporter, Data issues
	Webmaster Stephan Solominidis announced that a new digital membership card has been launched, currently with over 500 downloads, aiming to reduce printing costs and improve member engagement. For people who've been renewing their membership since the start of June, the data shows that roughly 1 in 3 of them still request a physical option. As a result, it is anticipated that the printing costs will be reduced by roughly two-thirds. The ASB reporting system has been simplified from 17 fields to 1-3 fields to make reporting easier and faster. Reports are logged and approved before being included in public statistics, with sensitive personal information anonymized after a reasonable retention period. At some point the BAGC needs to decide on whether the ASB data should be accessible to the world or just BA members. Stephan has lightly redrafted the very out of date privacy policy. There were changes in the suppliers of data processors and companies that were used, helping to much improve the veracity of the policy. However, it is envisaged that the Communications Group will look at this further.
8.	Four Working Party reports
	(a). Planning Group There was a discussion on whether planning updates should be placed on the BA website as some relevant members are not receiving all documents. Recent planning decisions, such as the Silk Street campaign, have raised concerns about the impact on residents, including loss of sunlight and daylight. The reduction of the planning classification subcommittee from 35 to 11 members is a concern for resident representation. The Group is monitoring developments and considering how to respond to planning issues affecting the estate. (b) Climate and Zero Carbon Working Party (CWP) The CWP has met twice recently, focusing on grants, finance, and technical solutions for heating and cooling. The AMBUE study has been extended to include cooling, with reports planned based on winter and summer data. The CWP is exploring engineering solutions and engaging with residents to address heating and cooling challenges. Discussions include the impact of erratic weather patterns and the potential extension of heating periods, which would affect service charges. To improve the communication of the work of the CWP it has been decided that CWP presentations and minutes would be uploaded to the BA website under 'Events'. (c) Anti-Social Behaviour and Estate Management Working Party. As Bernard Hughes has only today become the Chair of the Working Party, there was nothing to report. (d) Communications Group The current BA Communications Group was first set up in April 26, and the purpose of that group was to have a specific focus on the rebrand and clearer positioning of the Barbican Association Newsletter and Barbican Life magazine. However, it has become clear that several related areas also need more attention including issues around clarity, consistency, privacy, reporting, and the overall structure of resident communications. The Group are looking at rebranding and redesigning the BA Newsletter and Barbican Life along with the websites, which they feel should be related but clearly distinct. The BA Newsletter should become the main practical communications channel, making it more regular, more useful, and easier for residents to rely on. We also wish to clarify Barbican Life's role in relation to BA communications, as well as improving the BA website as an archive and reference source for residents, including minutes, guidance, and governance material. The Communications Group is also aiming to improve the privacy policy and compliance with GDPR, tightening the WhatsApp moderation and wording. More generally the intention is to build a rolling content plan for the Newsletter with the aim of reflecting resident feedback and to include resident research in topic analysis. For example, by extracting topics from the WhatsApp discussions to discover what people are

	interested in, and common resident questions to inform content in the publications. The Groups is also considering the development of a light-touch editorial board or clearer terms of reference to support oversight and consistency.
9.	Safety Concerns: Thomas More Garden Playground & Multi-Court Pitch
	Charles-Etienne Lawrence stated that the playground equipment, installed in 2002, is outdated and requires replacement or significant repairs. The City of London is expected to cover some costs for playground surface repairs and netting replacement. The ensuing discussion led to Charles being provided with contact details of several people including the RCC Chair and the editor of the BA Newsletter.
10.	Funding application – Decades of Us
	Liz Hirst introduced the "Decades of Us" project as a resident-led storytelling initiative to capture and celebrate the estate's history through digital recordings. A short film on their work was shown to the BAGC. The project asked for matched funding (with Golden Lane) of £600 from the Barbican Association to support materials for conversation stations at summer parties and the funds were approved.
11.	AOB and Dates of Next Meetings
	On the 15th of July outside Lauderdale Tower there will be an Exchanging Places event, where the police are bringing their lorry, which is for re-education of cyclists. Safety concerns have been raised about cycling on the estate, with plans to launch a bicycle user group focused on safety and security. The police will conduct bike marking and provide free helmets and locks to encourage safe cycling. BA Steering Group (Elected Members and RCC Chair ONLY) Monday 7th September 2026 5.30 pm Lilac Room BA General Council Thursday 24th September 6.30pm Lilac Room