

The Barbican Association General Council

Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday 11th September 2025

At 630 pm in The Lilac Room

Present (crossed out not present):

Elected Members: Jan Marc Petroschka (Chair) Randall Anderson (Deputy Chair) David Bradshaw Adam Hogg Sandra Jenner Nathan Morse Deborah Oliver David Preston (Secretary) Richard Setchim Sarah Stobbs	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) Sandy Wilson (Shakespeare) Graham Spickett-Jones (Speed) Brendan Barnes (Thomas More) Nicola Baker (Wallside) Fionnuala Hogan (Willoughby)
Other Members: Tony Swanson (Hon Treasurer) Jo Boait (RCC) Hannah Logan Co-Opted Member (Parent Rep) Helen Hudson (Barbican Life) Nigel Dixon (Assistant Treasurer)	
Deputies and Guests: Bernard Hughes (Willoughby) Guy Nesbitt (Speed) Fred Rodgers (Breton) Roy Sully (Shakespeare)	

1.	Apologies for Absence
	Nigel Dixon, John Holme, Andy Hope, Sandra Jenner, Graham Spickett-Jones, and Sandy Wilson had sent apologies for absence.
2.	Approval of Minutes of meetings held on March 13th, April 10th (AGM), April 17th and June 19th
	A one-word typo was discovered by a member of the BAGC within the AGM minutes. This was subsequently amended and the corrected version posted on the website. All four sets of minutes were approved.

3.	Membership Review
	<p>The Membership secretary reported that as of 3rd September 2025, the BA has 1534 members, of which 270 remained in the 'Barbican Membership' category which is meaningless in terms of what we know of our members. Further data presented showed that the total number of leaseholders among those not in the 'Barbican Membership' category is 1034, occupying 832 flats. This latter number is significant as, to have 50% of leasehold properties having at least <u>one</u> leaseholder living there we need 1005 such properties and so the BA is currently (1005 - 832 =) 173 short of that number.</p> <p>The Membership secretary stressed the importance of finding the true category of all those 270 members mentioned above and that it was very likely that when that is achieved, the BA membership will fall short of the 1005 required. It was recommended that a recruitment campaign to attract new members should be drafted and implemented.</p>
4.	Treasurer's Report
	<p>The Treasurer reported that despite the lower interest rates of the BA accounts, the BA finances remain in a strong position with a current overall balance of around 200k GBP.</p>
5.	Lauderdale Police Proposal
	<p>The Lauderdale House Group representative presented a paper concerning a suggestion for the City of London police to construct a storage unit within their garage area to hold evidential documents. An alternative muted placement of the storage unit was in Bunyan Court garage. Numerous views were given, many against the idea and others for. Summing up the Chair stressed that as this was not an official proposal yet but that as there is much unused car parking space, the BA needs to take a strategic approach to define what we would prefer the unused car parking spaces across the estate should become.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 1: A group to be put together to work on a strategy to determine the BA position on the future use of the excess car parking and other spaces.
6.	Clarifying attendance of BAGC
	<p>There have been some issues over how non-BAGC members could attend BAGC meetings. From the discussion that ensued there seemed to be a degree of uncertainty both as to what was the current position and what was felt would be most fair and effective a process moving forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 2: A group to be put together to work on a position statement and process as to how non-BAGC members can attend BAGC meetings in future.

7.	Approval of Calendar of Meetings for 2026
	<p>The following dates were agreed for the BA Steering Group in 2026:</p> <p>Monday 12th January 2026 5.30 pm Lilac Room Monday 23rd February 2026 5.30 pm Lilac Room Monday 16th March 2026 5.30pm (AGM Planning) Lilac Room Monday 18th May 2026 5.30 pm Lilac Room Monday 7th September 2026 5.30 pm Lilac Room Monday 19h October 5.30 pm 2026 Lilac Room</p> <p>The following dates were agreed for the BA General Council in 2026:</p> <p>Thursday 5th February 6.30 pm 2026 Lilac Room Thursday 12th March 6.30 pm 2026 Lilac Room Thursday 16th (or 9th) April 6.30 pm 2026 (AGM) City of London School for Girls *** Thursday 23rd April 6.30 pm 2026 (Elections) Lilac Room Thursday 18th June 6.30 pm 2026 Lilac Room Thursday 24th September 6.30 pm 2026 Lilac Room Thursday 12th November 6.30 pm 2026 Lilac Room</p> <p>*** School to confirm date availability in January 2026</p>

8.	Working Party Reports
	<p>The Anti-social behaviour and Estate Management group has met once since the June BAGC and the notes from that meeting will be sent to the Secretary in due course.</p> <p>The Planning group has not met since the June BAGC, but it was reported that, due to some specialist knowledge being required, the membership of the group is calling for new additional members. Notes from future group meetings will be sent to the Secretary.</p> <p>The Future Proofing of the Estate group has not met since the June BAGC, but a second meeting is being organised. Notes from future group meetings will be sent to the Secretary.</p> <p>The Communications group has met once since the June BAGC and the notes from that meeting have been to the Secretary. Some significant progress has been made, and it is hoped that further meetings will provide a strategic platform that will inform the developmental improvement of various communications channels such as the website. Notes from future group meeting will be sent to the Secretary.</p> <p>Action 3: All four groups to continue to send notes from their meetings to the Secretary.</p>
9.	London Wall West
	<p>A judicial review has been quickly granted to contest the planning approval of London Wall West. A request was made for the BA to underwrite the London Wall West campaign to the sum of 40k GBP which was unanimously approved by the BAGC. On the evidence of previous campaigns where crowdfunding was so successful, it is likely that the funds will not be needed but as reported in Item 4, the BA has the resources available to underwrite. However, it was noted that should the review prove unsuccessful, the cost of appeal would be beyond the BA resources.</p>

10.	Remote attendance at BAGC meetings
	<p>Some BAGC members had requested that remote access should be considered as, especially for those whose lives involve much travel, this would improve their attendance and overall involvement at meetings.</p> <p>The discussion revolved around many issues including the possible need to split meetings into two parts, one for BAGC members only and the second for all who wished to attend (see Item 6 above), and some technical concerns related to the Lilac Room as a space, the technology to be employed and privacy/security matters. It was general felt that a dedicated knowledgeable subgroup needs to be formed to consider and evaluate the option of future online attendance at BAGC meetings.</p> <p>Action 4: A group to be formed to consider and if beneficial to compose a plan to introduce online access to BAGC meetings.</p>
11.	Financial Matters
	<p>In the BAGC Minutes of 13th March 2025 it was reported that the BA was due the sum of £34,720 for legal expenses from the City of London. Adam Hogg, who was BA Chair in March. reported that these funds have still to be paid and that he hoped this will be finally settled after a tribunal is held in November.</p> <p>Action 5: Adam Hogg to update the BAGC on the progress toward the funds being paid after the tribunal is held In November.</p>
12.	BA Secretary contract
	<p>The Chair explained that the current Secretary has been working in this role for one year on a contract that is no longer congruent with the <i>de facto</i> work being done. A new contract has been drawn up with an appropriately increased annual remuneration.</p>
13.	AOB
	<p>An issue concerning recent local traffic congestion was raised but the Committee felt this was not a matter for the BA and should be redirected to the City of London, initially via one of the councillors.</p>
14.	Dates of future BAGC meetings in 2025
	<p>Thursday 23rd October 630pm Lilac Room</p>