

Minutes of the Barbican Association (BA) Annual General Meeting

Date and Time: 10th April 2025 at 7pm

Venue: Main Hall, City of London School for Girls

182 Members were present.

1. Welcome

Jan-Marc Petroschka, acting Chair of the BA, welcomed everyone to the AGM. Thanks were given to outgoing chairs Adam Hogg (Barbican Association - BA) and Sandra Jenner (Residents Consultation Committee - RCC) for their work and dedication. Jo Boait, the new RCC Chair, was introduced and welcomed.

2. Outgoing Chair reviews the past year at the BA

Adam Hogg gave an engaging, informative review of the year past, highlighting both the progress made and the challenges ahead. *(A full transcript of the speech is available on the website).*

3. Presentation by Assistant Director of Community and Children's Services

Daniel Sanders, who has responsibility for the Barbican Estate, presented a well-structured overview of his first full year in the post, with much optimism for the future of the Estate. *(A full transcript of the speech is available on the website).*

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Tony Swanson, BA Honorary Treasurer gave a report on the BA finances.

The profit from Barbican Life magazine increased from £26,065 to an impressive £43,544 year on year through more effective advertising by the editor and her assistant.

Ahead of the migration of resident memberships to the new Membership Mojo Scheme introduced in 2024/5, subscription income was boosted from £6,840 to £8,698.

Another positive for the Barbican Association's funds has been the growth in Bank Interest reflecting the overall increase in interest rates.

The successful BQA Crowd Funding Campaign fully reimbursed the BA's expenditure on legal costs incurred during the year. This is testimony to the many Barbican residents who donated to this cause.

The BA's service charge legal challenge (Section 20) expenses of £34,720.80 will be recouped in the 2025 financial year.

As in previous years, the Corporation of London has reimbursed the eligible Recognised Tenant's Association expenses submitted biannually during the year.

The loss for the year 2023 has been transformed into a £14,018 overall profit this year increasing the Accumulated Fund for the year to a healthy £197,211.

Overall, it has been a good year for the Barbican Association's finances. The accounts were officially approved.

5. Election of Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Auditor and Nine General Council members

Honorary Treasurer, Tony Swanson offered himself for re-election as Honorary Treasurer and was re-elected unopposed. Honorary Auditor, Tony Croot offered himself for re-election as the Honorary Auditor and was re-elected unopposed.

There were nine vacancies for places on the General Council. Six existing members had offered themselves for re-election: Randall Anderson, David Bradshaw, Adam Hogg, Sandra Jenner, Deborah Oliver and Jan Marc Petroschka. Three new individuals had applied to be an elected member before the deadline: Nathan Morse, Richard Setchim and Sarah Stobbs. There being only nine applicants for nine posts, all were approved and elected.

6. Constitutional Amendments

Following some concerns about the BA Constitution reported at previous BAGC meetings, Jane Smith and Brendan Barnes were tasked with identifying and constructing the amendments needed. Jane Smith outlined to the AGM the background and detailed the recommended changes required to the Constitution. After a healthy and lengthy discussion, the amendments were officially approved with voting as follows: Against = 1; Abstain = 22; Approve = 83.

7. Any Other Business

The Chair reported that he had recently attended several meetings relating to the proposed development at 1 Silk Street, EC2Y 8HQ. There is rightly much concern amongst residents generally, but especially those living in the proximity of what is to become a very tall and wide building. The Chair believes this will become the major challenge for the BA in the months and years to come.

Dates of the remaining 2025 BAGC General Council meetings are: 17th April; 19th June; 21st August; and 23rd October. All meetings are to be held in the Lilac Room at 7pm.