

## **BAGC**

Minutes of meeting on 2 May 2013

**Present:** Jane Smith, Bruce Badger, Randall Anderson, Tim Macer, Robert Barker, David Bradshaw, Sarah Hudson, elected; Cliff Paice, treasurer; Brian Parkes, Speed; John Whitehead, Breton; Gordon Griffiths, Bunyan; John Taysum, Bryer; Stan Booth, Andrewes

**Apologies:** David Graves, Garth Leder, Gillian Laidlaw, Simon Ebbins, Alberto Garciga, Phil Sharples, Richard Collins, Nigel Dixon, Mary Bonar, Pat Spicer, Nigel Walmsley, Steve Quilter, John Tomlinson, Angela Starling

The chair welcomed the re-elected BAGC members and welcome Sarah Hudson as a newly elected member. She thanked David Graves, who hadn't stood for election this year, for all his hard work as an elected member and noted that he would still be on the BAGC, representing Seddon.

**1&2. Minutes of 14 March BAGC and of AGM – approved.**

### **3. Matters arising**

14 March item 12 – Bryer Court. John Taysum had complained to Planning, not the Town Clerk, and had had no reply. The chair had written to Michael Bennett about landlord's consent, and had been promised a reply soon; Randall Anderson had no definitive reply from planning, and building control was looked after by a half-time officer.

[After the meeting Michael Bennett replied to say Virgin's work had had landlord's consent, the BEO had seen technical reports on noise and vibration and had not consulted Bryer because the BEO did not think residents would be affected. The chair has responded that residents would inevitably have had concerns and should have been consulted – and asked for retrospective consultation even now.]

### **4. Election of officers**

The following were elected, there being no other candidates:

Chair: Jane Smith; Hon Sec: Robert Barker; Deputy chair: Tim Macer.

### **5. Appointment of chairs of subcommittees, groups, etc and terms of reference**

Chairs and subcommittees were reappointed with the following amendments:

- \*The cinemas group may switch its remit to the London Film School – to be confirmed
- \* Garth Leder will take over as chair of Planning from Randall Anderson. Randall was thanked for all his work on this committee. It was noted that he needs a more up-to-date list of BAGC members to send the planning email to each week.
- \* Further additions to subcommittee members' names.
- \* The St Alphage group will include another representative from Andrewes. Stan Booth to let Tim Macer know who.

The chair said that she planned to come back with a proposal to form a Streetscene subcommittee in due course, to handle the review of Barbican Area Strategy, and consultations due on Silk Street, Beech Street, etc. Steve Presland of Highways is putting in place a better consultation process. She wanted to talk to the RCC chair before suggesting terms of reference, but any member who was interested should contact her in the meantime.

John Whitehead mooted a gardens group, but it was pointed out that the RCC already had a Gardens

Advisory Group.

## **7. Thoughts on the AGM**

The chair said she had received replies from Peter Lisley to the AGM questions: see attached Responses.

It was agreed to ask the person who had volunteered to help the BA with research/admin to monitor the City's website for consultation documents.

On moribund housegroups, the council felt the BA had no policing role, but should advise if approached. Suggested: a note in the newsletter on forming housegroups.

On "too much on the agenda", the council felt on balance that it was good to have an outside speaker, which attracted members to the AGM.

On the lack of audibility, the Hon Sec said he would find out next year if there was an induction loop and make sure it was available. Clip-on radio mikes were suggested.

To enable latecomers to be distributed more easily, some reserved notices should be put on the front seats, then removed when the meeting started, and there should be more seats on the lake side.

## **8. Treasurer: authorisations**

Agreed: to delete three extant authorisations which are no longer active:

Milton Court development

Parker McMillan licence appeal

Wood Street tables licence

Stan Booth said that he feared Wood Street bar would come back with more requests.

The following authorisations remain:

St Alphage –Concrete –

Cinemas –

The treasurer recommended increasing the hourly rate for the assistant membership secretary. The chair supported the increase and the council approved it, backdated to January 2013.

## **9. The Arts Club room**

Tim Macer said Michael Bennett indicated the room would cost about £18000 a year, on average £10 a flat if on the service charge. Tim asked BAGC members to consult their house groups before the proposal came to the RCC – in as neutral a way as possible. Arguments in favour: the need for community spaces (e.g. dementia cafés). Arguments against: costs would only rise; the room was smallish and dingy; no tradition of use of the room other than by the Arts Club; a disconnect in City policy, between adult social services supporting communities and older people's independence, and the BEO wanting a commercial rent for a space which had never had any rental income. Randall Anderson pointed out that Tudor Rose Court already had facilities for things like a dementia café, which it \*might\* be possible to develop. Agreed: BAGC members would consult their house groups and the BA Chair would write to Ade Adetosoye, Director of Community and Children's Services, pointing out the disconnect in City policy and the need for more community spaces (cc to Martin Dudley).

## **10. Street Scene consultation on new podium seating**

It was agreed that the BA would do nothing about the forthcoming consultation. That would not prevent

individual House Groups from issuing their thoughts.

Bruce Badger was still concerned about the reference to listed building consent. The chair said she planned to ask the Chief Planning Officer to clarify the conflicting opinions and had asked for reference to it in the questionnaire to be deleted. Since this questionnaire is to find out the opinion of residents once residents' views are known other decisions fall out, including whether LBC is needed.

#### **11. TV/Broadband**

Randall Anderson had no update. He understood the undertakers had sent back their detailed comments on the contract but he hadn't seen them.

#### **12. Underfloor heating**

There were several questions on this, which Sarah Hudson pointed out the City should answer in its paper to the RCC.

#### **13. Urgent consultations**

The chair said she had been contacted by the Worshipful Company of Musicians, who wanted to take over some office space in the old GSMD and replace a door to the Highwalk at the west end of Speed, about consulting us. She will put them in touch with Garth, Robert, Brian and Tim. Robert Barker pointed out we needed at least five objections to bring the Heron Pavilion to a Planning & Transportation Committee meeting.

#### **14. Crossrail**

It was suggested the Crossrail meeting for all residents should take place in September.

#### **15. House groups to confirm names of BAGC reps by end of May**

Meeting ended at 9.50 pm

#### **Future meetings (8pm start):**

**4 July 2013**

5 Sept 2013

28 Nov 2013

23 Jan 2014

13 March 2014

30 April 2014 = AGM (NB Wednesday)

8 May – officer election