

## **Minutes of meeting 13 November 2014**

Present: Jane Smith, chair; Cliff Paice, treasurer; Robert Barker, hon sec; Tim Macer, deputy chair; David Bradshaw, David Murray, Sarah Hudson, Randall Anderson, elected members; John Whitehead, Breton; Jenny Addison, Frobisher; Helen Hudson, Defoe; Bruce Badger, Ben Jonson; Tony Swanson, Lauderdale; Anthony Croot, social secretary; Richard Collins, Lambert Jones Mews; Gillian Laidlaw, Mountjoy; Brian Parkes, Speed; Natalie Robinson, Andrewes; Pat Spicer, Shakespeare; Nigel Dixon, assistant treasurer; Averil Baldwin, Thomas More.

Apologies: Garth Leder, Gordon Griffiths, John Taysum, Janet Wells, Gianetta Corley, Kai Virtanen, Helen Kay, Mary Bonar.

### **2. Minutes of meeting 11 September 2014**

Agreed.

### **3. Matters arising**

The chair said she had not done anything about reviewing the BA's policy on requests for funding. She invited volunteers to help and Richard Collins and David Murray agreed to help.

### **4. BA events**

Cultural hub: 6.30pm, 1 December, Museum of London. The chair received approval to pay for wine afterwards from MoL caterers.

Crossrail presentation: 21 January, CLSG. Agreed: the BA to do drinks afterwards. Wine team alerted.

Town Clerk presentation: 7 pm, 24 February, CLSG. Wine team needed.

### **5. AGM date**

Agreed: move to 20th or 22nd April, CLSG Main Hall. Wine team needed.

### **6. Barbican Area Review: do pedestrian footsteps cause problems?**

No problems reported by: Gilbert, Bunyan, Defoe, Mountjoy. Speed reported most pedestrians walked over the car park; Brian Parkes was aware of no specific complaints. Natalie Robinson will report back for Andrewes; the chair will write to Mary Bonar and Ken Ayres about Wallside and The Postern.

### **7. London Underground noise**

Richard Collins explained the long history of noise from the Underground under Lambert Jones Mews and Brandon Mews, and to a lesser extent under Defoe and Willoughby. Brandon Mews residents supported the attached letter. Tim Holloway (attending from LJ Mews) said noise and vibration could be mitigated at no great cost if done early. Agreed: Richard Collins's suggestion to write to the MD of LUL. Randall Anderson suggested raising tannoy noise in any meeting. Robert Barker suggested writing to Paul Monaghan, the City engineer involved with Crossrail.

### **8. Girls' School evening gym noise**

Some residents near the school were having severe noise problems in the evening from the use of the gym by volleyball players. Complaints to the school had received either no response or a bland response via the BEO; one resident had asked the players to tone their noise down, but been verbally abused and almost assaulted. The school had rebuffed the BA and house groups' attempts to seek a meeting, but Martin Dudley, a governor, had elicited a promise from the Chair of the governors for a meeting: a date was being set up. Also, the BA Chair wrote to the Director of

Community Services, asking him to direct the CLSG to send responses directly to residents rather than via the BEO.

### **9. London Film School**

John Whitehead said that the LFS was to move into the remainder of Exhibition Hall 1, under Breton and part of Ben Jonson. The LFS planned one more public meeting before submitting their planning application in February 2015. Schedule: preparatory work in 2015, construction in 2016, move in in 2017. The plans include two cinemas and two double-height sound stages, and need four substantial holes in the slab underneath BJ and Breton. The BA's working party was seeking to meet the LFS, and would welcome any comments from residents to [lfsfeedback@btinternet.com](mailto:lfsfeedback@btinternet.com).

The Arts Centre would move plant at street level into Ben Jonson car park. Robert Barker was concerned that planning permission with the usual protections against noise/vibration was sought, and wondered if residents would prefer the podium works to be done at the same time. John Whitehead offered to consult his house group.

### **10. Concrete**

Sarah Hudson asked after the result from the sounding of residents in Shakespeare. The chair suggested she ask the house group chair.

### **11. Frobisher drainage**

Jenny Addison reported that Frobisher had made representations to the City and were awaiting developments. No section-20 notices had been sent out.

### **12. Treasurer**

The treasurer said that debtors were low thanks to the work of the assistant treasurer.

### **13. Membership**

The membership secretary, following a conversation with Tim Macer, had mocked up a new web presence in Word Press and invited feedback. Subcommittee chairs could add their own content, and so develop the site gradually. Tim Macer, Bruce Badger, and Sarah Hudson offered to give feedback.

### **14. Social activities**

Tony Croot reported:

-Quiz, 19 January, Artillery Arms, 7 for 7.30: an hour questions, half hour break, another hour. The upper room holds 30 people. Charge around £10, including buffet; drinks to be bought individually from the bar. Thanks to John Whitehead for being quizmaster. Suggested: to include a prize in the costs.

-Wine tasting at El Vino (date t.b.a): £35 a head, including all wine and buffet.

### **15. Sports development questionnaire**

Agreed: to suggest they survey residents. The chair welcomed help from Robert Barker and Gillian Laidlaw on what to say about protecting our amenity. Also, Virgin Active are to refurbish at night.

Agreed: to ask at RCC re measures to avoid disturbing residents.

### **16. Planning**

See report. Tim Macer said he would ask Willoughby residents to gauge their priorities on hours for the office tenants' terrace at 21 Moorfields.

Randall Anderson suggested the BA look at the consultation on the Cheapside and Guildhall Area Strategy, which included the Museum of London roundabout.

David Murray had discussed with the former YMCA's developer Redrow about renaming, which requires Listed Building Consent. Redrow suggested some weird names, like Sappho; the Museum of London has suggested Elizabeth Fry and Moll Flanders.

#### **17. Licensing**

No applications.

#### **18. Response from City on light pollution**

Agreed: the chair to write back, welcoming a Code of Practice and offering to engage.

#### **19 Window cleaning contract**

John Whitehead was concerned that with a bigger contract the individual cleaners would vary. Tim Macer offered to raise at the RCC.

#### **20 RCC**

Tim Macer reported:

- VFM had registered some 600 households, and started to communicate.
- Heating. Tim was trying to explain the new contract – and what it meant – with the December service charge statement. The cost increase is in line with RPI, and lower than energy inflation. Possible future improvements are stuck with the City solicitor.
- The RCC would be looking for new working party members: three-year terms would be renewed in March.
- A new City finance system would mean a separate service charge invoice for every “contract” – ie separate for flat, car park space, baggage store, etc.
- The BEO was working on guidance on what buildings insurance covers, to produce something residents could show to insurance companies.

#### **21. AoB**

David Murray reported that Bunyan had sought funding for their balconies in bloom campaign.

End: 9.30 pm.