

## **BAGC meeting 28 January 2016**

### **Minutes**

Present:

Jane Smith, Robert Barker, Tim Macer, Randall Anderson, Bruce Badger, Paul Clifford, elected members; John Tomlinson, Cromwell; Katie Davies, Frobisher, Helen Hudson, Defoe; Gillian Laidlaw, Mountjoy; Pat Spicer, Shakespeare; Averil Baldwin, Thomas More; David Graves, Seddon; John Schrader, Gilbert; Brian Parkes, Speed; Richard Collins, Lambert Jones; Kai Virtanen, Membership secretary, Tony Swanson, treasurer

In attendance and speaking: Francis Pugh, Gilbert House chair; Daniel Gerring, member of Mountjoy House Group

#### **1. Apologies**

John Taysum, John Whitehead, David Bradshaw, Nigel Dixon, Jenny Addison. Sarah Hudson, Natalie Robinson, Mary Hickman, Gordon Griffiths, Helen Kay

2. The chair welcomed Katie Davies, standing in for Frobisher

#### **3. Minutes of meeting on 26 September 2015**

Approved.

#### **4. Matters arising**

The chair reminded people that the next meeting was on 7 April, not 31 March. She confirmed that the AGM would be on 28 April at 7.30 in the Girl's School, and that Carolyn Dwyer, director of the Built Environment for the City had agreed to be our speaker.

#### **5 Centre for Music**

Gillian Laidlaw said that Mountjoy residents had decided at the outset to engage constructively with what happened on the Museum of London site. She said the report raised lots of issues and did not seem to have access to the outcome of the area strategy. Barbara Newman (CC) was arranging a meeting with the assistant town clerk for reps of Mountjoy, Thomas More and BA.

The chair had written to the Town Clerk seeing early consultation. John Tomlinson (CC, and chair of board of Arts centre) said that a reply was on its way – there would be consultation, the business case would take about a year and a half and not start till April. The key issues were summarised as

- moving large numbers of people through the estate from the Centre to the Barbican centre
- the possibility (implicit in the feasibility study) of an entrance to the whole estate at the Museum of London site, where everyone would arrive and be directed through to other cultural hub places.

Robert Barker mentioned the Barbican Listed Management guidelines, which didn't seem to be before the feasibility study group: they protected significant vistas.

Randall Anderson said he was the BRC representative on the Cultural Hub working party; he would be happy to convey residents' concerns.

Agreed that the chair will convene an extended Cultural Hub working group (to include new representatives from Mountjoy and Thomas More) to discuss the BA's approach.

## **5. Floodlights on school pitches**

Averil Baldwin said that her house group had written to the Girl's school to object in principle.

Bruce Badger from Ben Jonson said his house group were fairly relaxed about the light, more concerned about noise – but if it was all over by 6pm then there wasn't too much of a problem.

## **6 Planning update**

On Wagamama, Robert Barker said he thought they had to apply for a licence variation of they got a new door.

The chair asked for authorisation to spend up to £2000 on professional advice (planning or noise consultancy) in fighting the principle of maintaining the planning condition preventing doors onto Moor Lane. That was agreed

Helen Kay said in her report that we needed to set up a liaison group on Bernard Morgan house

## **7. Licensing update**

Robert Barker said that the Willoughby House group had put together a very good objection to the licence. There would be hearing on 9 Feb at 11 am. Negotiations had secured some important concessions leaving the terraces closed between 6pm and 9 am and negotiations were continuing. In addition we needed a building management plan for any use of alcohol

## **8. City's bid for funding for a low emission zone**

One idea proposed missing from the list was of taxi ranks

Randall Anderson said he thought what the City were proposing wasn't radical enough – there needed to be some definitive ideas on traffic and its routes through the City and cutting down traffic almost completely from Beech Street.

If anyone has more radical ideas to propose please let the chair know or respond when the paper will be sent out.

Bruce Badger suggested enforcing 20 mph

## **9. Treasurer's report**

Tony Swanson presented the reports. He had not yet had final confirmation from HMRC that the tax return was in order. And there were some recoverable expenses from the City not yet paid. He biggest difference over the previous year was no expenditure on professional fees for concrete.

## **10 Membership report**

Kai Virtanen said there were still 284 people paying their standing orders into the Santander account. He wanted to shut it.

Agreed that membership secretary, treasurer, and chair should discuss and resolve

## **11. Social secretary**

Tony Croot had resigned as social secretary.

The BAGC thanked him for his work as social secretary.

There were no suggestions for a new secretary

## **12. RCC report**

Tim Macer reported on the underfloor heating working party: the City's consultants (Concero) were preparing the invitation to tender for the replacement heating control system (the central control system) and the plan is for one to be procured and installed in time for autumn heating. It should give the BEO more control, and the ability to anticipate cold snaps and program the energy load accordingly to avoid the problem experience with the present system where a mild night means not enough charge going in to keep people warm the next day.

The BEO has been working with environmental health and others to revise the Alterations guidance for residents. There's a new draft being looked at by the SLA working party at the moment. Then he will send it to house groups, but if anyone particularly interested they should send him an email.

Then the residents information pack will be revised. Tim said it was the end of his term as chairman of RCC.

The chair proposed that the next chair of the RCC, if not already a member of the BAGC should be coopted as one. That was agreed.

### **13. Other subcommittee reports**

Bruce badger said he had been chasing the BEO about a huge estimate for works – most of which were for roof leaks. These should be covered by the guarantee but no one could find it. Randall Anderson was surprised because the SLA working party had asked for information on when the roof guarantees expired and a list had been provided. So they must have had the information then.

Robert Barker said that the Moor Lane lift had been out of operation since yesterday, cutting off an exit at the east side of the estate for anyone with mobility difficulties. He would write to Steve Presland. Tim Macer said that this lift would need to be shut for 2 days in February while a crane lifted the new planters up to Willoughby highwalk

### **14 AoB**

Gillian Laidlaw raised the criticism on BarbicanTalk of the BA never doing anything. Tim had responded but she wondered whether the BA needed to improve its communications. The chair said she would put it on as a future agenda item.

Bruce Badger said that still nothing had been done about the bike rack by Cote that blocked people with pushchairs/wheelchairs getting out of Ben Jonson. The Arts Centre says it has no money, the BEO says its not their land. He proposed to write to the Town Clerk to get some joined up action.

### **15 Next meeting**

**7 April 8 pm (note change from 31 March)**

Meeting ended 9.50 pm