



Representing the interests of Barbican Residents

Minutes

of the

Meeting of The Barbican Association General Council
held by Zoom at 7.00pm on Thursday 15th of July

Present

Adam Hogg, Jenny Nisbet, Sandy Wilson, Tony Swanson, Ted Reilly, Richard Tomkins, Erin Summers, Fiona Lean, Heather Thomas, Sue Cox, Christopher Makin, David Graves, Helen Hudson, Josh West, Tim Cox, Humfrey Brandes, Lionel Meyringer, Graham Bulpitt, Mary Bonar, Fionnuala Hogan, Fred Rodgers.

Apologies

Randall Anderson, Jane Smith, David Bradshaw, Ian Dixon, Nigel Dixon, Martin Luff (Josh West), Helen Hulson (Fiona Lean) Andy Hope (Fred Rodgers)

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the Meeting held on 21st April 2021 were agreed. The only matter arising was the confirmation of the £20,000 grant for meeting facilities in the Arts Centre reported by the Chair, who added that JS will give an update on this at the next meeting

The draft 6-month Accounts

The meeting noted the draft 6-month accounts showing a bank balance of £200,000. The Treasurer reported that all payments were up to date with Corporation Tax having been paid before it was due in August.

Making the BA more effective

The meeting discussed the paper Elected Member Views on making the BA more effective and the Chair having thanked Jane Smith, David Bradshaw, Ian Dixon, Fionnuala Hogan, Fiona Lean, Tim Cox, David Graves for their written submissions, which were taken as read.

The Elected Members views, which had been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as a guide. In addition, contributions were made by Richard Tompkins, Jenny Nisbet, Sandy Wilson, Helen Hudson, Christopher Makin, Ted Reilly, David Graves, Mary Bonar, Lionel Meyringer, Fionnuala Hogan, Sue Cox, Fiona Lean, Graham Bulpitt; Tim Cox and the Chair at the meeting.

The meeting discussed:

(a) Representation and involvement of residents and (b) Communication together. Contributions ranged from extending membership to tenants – some House Groups has changed constitutions to permit this; that lack of involvement might be because residents are content; using some BA funds for social events; and how to communicate with residents.

(c) Common Councillors. Contributions included having a slate of BA recommended candidates; the City consults but does it listen; Ward surgeries are very helpful but attendance poor; RCC working parties have enabled contact with officers; the Chair had good access to senior officers, as a result of Jane Smith

having developed these but doubted he was listened to; the BA should become more involved at Ward elections in questioning candidates; CCs and Aldermen from the two Wards are less than 20% of the total so have minimal influence but aren't delegates; and there was a line between what CCs think and what voters think;

(d) BA/RCC. Contributions included the confusion between the roles of the two; whether the roles could be explained to residents; that only 28% of members were on both the RCC and BAGC; the RCC does an amazing job; communication of the roles needs to be improved; and

(e) The way the BAGC works and (f) Relations with the City together, Contributions included that relations with the City were too cosy and a "provisional" BA was required, with GC members individually taking a tough stance on issues; challenging the City through the ballot box, the courts and the media; RCC working parties have enabled contact with officers; the Chair had good access to senior officers, as a result of Jane Smith having developed these but doubted he was listened to; that BA funds be used to pay for administrative assistance for the Chair; and that right to manage only appears to be possible block by block.

It was agreed that three working parties would be set up to consider the above issues and to report back by the end of August as the Policy and Resources Committee is due to decide on the future governance of the City including the future of the BRC and RCC at its meeting on 16 September.

The three working parties would be:

1. Communication with residents;
2. BA, CCs and the City; and
3. BA, RCC and BRC

Jenny Addison, Sandy Wilson and Fred Rodgers volunteered to join 2; and Helen Hudson, Sue Cox and Fionnuala Hogan volunteered to join 1. The Chair asked for further volunteers, including from other residents, to put their forward by 21 July

Any other urgent business

Ted Reilly asked the meeting to ratify the BA's support for his proposed petition to City Corporation to retain the Beech Street Zero Emissions Scheme.

Although the Hon Secretary pointed out that the BA's proposal re the scheme was in the public realm Richard Tompkins, Heather Thomas, Mary Bonar, Fionnuala and David Graves weren't in agreement with the wording of the petition. It was agreed that Ted Reilly would revise the wording and circulate it within the week,

Date of next meeting

16 September 2021.

BAGC dates

Meetings start at 7.00pm

18 November

RCC dates

Meetings start at 6.30pm

6 September

29 November

The meeting ended at 8.56 pm