

The Barbican Association General Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday, 21 July 2022 at 7.00pm by Zoom

Present:

Elected Members: Adam Hogg (Chair), Fred Rodgers (HonSec), Tony Swanson (HonTreas), Jim Davies (MembershipSec), David Bradshaw, Randall Anderson, Ted Reilly, Mark Bostock.	House Group Representatives & stand-ins: Lionel Meyringer (Andrewes), Helen Hulson (Ben Jonson), Karen Munroe (Cromwell), Helen Hudson (Defoe), Jenny Addison (Frobisher), Ian Dixon (Gilbert), Miranda Quinney (John Trundle), Heather Thomas (Lambert Jones), Liz Simpson (Seddon), Brenda Szlesinger (Thomas More), Fionnuala Hogan (Willoughby), Sandra Jenner (RCC)
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No.	Item
1.	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Deputy Chair: Jane Smith Brandon Mews: Humfrey Brandes Breton House: Andy Hope (Fred Rodgers standing in) Bunyan Court: Derek Penney Cromwell Tower: Tim Cox (Karen Mun standing in) Lauderdale Tower: Gail Beer Seddon House: David Graves (Liz Simpson standing in) Shakespeare Tower: Sandy Wilson Speed House: Christopher Makin Wallside: Mary Bonar</p>
2.	<p>Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes:</p> <p>Ian Dixon requested more clarity on payments by the scrutiny group. The minutes have been amended to include the following:</p> <p>The role of the scrutiny group is to approve proposed expenditure at the pre-commitment stage with payments being approved by the Treasurer. The idea is that when the LWW team want to commence a process that will result in an expense they submit the contract/scope of work or equivalent to the scrutiny group, whose job is to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the contract has an expense cap• that this commitment together with previous commitments is consistent with the overall approval given by the BAGC <p>The role does not include second guessing the need for any expenditure.</p> <p>And a correction: The "DC" referred to in the minutes should be "DS".</p> <p>Subject to these changes, the minutes 19th May were APPROVED.</p>

3.	<p>Matters arising:</p> <p>None</p>
4.	<p>Volunteers for Honorary Secretary:</p> <p>Chair thanked Fred Rodgers for his time as HonSec. No-one present volunteered to take over the role. Chair requested everyone to put feelers out amongst the residents. (TODO for EVERYONE)</p>
5.	<p>Barbican Quarter Action (BQA):</p> <p>General update:</p> <p><u>General comments from Chair + others:</u> Primary objective of BA is to suggest to the City to think hard about what to do with the site and not just automatically build whopping big revenue earning offices totally out of proportion with the surroundings. Formal planning application expected in November. Around 300 at the BQA meeting at St Giles'. Notes will be uploaded to the BA website soon. City of London (CoL) has produced new proposals very similar to the previous. The CoL glossy brochure graphics are favourable to their proposals and downplay the bulk. At the Court of Common Council 21st July, members "onside" petitioned the Court to consider (1) proper discussion (2) need for master plan for culture/Smithfield/changes to Art Centre. The petition failed.</p> <p>(TODO for EVERYONE)</p> <p>Chair requested for the BAGC to amplify the message to residents to: Make their views clear to the London Wall West project team: londonwallwest.co.uk Please cc action@londonstartshere.co.uk so we can log objections submitted BQA focusing on getting responses back and getting traction with common councillors and social media.</p> <p><u>Mark Bostock:</u> Members in the local wards are campaigning actively but the City are pressing to get planning in to avoid the risk that Bastion House might be listed in August 2024. City looking for as much money from the site to offset increasing costs of the new Museum of London. Very difficult to move the City from their mindset. City's baseline position is that Bastion House needs to go.</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> BQA needs to get sufficient councillors to question the proposal and decisions made in order to get the City to reconsider. BQA will be sending out a letter to all the councillors next week in order to grow opposition by after August City recess – targeting councillors outside our own wards.</p> <p><u>Ted Reilly:</u> Shaming city is good – discontent is good – need external force, too, from a superior body. A similar project in Oxford St was halted with help from experts we are now consulting. The discussion reached City Hall and Parliament with positive outcomes.</p> <p><u>Fred Rodgers:</u> BQA should have a written constitution to give more clarity to its position.</p> <p><u>Mark Bostock:</u> Constitution should remove resident nimbysism from the discussion.</p>

Expenditure update:

See the paper from Ted Reilly.

Approval for component of Phase 1 Spend – **VOTED and APPROVED**

Discussion over how the City doesn't seem to have gone out to market to look for other opportunities rather than offices e.g. Holocaust Memorial (which is having problems finding a location to gain planning permission).

70m is what the City will make if the planning permission is granted and is probably needed to fill the shortfall the City needs to build the new museum.

Randall Anderson:

Will try to get a report into the Finance Committee (capital projection for the city fund). There is a chart with capital in and out over the next 10 years. This might show details of the shortfall the LWW development is going to fill. The museum project is at risk if there isn't enough capital.

6. **Format of future GC meetings:**

Can we meet hybrid in Lilac? No.

Lilac unsuitable at the moment, too, because it's a small and enclosed space.

Carry on meeting virtually for now.

7. **Updates for information:**

Residents Consultation Committee:

See the report from the RCC Chair.

Fionnuala Hogan:

Have residents in Willoughby interested in joining the service charge working party (LSCWP) but don't know the process.

Sandra Jenner:

Seeking new members for LHSCWP.

Chair and Sandra have been working on the analysis of the BEO and produced a number of documents, leading to an agreement by the BRC for an independent review. The other part of the LSCWP looks at the service charge accounts and queries them from an accountancy perspective (liaising with Anne Mason – but responses are often incomplete and unhelpful at the moment). Personal view is that when we get new people on the committee then we should meet up and work out priorities and share out the workload.

One of the documents in the HEADS OF TERMS (HOT) which will go out to consultants to review structure / numbers / skill sets to see if the BEO is effective. Finalising draft now.

When Sandra knows where and when to see the tender, she will share the info with the BAGC for interested residents. **(TODO for SANDRA)**

Chair will find out who will be paying for the cost of the exercise. **(TODO for CHAIR)**

Fred Rodgers volunteered to join the LSCWP. **(TODO for RCC)**

Arts Centre Renewal:

See the report from Francis Pugh.

Mark Bostock:

Francis Pugh to be congratulated for taking the design team round to some of the flats. Claire Spencer CEO of Barbican Centre (BC) is keen to take advantage of another. BC is looking at the strategy side and meetings with the design team give us the opportunity to see where the BC is heading.

Last meeting on the 6th was the same date as the BQA meeting in St Giles' so it was not well attended. Get more people on the next ones.

1st meeting with Claire and with Tom Sleigh (Barbican Centre Board).

Claire is interested, knowing she's responsible for an arts centre embedded within a community of residents.

BA is committed to continued consultation. Further discussions in the autumn.

Suggest Francis takes Claire round again and extends the invite to the other non-resident members of the Barbican Centre Board.

Chair:

Will follow up – seeking minutes from the 1st meeting and dates for the next meetings. (TODO for CHAIR)

Chair apologised to Ian Dixon about accidentally leaving Gilbert House out of the notification for the Guildhall School's party.

Ian Dixon and Mark Bostock will liaise on how Gilbert House can setup the same arrangement which Frobisher has with the BC for consultations. (TODO for IAN and MARK)

Planning and Licensing:

See the report from Fred Rodgers.

Fred Rodgers:

Asked for a meeting with the planning officers to show the planners how residents are going to be affected by 1 Golden Lane. No responses yet.

Planning and Licensing:

See the report from David Bradshaw.

David Bradshaw:

Lot of work to produce the report. Ultimately, the goal is to present a report to discuss with CoL members and officers. Draft report to be produced prior and brought to BAGC for comment/input. David will have the draft report ready for the next meeting (but David might not be there). (TODO for DAVID)

Fred Rodgers:

Lot of vandalism in the wildlife gardens recently. Also cigarette stubbs. Also problems in Thomas More Garden with dogs. We need to make sure that residents remember that the gardens are for pleasure and not misuse.

Heather Thomas:

Heather is a member of the Advisory and Scrutiny Group CoL Police and will liaise with David to get the report disseminated to the right Police representatives. (TODO for HEATHER and DAVID)

	<p>Planning and Licensing: Beech Street: Summer Party:</p> <p>See the reports from Ted Reilly.</p> <p>Ted reminded the BAGC of the approved spend of £1,000. Can we also invite Golden Lane residents? VOTED and APPROVED</p> <p>Environment and Sustainability:</p> <p>See the report from Fred Rodgers.</p> <p><u>Fred Rodgers:</u> A reminder to residents of the changes which affect many routes and especially disabled access – changing buses isn't easy.</p>
8.	<p>Dates for next meetings:</p> <p>2022, BA: 22 September and 24 November. RCC: 20 September. 2023, BA: 26 January, 23 March, 27 April (AGM) and 04 May (post AGM).</p>
9.	<p>Any other business:</p> <p><u>Lionel Meyringer:</u> Asked when the pink slips would be reinstated for parcel deliveries.</p> <p><u>Fred Rodgers:</u> Was involved with David Graves on this working party. Pink slips were too time consuming for the cleaners. CPAs are now supposed to text or call people when something arrives. If they are not, then this issues needs to be escalated to the House Officer (by the resident or the House Group).</p>
12.	<p>The meeting ended at 8:52pm.</p>