

The Barbican Association General Council

APPROVED Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 20 September 2023

At 7 pm In the Lilac Room

Present (crossed out not present):

<p>Elected Members: Adam Hogg (Chair), Deputy Chair: Ted Reilly Hon Sec: Roy Sully Jane Smith (Planning Subcommittee Chair) Brendan Barnes Helen Hudson David Bradshaw Randall Anderson Jan Marc Petroschka</p>	<p>House Groups Represented: Lionel Meyringer (Andrewes) Helen Hulson (Ben Jonson) Humfrey Brandes (Brandon) Andy Hope (Breton) John Taysum (Bryer) Derek Penney (Bunyan) Tim Cox (Cromwell) Helen Hudson (Defoe) Jenny Nisbet (Frobisher) Ian Dixon (Gilbert) Richard Collins (Lambert Jones) Gail Beer (Lauderdale) Martin Luff (Mountjoy) David Graves (Seddon) Nadia Bouzidi (Speed) Brenda Szlesinger (Thomas More) Miranda Quinney (John Trundle) Mary Bonar (Wallside) Fionnuala Hogan (Willoughby)</p>
<p>Other Members: Tony Swanson (Hon Treasurer) Jim Davies (Membership Sec) Sandra Jenner (RCC)</p>	
<p>Deputies and Guests: Hannah Logan (Parent Rep) Helen Kay (Willoughby) for Moor Lane item Christopher Makin (Aldersgate Alderman) Somebody from Ben Jonson</p>	

1.	Welcome to New Members and Apologies for Absence
	<p>The Chairman welcomed Hannah Logan who had agreed to be the new parental champion, Helen Kay who was due to speak about Moor Lane, Alderman Makin, and all those who were deputising for House Group Representatives unable to be present.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Martin Luff, Fred Rodgers, Helen Hulson, Tim Cox, Randall Anderson, David Bradshaw, Helen Hudson, Jenny Nisbet, Humfrey Brandes, David Graves and Miranda Quinney.</p>
2	Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 19th July
	<p>The minutes were approved with the following notes The new "Head of Fabric" mentioned in item 5 was an aspiration rather than a certainty.</p>
3	Tribute to Mark Bostock
	<p>The Committee noted the impressive testimonial which Alderwoman Sue Pearson had delivered to the Court of Common Council in tribute to Mark Bostock who had died since the last meeting.</p>

	Adam added his own words of appreciation which concluded that Mark had indeed been “a great man”.
4.	Matters arising not treated as an Agenda item below
	<p>a. Barbican Strategic Authority. Adam reported some progress. Simon Cribbins of the Corporation was due to present a paper on the subject to the Policy and Resources Committee in October.</p> <p>b. Membership. Ted was inching forward with the migration of membership records to MemberMojo.</p> <p>c. Garden Party The Committee noted with thanks the paper which Helen Hudson had supplied. The party had been a great success, attracting a good audience and washing its face financially to the extent that it had been possible to buy equipment such as tables which could be used in the future. Hannah had ideas for other events such as a quiz which might draw new people into the orbit of the BA.</p>
5.	Moor Lane
	<p>Helen Kay took the committee through the papers which had been supplied. Plans to “green” Moor Lane using Section 106 money from the Heron redevelopment continued to drag on. At a meeting in June the Town Clerk had agreed there should be a “project reset”. However, his subordinates continued to prevaricate and offer excuses for inaction or for further diluting the plans. There was concern that after ten years the Section 106 money would no longer be available if no progress was made soon.</p> <p>So far Willoughby House had led the fight against the bureaucratic intransigence of the CoL but the failure to produce and implement a green plan affected the entire Barbican estate.</p> <p>Helen explained that the solution was to ask an urban designer to produce a new plan that would take account issues such as the need for buildings to be protected from terrorist attack as well as offering an attractive landscaping plan for Moor Street.</p> <p>The Committee agreed the BA should support this.</p> <p>Action: All</p>
6.	Finance Report
	Tony reported available funds of £ 178,677.
7.	Section 20 Notices
	<p>The CoL had applied to the tier one tribunal for retrospective permission to hire agency staff to work in the Barbican Estate. The BA had the opportunity to respond to the application. Sandra and Adam had obtained advice from Bishop and Sewell.</p> <p>The BA needed to decide whether to challenge the CoL at the tribunal by 29th September. If it decided to make a case then further costs would be incurred.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the matter and concluded that the BA should challenge the CoL.</p> <p>The Committee approved (nem con) expenditure of up to £25,000 on legal advice to challenge the City at the level one tribunal.</p>
8.	Town Hall Meeting
	All residents had been invited to a meeting on 12 th October to hear about progress with the BEO review and also the review of service charges. The meeting would be led by Judith Finlay, Director of Community and Children’s Services to give it weight.

	<p>The Committee agreed that the meeting needed a close focus and should not be a general forum to moan about anything and everything.</p> <p>It was agreed that the BA should not co-ordinate questions in advance.</p> <p>Action: All to encourage attendance</p>
9,	London Wall West
	<p>Adam felt that the campaign was bearing fruit with the CoL now willing to contemplate re-using the existing buildings. The matter was due to go before the Policy and Resources committee next week, albeit behind closed doors.</p>
10.	Succession
	<p>No volunteers to succeed Adam or Ted having come forward, Roy would convene a small working party of Jane and Ian (in the first instance) to identify suitable victims.</p> <p>Action: Roy</p>
11.	Climate Action Webinar
	<p>Ted was organising a webinar for 5th October. It would all be done online. Everybody was encouraged to join as the webinar might, among other things, be a route to finance and a high attendance would be very helpful as an indication of support.</p> <p>Action: All to encourage online attendance</p>
12.	Cripplegate By Election Hustings
	<p>Adam and Jan Mac were standing in the by-election on 2nd November. Adam will organise pre-election hustings for the benefit of Cripplegate residents.</p> <p>Action: Adam</p>
13.	Update Reports
	<p>a) Planning Jane Smith updated the meeting on local developments. Residents had been invited to a public meeting of plans for 45 Beech Street at the end of September.</p> <p>Jan Marc raised concerns about flues on the roof of the City of London Girls School which were unsightly. Everybody was urged to object to them.</p> <p>b) Neighbourhood plan Jan Marc would report on progress at the next meeting.</p> <p>c) Arts Centre Ian Dixon took the committee through the paper he had circulated about the waterfall. Ian had met recently with staff from the Arts Centre. The meeting had been positive.</p> <p>d) RCC Sandra reported that the RCC was particularly disappointing and critical of officers reports at its meeting on 4th September. They did not reflect the true position of situations: not explaining the long delays in taking things forward and generally not reporting residents dissatisfaction with the status of projects, procurement etc which were being reported on. Sandra had explicitly told the BRC that reports were misleading and summarised the actual situation on the agenda items. There was some follow up by BRC members but it was not as challenging of officers as it could have been in the circumstances.'</p>
14.	AOB
	<p>The majority of those present suggested the next meeting should be in person</p>
15.	Dates of next meetings,
	<p>Wednesday 22nd November 2023, then Wednesday 24th January 2024</p>
16.	The meeting closed at 21:09