

The Barbican Association General Council

Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday 25th January 2024

At 7 pm by Zoom call

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) Paul Moriarty (Cromwell) Helen Hudson (Defoe) Jenny Nisbet (Frobisher) Ian Dixon (Gilbert) Richard Collins (Lambert Jones) Gail Beer (Lauderdale) Martin Luff (Mountjoy) David Graves (Seddon) Sandy Wilson (Shakespeare) 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) Hannah Logan Co-Opted Member (Parent Rep)</p>	
<p>Deputies and Guests: Bernard Hughes (Willoughby) Jim Durcan (Andrewes) Christopher Makin (observer) Fred Rodgers (observer)</p>	

1.	Welcome to New Members and Apologies for Absence
	<p>The Chairman welcomed Paul Moriarty who has replaced Tim Cox from Cromwell, and those who were deputising for House Group Representatives unable to be present.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Ted Reilly, Jane Smith, Helen Hudson, Randall Anderson, Sandra Jenner, Hannah Logan, Lionel Meyringer, Humfrey Brandes, John Taysum, Jenny Nisbet, Ian Dixon, Gail Beer, David Graves, Sandy Wilson, Miranda Quinney and Fionnuala Hogan.</p>
2	Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 22nd November 2023
	The minutes were approved.

3	Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>Jan Marc took the Committee through plans to establish a Neighbourhood Forum covering both the Barbican and Golden Lane housing estates and some neighbouring pockets of housing. In all the area was home to about 5,000 residents.</p> <p>Twelve steps had to be taken to create the Forum which was a legal entity that had to follow a nationally defined plan. Our forum was at stage four which meant it had developed sufficiently to attract funding necessary to advance further. In all it would take 2 to 3 years to reach stage twelve.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Jan Marc for his clear presentation and for the amount of time he and others had put in and continued to put into developing the Forum.</p> <p>Action: Jan Marc to circulate heads of houses with his presentation.</p>
4.	Matters arising
	All dealt with below
5.	Finance Report
	<p>Tony reported that the provisional out-turn for 2023 showed reserves of £ 150,763. This was down by about £10,000 on the previous year but in 2023 the BA had spent significant amounts on the BQA campaign and the Section 20 appeal. Income had improved through better rates of interest on deposits and increased advertising revenue in Barbican Life.</p> <p>The crowdfunding campaign for BQA was doing well and was now at about £16,000. Even though the deadline for objecting to the planning application at London Wall West expired on 31st January donations should still be encouraged as the campaign would continue.</p> <p>Adam thanked Tony for his report and his careful stewardship of the BA's funds.</p> <p>Action: All to encourage donations to crowdfund BQA</p>
6.	Barbican Quarter Action
	<p>Objections to the CoL planning application had to be in by 31st January. The BQA's expert objections were being finished off. The application was likely to go before the planning committee on 7th April.</p> <p>All house groups were urged to get behind the campaign if they were not already behind it. The effect of the application being successful would extend well beyond the area of London Wall West as it would set a precedent which would then be quoted by developers to justify over-development elsewhere, for example in Silk Street.</p> <p>Action: All the encourage objections to the CoL London Wall West planning application.</p>
7.	Destination City
	<p>Adam and his opposite numbers from Golden Lane and Middlesex Street had met Paul Martin who had been commissioned by the Town Clerk to review Destination City. Three points had been made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. There had been hardly any consultation with residents. This was surprising since residents and their dwellings were very much part of the destination.

	<p>b. There was no overall plan for Destination City. What it amounted to was a series of local initiatives by developers who were compelled to make a cultural offering in exchange for planning permission.</p> <p>c. Following on from the point above, well over a billion pounds was expected to be spent over the next ten years on the new Museum of London, the Barbican Centre, Smithfield East and the old museum. but each was in a silo there was no plan or strategy linking them.</p> <p>Paul Martin's report was expected at the end of the month and would be submitted to the Culture Committee</p>
7.	Succession
	<p>Roy thanked those with whom he had met to find a candidate to stand as Chairman in succession to Adam. Adam had in fact decided to stand again at the AGM as there were so many projects hanging in the air which he wished to see finished, or at least taken further forward, before handing over the reins. A very suitable candidate to succeed Ted as the Deputy had also been found.</p> <p>All appointments would of course be subject to election at the AGM.</p>
8.	<p>Joint Working Group</p> <p>The working group to establish the best way to deal with the City in the future had met twice and would meet again tomorrow.</p>
9.	<p>Town Hall Meeting</p> <p>The meeting on 10th January had been attended by over 200 people in spite of it being a very cold night. Feedback had been positive and it was proposed that the meeting should be repeated about once a quarter (in the first instance) with the BA AGM equating to one of those.</p> <p>Discussion moved on to the style of communication to residents: should the newsletter be more informal, for example, as a way of increasing engagement?</p>
10.	<p>AGM Arrangements</p> <p>The AGM would take place on Thursday 25th April in the City of London School for Girls. It was agreed that the Town Clerk, Ian Thomas, CBE, should be invited to speak, Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Childrens' Services. Dan Saunders the new Assistant Director of the BEO would also be invited.</p> <p>Action: Volunteers needed to help run the evening.</p>
11.	<p>Updates on RCC Matters</p> <p>a. BEO Review. Progress had been slow. It was anticipated that the arrival of Dan Saunders the Assistant Director of the Barbican Estate Office would accelerate the transformation.</p> <p>b. Section 20 notices. The City had withdrawn from the Tribunal saying it would enter into discussions with residents. As yet we have not been approached. A claim had gone into the first-tier tribunal to recover expenses incurred in challenging the Corporation. About £25,000 had been spent on legal fees.</p> <p>c. The BRC had accepted the recommendation of the RCC that the Barbican budget was incomprehensible and needed to be re-worked. An extra meeting of the BRC had been convened for Monday 29th January at which more information would be presented.</p>

12.	<p>Other Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Arts Centre. Adam thanked Ian Dixon <i>in absentia</i> for the report he had circulated. b. Security. David Bradshaw said that half of the complaints on the ASB reporter in December concerned a motor-bike that disturbed Willoughby residents each morning. The need to obtain a case number from the police when reporting incidents of anti-social behaviour was re-stated. Without a case number the complaint would be deemed not to exist. <p>Adam asked David to re-circulate his <i>Anti-social behaviour list for the Barbican's ASB Reporter</i> (attached).</p>
13.	<p>AOB</p> <p>The new meeting room in the Barbican Library was due to be available from July and should provide a suitable setting for BAGC meetings. The Committee welcomed the suggestion that it be named the Mark Bostock room in honour of the late Common Councilman.</p>
14.	<p>Dates of next meetings:</p> <p>AGM on Thursday 18th April 2024</p> <p>BAGC on</p> <p>Wednesday 20th March 2024 Thursday 25th April 2024 Thursday 27th June 2024 Thursday 22nd August 2024 Thursday 24th October 2024 Thursday 23rd January 2025 Thursday 20th March 2025</p>
15.	<p>The meeting closed at 20:50</p>