

Minutes of a newly constituted committee of the Alexandra Residents' Association held on Tuesday 21st July 2015 following the Annual General Meeting held Thursday 18th June.

Present: Andy Peake, Acting Chair. (Neighbourhood Watch/ committee member) Helen Millar (Treasurer); Tim Walby (Street Lamps), Linda Power (committee member) Ali Lodge (committee Member) Naomi Martin (committee Member) (Diane Bartlett (joint co-ordinator of open gardens)

Apologies: Tricia Monk (committee member), Goli Whittiker (Committee Member)

Noted:

- i. Resignations from the ARA committee at the Annual General Meeting (notably, Lucy Smith, (previous Chair) Jane Ching (Secretary) and Jessica Farrand (street rep) had left the ARA constitutionally inquorate.
- (i) Andy Peake, Helen Millar, Linda Power and Tricia Monk were existing committee members
- (ii) At the AGM Ali Lodge (Albert Road), Naomi Martin (Hardings Lane) and Goli Whittiker (Princes Road) had indicated a willingness to join the Committee.

An Agenda was agreed as follows:

1. Open Gardens
2. Role of the Committee
3. Committee
4. Up-date on Street Lighting
5. Priorities Discussion
6. Finance
7. Alexandra Pub update
8. Street Party Day

1. **Open Gardens.** Diane Bartlett reported back on the Open Gardens event including the children's events. All present felt it had been a very good day. Thanks were due to Diane and Adrian, assisted by Franco for their work and the well-ordered timetable on the tickets. Noted: there had had to be some last minute amendments as some gardens were withdrawn while others opened but this had not detracted from the 'feel good' factor of the event. It was anticipated that there would be a small financial profit to ARA finances. Dianne was thanked for her considerable contribution to the success of the event and then left.
2. **Role of Committee.** Andy Peake in the capacity of acting Chair, opened the meeting, expressing his opinion that the financial basis of the ARA should be reviewed. Andy said that it was not his intention to stay on the committee but before he stepped down he felt issues such as the initiative to raise funds for street lighting and the need to clarify the financial worth of the land on which the shed now stands demanded a more professional approach to financial management. Noted: Andy is presently holding the ARA deeds to the shed. The new committee then went on to introduce themselves and how they might contribute over the coming months towards the maintenance/continuation of the ARA.

Committee

Chair. Andy thought Lucy had done an incredible job as the previous Chair: she had taken much on herself. None of those present were prepared at present to take up this position.

Secretary: to be discussed at next meeting.

In the meantime Naomi to monitor the ARA email account.

Agreed: Helen to chair the next meeting on a one off basis.

Treasurer - Helen Millar

Minutes - Linda to produce notes of this meeting.

Road Reps: Tim, Linda and Tricia presently in this role.

Email addresses of those present exchanged.

3. Up date on street lighting. Tim reported that approx 25% of households had pledged a total of about £6500 in principle for heritage lighting (18 columns in the Conservation Area). This wasn't enough to pay for original Victorian cast iron posts which would be fitted with a modern heritage LED lantern (estimated cost £13000) but still a considerable achievement in view of the short timescales for obtaining pledges. The Council had indicated a cheaper alternative costing approx £475 per column. Awaiting details from the Council. Street Lighting – Tim agreed to continue to lead on this

4. Priorities discussion.

Agreed: We should carry out a survey of all households (similar to one carried out in the early 2000's) to determine the Association's priorities. Research on a survey we did in early 2000's might suggest the best way of repeating this.

Carried forward for discussion at the next meeting.

Social Events: To be delegated as appropriate:

It was felt we should combine preserving and enhancing the character of the area with social events. Jane Ching had led on these in the past as well as acting as Secretary to the Association (principally doing minutes) Ideas included.

- (a) The 150th anniversary of the cottages was coming up and would need input.
- (b) The 'Big Lunch' (a growing community street-based party") could be a social event that the ARA could encourage.
- (c) Franco and Adrian were organising a Pantomime for Xmas.
- (d) Volunteers would be needed to feed back on community meetings such as the Penge Forum if our presence was felt to be worthwhile.
- (e) An Easter Egg hunt had been a last minute event initiated by a parent on the estate. This was the sort of thing the ARA could help to sponsor. It would be helpful to know how many children lived on the estate so we could prioritise events.
- (f) A survey of residents could help identify what events residents wanted but any events organised should be self funding.
- (g) Street Lighting remained an issue.

5. Finance. Helen Millar circulated a copy of a financial report dated 20th July 2015.

The ARA was holding funds of approximately £1,834.87 (bank) £73.71 petty cash

Noted: membership was down -108. Members not rejoined - 41.

Helen to email members to ask if they wanted to rejoin and feed back.

Helen reminded the committee that she had indicated that she would need to step down due to ill health and that there was an urgent need for her replacement.

6. Carried Forward to next meeting.

- (a) Alexandra Pub

- b) Street Party Day (a committee position)
- c) Communication with Residents.
- d) Community Gardening.
- e) Survey

Meeting closed 10.00 p.m.

Date of next meeting: 8pm Thursday 17th September, Alexandra Garden Centre