

ALEXANDRA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
In the heart of Penge, SE20



Committee meeting
Thursday 17th September 2015

Present: Neil Coe (NC)
 Helen Millar (HM)
 Naomi Martin (NM)
 Linda Power (LP)
 Tim Walby (TW)

1. Welcome and introduction

The members of the committee reintroduced themselves to each other. It was agreed that the committee was quorate under the constitution which called for three members or one third of the membership, whichever is greater. Neil Coe, who was attending for the street lighting agenda item, was introduced.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Copies of the draft minutes of the last meeting were circulated for comment. It was agreed that committee members should annotate the copies and pass to LP who would update and circulate a revised copy to members post meeting for agreement. Once agreed the minutes would be forwarded to Franco Picco for uploading to the Website.

3. Committee membership

The Constitution allows for a committee of 12 members including a maximum of 5 co-opted members. With Tricia Monks and Alison Lodge having stood down from the committee the number of members was reduced to five, including Goli Whittaker [GW] who had yet to attend her first meeting. NC was invited, and agreed, to join the committee as a full member bringing the total number of members to six (including GW). The constitution calls for specific roles on the committee of;

- Chair – TW put himself forward as Chair and the committee approved his appointment.
- Vice Chair – NC put himself forward as Vice Chair and the committee approved his appointment.

- Treasurer – HM had indicated her intention to stand down after the current meeting. TW asked whether she would continue until December to give the committee more time to find a replacement. HM Agreed.
- Secretary – Naomi, given the current responsibilities she had taken up around maintaining the Association's email account, put herself forward as Secretary and the committee approved her appointment.

It was agreed that a call for new members and a replacement Treasurer should feature in a Newsletter (see subsequent agenda item). Members also agreed to actively encourage their neighbours to put themselves forward.

Action: All

It was noted that, once GW joined the committee, there would be road representatives for all the roads in the conservation area.

The Committee agreed that it would be extremely helpful if Ian Hayton, who represents the conservation area on the Bromley Advisory Panel for Conservation Areas, joined the Committee. TW would invite Ian to become a full member of the committee. Should he not be able to commit to full membership Ian was to be invited to the next meeting to provide an update and be asked to provide written reports to subsequent meetings when relevant.

Action: TW

Action: NM (for agenda)

The lack of clarity as to what development residents were allowed was raised. It was noted that there had been a number of changes amongst Bromley Council officers. It was agreed that TW would communicate with Cllr Colin Smith (Cabinet Member for the Environment) expressing the Association's concerns that conflicting advice was being given to residents about what was deemed to be acceptable alterations to the Cottages and that in some cases alterations which didn't appear to conform to the Council's Article 4 Directive may have taken place. TM would also ask for confirmation as to who the lead Conservation Officer and lead Planning Officer were for the Conservation Area.

Action: TW

Andy Peake, who acted as the Associations Neighbourhood Watch contact, had stood down from the committee. It was agreed that this needed to feature in a role in the call for members in planned Newsletter.

Attendance at the Federation of Bromley Residents Association also needed to be covered. TW and NC agreed to cover this.

Action: TW & NC

4. Finance report and membership update

HM presented the September finance Report. Total ARA funds were £2,022.33. Income had been from membership subscriptions (£60) and the Open Gardens event (£130). In addition a donation of £45.90 was made to St Christopher's from charity activities specifically undertaken to raise money for the donation. St Christopher's have written to thank the Association for the donation.

LP asked that the 'Golden Oldies' group be renamed the Alexandra Group for retired members. The committee agreed. LP also reported that the Group were taking on the community gardening activities across the conservation area. The residue Alexandra Group money was planned to be used for this activity and further money was to be explored from a transfer of funds from a non-active gardening initiative in Crystal Palace.

HM reported that total membership had increased since the last report to 127, but was still less than the 144 members in the previous year. To date 26 existing (2014/15) members had not renewed. [Post meeting this had improved to 129 members and 24 existing members not renewed].

5. Lighting update

TW and NC provided an update on the Vintage Lighting Initiative. A proposal had been put to the Council for there to be a site visit to discuss further appropriate lighting for the area with the instalment of a sample column (to be funded by TW) to allow an opportunity (2 weeks) for residents to see the proposed street light. The site visit should include the Council's Lighting Designer. If residents content with the sample light, a 2 week period for pledged and other money to be collected would be required before the money could be handed over to the Council. The written confirmation that any maintenance

and replacement would fall to the Council, and not the ARA, was still needed.

6. Newsletter

It was agreed that there was a need for a hard copy Newsletter. Reliance on email communication was not sufficient given the lack of email addresses on record and the number of older members. Items suggested for the next Newsletter were:

- Call for committee members; general participation of member residents
- Committee vacancies – Treasurer, Neighbourhood Watch contact
- Management of waste waiting collection; fox and rat problem
- Street Lighting
- Neighbourhood watch; recent police notice
- Open Gardens – thank you for donation to St Christopher's
- Alexandra Group gardening activity
- Notice - "If not a member and want to be; email Association or contact Road Rep"
- Suggested regular event and request for other ideas
- 150th anniversary – call for people to be involved in an event

TW agreed to provide a draft for comment by 24th September with aim to circulate 1st October.

Action: TW

LP said that she could arrange for the printing of the Newsletter to help reduce costs.

Action: LP

7. Neighbourhood Watch update

With AP having stood down from the committee, there was no update but Andy's recent email about a burglary in Edward Road was noted.

8. Member survey

To be taken forward to next meeting.

Action: NM (for agenda)

9. Social update

The committee suggested the following should be regular Association events:

- Panto
- Bi-annual Open Gardens
- Easter egg hunt
- Big lunch event
- Carol service
- Meet the Neighbours

10. 150th anniversary

It was suggested that the ARA should arrange a street party to celebrate next year's 150th Anniversary of the Alexandra Cottages together with a talk about how the cottages fit into the area's history

11. AOB

NM asked for clarification as to the extent of support and help the ARA should be providing to residents in need. HM said that we should not try to provide support that should be provided by social and health care. All residents should be encouraged to act as helpful neighbours, not a replacement for professional (qualified and issued) help.

NM also asked the committee to agree to a major clear up of the Association's email site. The committee agreed but asked that any emails that recorded agreements made not recorded at meetings be kept.

NC suggested that we needed to ensure that the shed roof was checked for health and safety and any action recommended carried out.

HM reported that underwriter of the Association's insurance policy with Morton Michel had changed. This change would not however affect the protections of the insurance policy.

12. Date of next meeting

7.30pm, Thursday 26th November, Alexandra Nurseries.