

Minutes of the AGM, held at Grove Neighbourhood Centre on 3 July 2003

Present: Tony Stephens (Chairman), James Briscoe (Treasurer), Cllr Chris Allen, Anna Benson Gyles, Amanda Burling, Michael Burling, Paula Carpenter, Kevin Caulfield, Ian Cranna, Frances Cowie, Cllr Caroline Donald, Sarah Fletcher, Elizabeth Fraser, Bunny Hoover, Rona Passmore, Rosemary Pettit, Patricia Quigley, Teresa Quigley, Peter Rosier, Melanie Smallman, Judy Stephenson, Patrick Stephenson, Neil Studley, Adrienne Taylor, Julie Taylor, Martin Thirlaway, Murray Thomas, Helen Thornton, Michael Tober, Barbara Torrance, Hugh Torrance, Robin Weir, Richard Winterton + 5 other members

Apologies: Diana Hargreaves, Diana Mather, Enid Marron, Geoffrey Matthews, Joanna Murray, Toni Raybould, Catherine & Eric Stables, Pirkko Ilmola Ward, Michael & Anne Wright.

Guests: Alan Halford, Michael Miles and Graham Walton (Hammersmith & Fulham Council), Iain Coleman MP, PC Ian Duff (Community Police Officer), Cllr Stephen Cowan, Felicity Barker (The Ravenscourt Society)

1. Minutes of AGM 2002

The minutes, having been circulated, were approved.

2. Chairman's Report

Tony Stephens welcomed members and guests to the AGM. He noted his Chairman's Report which had previously been circulated to members. (See attachment below.)

3. Treasurer's Report

James Briscoe noted his Treasurer's Account and Report. (See attachment below.) He said that the Jubilee Party costs were covered by a Council grant. Other expenditure included newsletters, rent of halls, wine at events and also the donation of a projector screen to the Grove Neighbourhood Centre in advance of Moya Tyson's talk. Subscriptions were slightly down, due to collecting them later than previously; however, £243 of subs had been collected since April. JB thanked the committee and Martin Thirlaway, the auditor.

4. Activity Reports

MEMBERSHIP: Rosemary Pettit reported that membership (paid subscriptions) has increased from 210 to 227 members of which 89 pay by standing order and 37 are new members (last year 59 new members). The Association is in email contact with 116 members. Target: Her aim is 300 members of which half or more pay by standing order.

Street representatives: She would like to set these up to distribute newsletters (especially the big one in the spring) and contact new residents in their streets to invite them to join the Association. Street representatives – if they were willing – could also feed residents' concerns to the committee and may form the nucleus of other activities, e.g., as tree wardens.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: Tony Stephens said that the association had hosted a well-attended meeting a few weeks ago with PC Ian Duff, PC Peter Riches and PS Paul Goulden. This focused on household and shop protection, and the Ringmaster system of reporting local and recent crime. BRA has a well established channel of communication with local police. He would like to explore using web cams (plugging a small camera to a PC) as a way of reporting suspicious activities. TS is getting guidelines on web cams from the police.

HOME ZONE: TS said that Diana Mather represents the DPA on the committee driving this forward. Home Zone continues to be implemented. There will be snail signs and more traffic calming this year.

5. Election of committee 2003-04

Tony Stephens said that members had been advised of the election of a new committee and the following nominations (proposed and seconded) had been received: James Briscoe, Diana Mather, Rosemary Pettit, Toni Raybould, Tony Stephens, Sophie Stewart, Julie Taylor and Richard Winterton. There being no other nominations Tony Stephens proposed that the committee be elected en bloc. He also proposed Martin Thirlaway as Independent Examiner (of accounts). The meeting assented unanimously to both proposals.

6. New initiatives

Tony Stephens introduced the proposed new initiatives. These are at development stage.

Graffiti: It could be an achievable target to remove/paint out graffiti, possibly with help from estate agents. **Web cams:** These are not expensive to set up, it depends on people's willingness and their computers. TS said that these ideas – which he had previously introduced to the committee – were intended to counteract a graffiti culture and help protect residents from crime. Shop-keepers, especially in Hammersmith Grove, have been badly hit. Concerted action is the intention. TS said that, in respect of the constitution, no rule change was needed to set up separate funds for special initiatives. In response to a question he said that BRA did not yet have a website.

7. AOB

Rosemary Pettit had been approached by a Brackenbury School governor to publicise its 125th anniversary. Any former pupils are requested to contact Ben Daniel on tel 020 8743 2973 or Cllr Chris Allen on tel. 020 8741 2583.

TALK: New Broom Sweeps Clean?

Michael Miles – Operations Manager, Cleansing, Hammersmith & Fulham Council

Michael Miles introduced himself by saying that his area of responsibility included street cleansing, graffiti and highways enforcement. The new Director of Direct Services is Roger Khanna who is also borough engineer.

He said that the majority of streets in the area are swept on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays by a team of four with an electric vehicle. (The meeting immediately dissented from this – cleaning was far more infrequent.) Cleaners should sweep the pavement, gutter, collect small fly-tipping and report larger fly-tipping for later collection.

Rubbish: Four enforcement officers in the borough look in rubbish bags and deal with offenders; they can issue £50 penalty notices or take offenders to court. In extreme cases mobile CCTV cameras are used. The Council has received 32 enquiries from the Brackenbury area in the last few months; 20 properties have received warning notices in the last three months.

Graffiti: A Graffiti ActionTeam cleans graffiti from Council property. It is difficult to identify who does it. Every piece of graffiti is recorded on a digital camera and logged on a database, working with South-West Action Against Graffiti (SWAG). The borough has just issued a spray paint-can notice asking shops not to sell spray paint to under-18s. The Council is also lobbying the Government for changes to graffiti legislation, e.g., on telephone boxes – and legislation is currently being enacted for Councils to have the power to require statutory organizations to remove graffiti from their property.

Dog fouling: This is removed as part of street cleansing. BRA can assist by encouraging residents to be responsible. Dog-fouling bins are being piloted on the other side of Hammersmith Grove, and appear to be working. A 6 foot 'dalmatian' is publicizing dog-fouling measures and issuing free dog bags.

Future for Brackebury: The Council needs residents' help, said Michael Miles. He asked that residents report dog fouling, graffiti and rubbish dumping. He would like to meet a small BRA group on a regular basis. Dog-fouling bins could be introduced to this area, and more litterbins around Agate Road and Iffley Road . Zero tolerance on enforcement. It may be possible to have a weekend blitz on graffiti, working with residents.

Schools: In September the Council will start to talk to schools about improving the area. Books and CDs on 'litter detectives' will be going into schools – this is where the future lies. The Mayor's Capital Standards programme awards prizes of £1000 and £2000 to schools for cleaning up the environment. It is part of the national curriculum.

Michael Miles concluded by saying that the Council intended to work with Brackebury residents. The proposed job is not easy but this area can be made better.

Questions:

Tony Stephens said that this was an impressive array of initiatives. However, he had received comments that suggested residents did not always know when their **rubbish and recyclables** were collected and, partly as a result, some pavements were rarely clear of bags. MM was agreeable to the idea that temporary **signs**, detailing collection days, might be put up, as trialled in Addison Road. On being asked to expand on a **graffiti blitz** he said that this had been tried in other areas, it required a group of officers, clothes and equipment, and he is happy to do this as soon as possible. TS agreed to alert members.

In response to a question on the rationale for teams of four cleaners he said that the Council is moving to **one man-with-a-barrow** in one area; he has bolstered supervision in this area to make the cleaning better. It is easier to clean up after rubbish collecting with one man. A questioner wished to know what day any street was expected to be cleaned and MM said he would return with this information. Tony Stephens asked for signs to be put up saying what day the street would be cleaned. Another question asked about collecting rubbish from businesses when it is put out, but MM replied that it is never the right time for each business. Trade premises can have a collection every day if they pay for it.

Rubbish in basements: One resident said that the binmen will not come down to her basement and pick up the rubbish; in effect, this meant that rubbish could not be kept in the basement. MM said this was a fair point.

Graffiti: MM said that the police know the number of culprits but these taggers move on.

Tony Stephens thanked Michael Miles and his colleagues for their contribution and attention, and he thanked members for attending the AGM. He intended that these proposed initiatives would get under way.

The meeting adjourned for a glass of wine.