

Minutes of the AGM, held at Grove Neighbourhood Centre, on 24 June 2004

Present: Committee: Tony Stephens (Chairman), James Briscoe (Treasurer), Sophie Stewart (Secretary), Diana Mather, Rosemary Pettit, Toni Raybould, Murray Thomas, Richard Winterton

Members: Cllr Chris Allen, Oliver Benn, Thao Benn, Anna Benson Gyles, Michael Burling, Anne Cantacuzino, Sherban Cantacuzino, Neville Collins, Benita Cruickshank, Julia Davidson, Carolyn Dyer, Isabel Ford, Fiona Holmes, Alice McMillan, Sheilah Mustill, Rona Passmore, Tony Richins, Keith Robinson, Meredith Robson, Cllr Melanie Smallman, Sophie Sainty, Catherine Stables, Neil Studley, Keith Taylor, Anne Whatmore, + 5 other members

Guests: Inspector Daniel Stobbart, Metropolitan Police; Sgt Dave Hinton

Apologies: Mark Allatt, Angela Clarke, Ben Daniel, Cllr Caroline Donald, Sally Fear, Sarah Fletcher, Paul Fox, Elizabeth Fraser, John Gilbert, Katherine Green, Andy Hartland, Peter Martin, Kate Pringle, Patricia Quigley, Tanya Severn, Lesley Spires, Martin Thirlaway, Joanna Thomas, Anne Wright, Michael Wright, Carey Whitley, Maggie Williams

1. Minutes of AGM 2003

The minutes, having been circulated, were approved.

2. Chairman's Report

Tony Stephens, chairman, welcomed everyone to the AGM. Over the last year the Association has been very active, he said. The committee meetings, set at two-monthly intervals, are now held at the GNC; street representatives are invited to meetings to report on issues of interest or concern for residents. The newsletter is produced four times a year for members (thanks to Royston, estate agents) and once a year we produce 3000 copies of an extended newsletter which is distributed to all households in the locality (thanks to Kinleigh, Folkard and Hayward, estate agents). The annual Social, hosted in February, was a success, new members joining and existing members renewing acquaintanceships. We have also hosted a series of mini-socials at the Thatched House and the Grove pub each Monday evening since May in an attempt to recruit more members. These gatherings may well be reduced to once a month and will take on a more social and informal nature. As members may be aware, the sub-Post Office in Brackenbury Road is still threatened with closure - despite our involvement and help from local councillors and our MP, Iain Coleman. However, we have engaged with the Council in campaigning to save the Post Office from closure and we have a petition to sign at this AGM. In addition, the petition is available at Buchanans. With the Councils' help we have also obtained better street cleaning than formerly

This year we have built up even stronger ties with the local police. We have contributed to the reduction in cocaine dealing in the area by having two crack cocaine houses closed down and street dealers (one who had 30 grms of crack on him) arrested. To this end we have invited Inspector Daniel Stobbart to address us this evening about Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and other local policing issues.

Last year, I asked the AGM for a mandate to explore activities that required funding. With your approval I was then able to get funding from HSBC; we spent this on cleaning up the graffiti in the area. We also now have a fund for web-cams and a web-cam sub-committee which is looking into the prospect of putting up a few cameras as deterrents to would-be wrong-doers in the area. We will

get more advice about web-cams from the police, but next year we want to do more social events, activities for trees and come up with ideas to prevent dog-fouling.

Last year we welcomed to the committee, Toni Raybould, who is doing sterling work organizing our anti-graffiti efforts throughout the year. Our existing Committee consists of Sophie Stewart as Secretary, local architect Richard Winterton who attends Council meetings and monitors planning developments such as those in Cardross St, Duke of York pub, Secrets licensing renewals and the proposals for Smiley's yard in Banim St. Sadly, we are losing the florist's shop in Hammersmith Grove and there is an application for change of use from a shop to an office to which we are objecting. James Briscoe continues to look after the books in his role of Treasurer and, as ever, Diana Mather continues her work with the Home Zone traffic scheme and Murray Thomas lends us his invaluable legal expertise. Finally, the Association owes a vote of thanks to Rosemary Pettit for her efforts as Membership Secretary and for being so active in promoting the association's business. We shall be having reports from the Treasurer and Membership secretary during the meeting, as well as updates on the association's other activities. Regrettably, Julie Taylor stepped down as editor of the newsletter as she moved out of the area and we now have to fill that role. We would very much like a Tree Officer as part of the Committee for this year. On behalf of members I thank all those who contributed to the work of the association.

3. Secretary's Report

N/A.

4. Treasurer's Report

James Briscoe distributed the accounts for the year to 14 April 2004 (see attached), and spoke to them.

5. Activity Reports

Tony Stephens said that action on graffiti, web-cams, the local post office and street cleaning had already been reported.

Postal services: Rosemary Pettit spoke about the work that she and members had carried out in order to get an improved postal service. In March the Royal Mail service was reorganized and this caused chaos at the Vencourt Place delivery office and, subsequently, a chaotic postal service marked by lost and stolen mail, delayed and wrongly delivered mail. Many members had sent in their experiences which had been compiled and sent to the chairman and chief executive. Iain Coleman MP had also written to Royal Mail and had meetings with managers. More recently, the mail service appeared to be regularizing but it needed to be kept under observation.

Membership: Membership subscriptions have increased this year; see attached report.

6. Rule change

Murray Thomas read the proposed change: 'Under item 3 of the Rules after "Membership is open to all residents of the area" it is proposed to include the following: "and also to persons resident outside the area, limited to 10% of the total membership".' He said that the 10% would ensure that residents would not be swamped from outside; the association has supporters outside the area, even committee members. After some discussion which ranged, on the one hand, between those who preferred to keep the existing boundaries for membership and those who welcomed a relaxation of the rules, it was agreed that the committee would examine the proposal again with a view to bringing it to an EGM.

7. Election of committee

The following were elected to the committee for 2004-05: Tony Stephens, Sophie Stewart, James Briscoe, Diana Mather, Rosemary Pettit, Toni Raybould, Murray Thomas and Richard Winterton. Tony Stephens called for nominations for a newsletter editor and a tree officer.

8. Guest speaker: Inspector Daniel Stobbart, Metropolitan Police

Inspector Stobbart introduced the new system of community policing by means of teams, for one of which he is responsible; this includes the Brackenbury area. He looks at crime reports every day and decides where to go; the police virtually never patrol at random.

Insp. Stobbart then took questions which ranged from concerns about youths on bicycles looking into cars, followed by theft from cars (ring 999 he said), the importance of locking doors and windows and reporting 'attempted burglary', and the fact that graffiti is arrestable. He assured members that Brackenbury is a low crime area and that no one on an Anti-Social Behaviour Order lives here.

Answering a question on dog dirt he said that the Council has prosecuted dog fouling once in five years; it is better tackled by public education, rather like drink-driving. He recommended writing to the MP as litter laws are not particularly effective. Concerning skateboarding on pavements he said there was probably no law against it. He also said that 40% of crimes are committed by youths with bicycles. The public tend to be reassured by marked police cars.

Concluding, he said that all new government powers are labour intensive. There is a massive amount of work to be done and there is more demand for police services than they can meet. He has to strike a balance between reporting crime and following up crime; it takes half an hour to process a reported crime.

Two contacts were given by Inspector Stobbart:

Minor crimes: www.online.police.uk

Hammersmith Control Room: 020 8246 2621

Tony Stephens thanked Inspector Stobbart for speaking to the AGM. He said that he wished to encourage Neighbourhood Watch.

9. Thanks and close