

Brackenbury Residents Association

Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting – 21st June 2005

| Attendees - Committee | Attendees - Members |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tony Stephens (Chairman) | Cllr Chris Allen |
| James Briscoe (Treasurer) | Cllr Stephen Cowan |
| Treena Jinnah (Secretary) | Carolyn Dyer |
| Diana Mather (DM) | Cllr Melanie Smallman |
| Toni Raybould (TR) | Neil Studley |
| Murray Thomas (MT) | Lesley Spires |
| Richard Winterton (RW) | Martin Thirlaway |
| | Sergeant Paul Goulden |
| | Anna Benson-Gyles |
| | + 10 other members |

Apologies: Rosemary Pettit (Membership Secretary), Joanna Thomas, Anne Wright, Michael Wright, Maggie Williams, Amelia Hartog, Bungie Farley, Christian Farley, Valerie Minogue, Alice McMillan, Sally Fletcher, Bernadette Geraghty, Alison Judah, Angela Warr-King

Commander Heather Valentine

1. Minutes of AGM 2004

The minutes were taken as read and accepted.

2. Chairman's Report

Tony Stephens, chairman, welcomed everyone to the AGM. In summary, he read his report thanking the members and street reps and key members Rosemary Pettit for her work on increasing membership and Toni Raybould for her success in tackling graffiti. He outlined the roles of individuals on the committee and appealed for two positions to be filled – Newsletter Editor and Tree Officer.

He thanked Kinleigh, Folkard & Hayward for their support in producing the quarterly newsletter; he also provided an overview of the launch of the BRA website (www.brackenbury.info) with special thanks to Neil Studley.

He updated members on the introduction of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, the Crime Log on the Brackenbury website and the relaunch of Neighbourhood Watch in the area with support from Lesley Spires.

A full copy of the report is attached.

3. Speech from Sergeant Paul Goulden

As Commander Heather Valentine was unable to attend there was time for an address from Sergeant Paul Goulden – head of the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) for the Grove area. He explained that the SNT was the replacement for community policing and is an initiative heavily sponsored by the (Council?) and the metropolitan police. The team consists of 1 sergeant and 2 PCs with an additional 2 PCs joining the team in the next 6 months. They generally work day shifts and 1 late shift but will do more night shifts if there is a particular issue. Their brief is to deal with community issues such as graffiti, crack houses and louts. They accept that one of the valid major complaints from residents is that they can never get hold of the police. The team have a landline number which diverts to their mobile. Sgt Goulden stressed that this is for a non-immediate response, i.e.,; to discuss an ongoing problem – in an emergency 999 should still be used.

He also stressed that community complaints help raise an issue to the top of the pile; for this reason there was always a benefit to complaining.

Question: Is there a general plan for drug houses in Agate Road?

Response: They are aware that there is ongoing dealing and have to monitor for a long time in order to build up sufficient case evidence – then a raid will take place. One house in Agate Road was closed down 18 months ago.

Question: What is the best course of action to take with loud music in homes?

Response: Generally this is not a police issue and is dealt with by environmental health. The Council is normally very good in dealing with noise complaints.

4. Secretary's Report

As a new member of the committee the report was brief. Treena Jinnah introduced herself to the membership, outlined her role as a point of contact for members and the ways by which members could bring their concerns to the committee – through emailing the secretary at Treena_maguire@ayhoo.co.uk, through the BRA website or by speaking directly to a committee member.

5. Membership Report

In the absence of Rosemary Pettit, Treena Jinnah read her report. In summary, there are now 323 paid-up members, an increase of over 60 since June 2004. An appeal was made for members to provide the association with email addresses and pay by standing order.

The network of street reps has increased. Roads where they operate were read out with an appeal for members from streets not yet with a representative to come forward.

Rosemary thanked members for their support.

A full copy of the report including roads with street reps is attached.

6. Treasurer's Report

James Briscoe distributed the accounts for the year to 31 March 2005. The Association remains in a sound financial position. The most significant financial events were the social events, the start-up costs of the website and the cost of hosting BRA committee meetings at the GNC which now charges a fee. Overall the Association has reserves of £3126.

A copy of the accounts and accompanying report are attached.

7. Activity Reports

Graffiti

Report was submitted by Toni Raybould and is summarized as follows:

We are slowly getting the graffiti in the area under control. Some members do a great job painting over it as soon as it arrives. Recurrences seem to come in waves but less frequently; there is a complete absence of large “murals”.

On Sunday 12th June we had a 2nd graffiti blitz day. Turnout was smaller than last year though we did receive quite a few apologies. Volunteers worked hard and their efforts are particularly noticeable at the Glenthorne end of Southerton Road. Jewson donated paint.

Toni Raybould thanked everyone involved as well as the regulars that usually help on a Sunday. Volunteers are always needed.

Web Cams

The quest for web-cams is ongoing – there has been some headway and we are very close to having them installed in Aldensley and Trussley Roads.

Postal Services

The patchy delivery schedule has been a gripe of many members. BRA has continued to liaise with the post office and there have been some improvements over the past 6 months.

Despite a brave fight we lost the post office in Brackenbury Road. The nearest POs to the area are now at the bottom of Askew Road, on Goldhawk Road at the top of Hammersmith Grove, in Hammersmith Broadway and in King St.

Street Cleaning

There has been much success in improving the street cleaning of the area over the last 12 months. Management has changed and there has been an increase in personnel. Members agreed that they had noticed the difference.

8. Rule change

Following circulation to the membership 10 days prior to the meeting Murray Thomas read the proposed change which contained three key changes:

- (1) Membership will be extended **to persons resident outside the area, save that such persons shall not be admitted to membership in excess of five percent of the total membership**
- (2) **A copy of the Rules may be obtained by any member from the secretary on request.**
- (3) Businesses, schools and other institutions, **whether located inside or outside the area,** may become non-voting associate members.

The first proposed change (1) generated extensive discussion and debate, primarily relating to the impact of “non-residents” having voting rights. Many members were satisfied with the change but there were severe concerns from a few of the membership. When their concerns were voiced this led to further debate. Change (1) was rejected as first proposed.

Cllr Chris Allen put forward an alternative to the amendment. This was discussed at length. Finally the membership voted in favour of the proposed extension of the membership (with 1 against) with wording as follows:

“Subject to approval at the next Annual (or Extraordinary) General Meeting, the Committee may co-opt any person or persons not otherwise eligible for membership as non-voting associate members.”

Changes (2) and (3) were accepted.

Each of these changes will be incorporated into the Association's rules in due course.

9. Election of committee

The following were elected to the committee for 2005-06: Tony Stephens, James Briscoe, Diana Mather, Rosemary Pettit, Toni Raybould, Murray Thomas and Treena Jinnah.

10. Questions and issues from the floor

Question: What is the Association's view on the Uxbridge Tram?

Tony Stephens(?): BRA is under the impression that plans have been shelved but has been monitoring developments.

Question: Is BRA involved in fighting the proposed extension of the Congestion Zone as this will force additional traffic into our area and have a massive impact on parking?

Cllr Allen suggested that BRA should connect with other organizations against the CC, i.e., the Council. Combined efforts would have more impact. Another member said that it would be wise to remain distant from any political ties.

Cllr Allen said that, as well as looking at new issues, the committee should continue to focus on the areas that they are already working on; he commended them for their efforts.

Question: Is it appropriate for BRA to take a view on new licensing applications?

At this point, due to their positions on the Council licensing committee, Cllrs Chris Allen and Melanie Smallman withdrew from the meeting before any specific applications were discussed.

Question from Martin Thirlaway: Would BRA object to the proposed license extension at the Grove Bar on Hammersmith Grove from 12-2.30am seven nights a week ?

There are a number of grave concerns over the impact on residents and the area in general that go with a late license: traffic issues – impossible to park at weekends, noise, increase in loutish behaviour; no police patrols at that time of the evening. Despite the fact that the current Grove owners may be responsible with the license it would, in effect, be granted to the premises NOT the current owners.

A number of residents concurred and voiced their concerns. Some members asked if it was possible to speak to the owners directly but the general consensus was that a written objection from the Association would be the best course of action.

Cllr Steve Cowan volunteered his help in drafting an evidence-based proposal and advised concerned residents to write additional individual letters.

Committee to draft a letter in advance of Wednesday 29th June.

Question: Will the hotel at the bottom of Southerton/Overstone Roads ever be granted permission to be redeveloped?

Tony Stephens?: The committee will look into it.

11. Thanks and close