

Minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting 20 July 2006, at the Grove Neighbourhood Centre

Attendees – Committee: Tony Stephens (Chairman), Martin Thirlaway (Treasurer), Stuart Blake, Rosemary Pettit, Toni Raybould, Murray Thomas, Richard Winterton.

Members: Chris Allen, Harriet Ashworth, John Ashworth, Dante Barbareschi, Anna Benson-Gyles, Michael Burling, Alyce Chadwell, Adrian Chiles, Isobel Coy, Nick Cunningham, Julia Davidson, Clive Davis, Isobel Ford, Paul Fox, Liz Fraser, Peter Hallett, Gary Hanson, Susanna Hanson, Annick Hardwick, Tony Hardwick, Claire Harris, Andy Hartland, Jane Hartland, Fiona Henderson, Susan Herbert, Cllr Lucy Ivimy, Josie Lerch, Shirley Lucking, Alice McMillan, Juliet Melford, Peter Munns, Sheilah Mustill, Cllr Lisa Nandy, Rona Passmore, Cllr Harry Phibbs, Susan Richards, Keith Robinson, Lesley Spires, Liz St-Claire-Legge, Patrick Stephenson, Neil Studley, Joanna Thomas, Pirkko Ward, Anne Whatmore, John Whatmore, Vanessa Whigham, Maggie Williams, Lisbeth Winterton, Michael Wright and 2 others.

Guests: Cllr Stephen Cowan, Evangeline Karn (Brook Green Association), Sgt Paul Goulden, PC Stuart Ford (Broadway Safer Neighbourhood Team).

Apologies: Sheila Aldworth, Angela Clarke, Sally Fletcher, John Gilbert, Consuelo Gonzalez, Bunny Hoover, Hymie Hunt, Tim Hunt, Margaret Hyde, Enid Marron, Diana Mather, Dede Millar, Valerie Minogue, Patricia Quigley, Teresa Quigley, Tanya Severn, Catherine Stables, Johnathan Sunley, Angela Warr-King, Anne Wright. **Guests:** Greg Hands MP, Sgt Dougie Gold (Ravenscourt Park Safer Neighbourhood Team), Angela Dixon (Hammersmith and Fulham Historic Buildings Group), Felicity Barker (The Ravenscourt Society), Ainslie Johnston (Brook Green Association).

1. Minutes of AGM 2005

The minutes were taken as read and accepted.

2. Chairman's Report

Tony Stephens announced that he was standing down as chairman, having joined the committee as editor and subsequently chairing the association for six years. In this time he believed the association had moved forward and become a community of people working together to make the neighbourhood more pleasant and our engagement with each other more beneficial.

He thanked committee members for their work: Rosemary Pettit, membership secretary, Toni Raybould who organises anti-graffiti removal, Richard Winterton who monitors planning and licensing developments, Martin Thirlaway as Treasurer, Diana Mather who arranges the annual social and Murray Thomas who lends us his legal expertise. Stuart Blake, a newcomer to the committee, became editor of the newsletter and has much improved its content and style. We continue, he said, to produce a membership newsletter four times a year with sponsorship from Royston; once a year a bumper edition is also delivered to 3000 households in the area.

In addition, he thanked Neil Studley who maintains our website, Lesley Spires for relaunching Neighbourhood Watch in Brackenbury, and Treena Jinnah who is retiring as Secretary this year.

As he stepped down, said Tony, he would also like to extend thanks to the many people who have contributed their time and energy to supporting the association and for making his time as chair such a positive and rewarding experience. Although it was now up to the new committee to take the association forward he did have a few ideas for future action: BT to tidy/remove telephone poles and plant trees, changes to parking hours/controls, and introduction of a visitors' parking scheme.

He wished the association well and feels sure it has a valuable role to play in the future.

Thanks to Tony Stephens: Rosemary Pettit proposed a vote of thanks to Tony for his years in leading the association. When she joined the committee in 2000 the association had been formed for only a year and had had considerable teething problems. Tony took on the chairmanship and through his leadership the association subsequently established a sustained programme of events, responded to community concerns and engaged members by undertaking new activities in Brackenbury. We owe him a great deal, she said.

To hearty applause Tony was presented with a couple of bottles of very nice wine as a token of appreciation.

3. Secretary's Report

No Secretary's report.

4. Treasurer's Report

Martin Thirlaway presented the Treasurer's report (see attachment). The association, he said, had £484 surplus for the year to end March. As of now the bank balance is £3610, all cheques banked and standing orders submitted. Commenting on the report he said that a slight profit appears to have been made on 'graffiti' (Council grant and Jewsons' donation) but the excess will be spent this year. The balance is building up for future projects. Martin thanked Alice McMillan as auditor.

Auditor: Alice McMillan commented that the association spends money on rented halls and could save money by having committee meetings in members' homes. BRA should, she said, spend £1500 this year on tree-planting projects (matching Council funds), projects for children/young people, the elderly, GNC or Sycamore Gardens. Tony Stephens replied by saying that BRA supported GNC by holding meetings here. He was sure that the committee would consider the auditor's views.

5. Membership Report

Last year, said Rosemary Pettit, BRA had 323 paid-up members of which 148 paid by standing order and 48 were new members; we were in email contact with 185 members. At this AGM we have 344 paid-up members of which 216 pay by standing order and 30 are new members; we are in email contact with 222 members.

There are a couple of caveats to those figures. The 2006 AGM is a month later than last year, allowing for last-minute membership subs and new members. Previously, standing orders and email contacts were estimated per household; this year the calculation is based on member rather than household. Finally, she and the Treasurer have yet to reconcile annual subscription standing orders with membership.

Taking all this into account, there will be a small increase in membership, and we are comfortably over the 300 mark which was last year's target. However, only 30 new members joined this year and so Rosemary asked everyone to recruit for the association; in particular, please talk to new residents.

Street representatives: Three years ago we began a network of street representatives. The association is now represented in Brackenbury Rd, Bradmore Park Rd, Cambridge Grove, Cardross St, Carthew Villas, Coulter Rd, Dalling Rd, Dorville Crescent, Hammersmith Grove, Iffley Rd, Nasmyth St, Overstone Rd, Perrers Rd, Raynham Rd and Richford St. If any member would volunteer to be a street rep please do contact us. The duties are quite light - helping with newsletter delivery, contacting potential members and being the eyes and ears of the association.

6. Activity Reports

- **Planning and licensing:** Richard Winterton noted that applications of public concern were monitored. The application to build a tower block on the Allied Carpets site affects us: traffic and inappropriateness for a residential area. In his view there's not a lot we can do now, it is a legal battle over the Unitary Development Plan. Last summer BRA played a part in the new licensing regime as it affected local pubs: Grove Bar, Thatched House, Tommy Flynns and the Olive Tree (continuing). He has been reassured that the new legislation works well as the Council has effective powers.

Allied Carpets appeal: Cllr Lucy Ivimy urged members to attend the continuing Appeals hearing into the Allied Carpets site – the more signatures the more weight brought to bear. Rosemary Pettit will email members to that effect.

- **Graffiti:** Toni Raybould reported that, until recently, the area had been free of graffiti for some time, thanks to some wonderful helpers cleaning it off. Now it has returned and she asked members to advise her of sites on agatetoni@yahoo.co.uk. The Council will remove it from brickwork. Some businesses also remove it. There has been discussion about schools painting murals in Trussley Road, one of the worst affected sites.

BRA website: Neil Studley suggested members may also wish to report graffiti on our website.

- **Police and crime:** Lesley Spires said that a Neighbourhood Watch meeting was held at the end of May attended by police from the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). As a result two residents have set up a NW scheme in Brackenbury Gardens and others are interested. Agate Rd is proposing a scheme. Resources are easy to access via the web and she has pamphlets for distribution.

Police contact: Sgt Paul Goulden (Broadway ward) encouraged anyone interested to contact him or Lesley. NW schemes are located on a road, 'your' road. In response to a question about contacting the police he said if it's an emergency dial 999, otherwise call Hammersmith Police Station. He appreciates that it is sometimes difficult to get through but the service should improve when it migrates to a call centre in September. Or call SNT to discuss a problem.

- **Street cleaning and recycling; and next year's objectives** – discussed elsewhere or nothing to report.

7. Rule change

Murray Thomas said that, in order to avoid problems, the committee wished to embody BRA's impartiality in the Rules. This has to be done at a general meeting and a notice was sent to members in advance. The new rule has to be accepted by two thirds of the membership excluding abstentions. The proposed new rule 12 is as follows: 'The Association shall at all times maintain a position of independence and impartiality in relation to all political parties and organisations.'

In response to a question proposing the insertion of 'political' before 'organisations' Tony Stephens said there might be non-political organisations with which we do not wish to be associated.

The proposal was overwhelmingly carried by a show of hands.

8. Election of committee members

Tony Stephens noted that the Rules allow for the direct election of the Treasurer only. A nomination for Treasurer has been submitted by Martin Thirlaway. By a show of hands Martin Thirlaway was elected as Treasurer.

The committee is elected and the committee chooses roles for its members including that of chairman, said Tony. Chris Allen has expressed an interest in becoming chairman but it is up to the committee to choose. The following have been duly proposed and seconded: Christopher Allen, Dante Barbareschi, Stuart Blake, Diana Mather, Rosemary Pettit, Toni Raybould, Lesley Spires, Murray Thomas, Richard Winterton. By a show of hands the above were elected to the committee.

Rosemary Pettit asked for any member to contact her if he or she was willing to become the Secretary.*

Guest speaker: ADRIAN CHILES, broadcaster and local resident

Adrian Chiles said he came to live in Brackenburg about ten years ago, living in Perrers Rd. It's a very mixed area, all classes. The Duke of York pub was a bit rough – he saw two women fighting in the street one Sunday afternoon – never seen that before. He did a series on cooking-at-home in Perrers Rd – with Vinny Jones and Stirling Moss. Even Vinny Jones thought the Duke of York was rough! After three or four years he moved to Agate Rd. Mice plague the area, he said, both in Perrers Rd and Agate Rd – we need a mouse policy.

It's very multiracial round here, but this meeting is all white, and I know that great efforts have been made at Brackenburg School to bring in other races – with limited success. Social classes live cheek by jowl and do not have much to do with each other. In Agate Rd a million-pound house is next door to a housing association house which is beside a refugee hostel. All life is in the Andover, and you have to drink Fullers.

Adrian Chiles worries about drugs, it seems out of control and how do you police it? It's happening openly outside his house. He was raided and told it was drugs related. He doesn't know why it can't be dealt with. Can the residents' association do anything about it? Dog fouling – he doesn't understand how people can let their dogs do that. He had a confrontation with a young black youth who let his dog poo on the pavement outside his house. The youth offered him violence and the police went out looking for him.

He has thought of moving out. He wouldn't want his children to be at secondary school here unless he pays. He and his wife looked in Buckinghamshire and elsewhere but he would miss living round here so much, the people are less interesting out there. On balance, he thinks he'll be carried out with the mice in 50 years' time.

9. Questions

There were questions and discussion from the floor on overhanging hedges, cyclists on pavements, Council pavement weed spraying, neighbours' house ivy, street furniture, concreting over front gardens, and tree removal.

10. Thanks and close

Tony Stephens thanked Adrian Chiles, and members for attending. The AGM finished with a glass of wine.

* We are happy to report that Julia Davidson subsequently offered her services as the association's Secretary and has been duly co-opted.

