



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 10 April 2019

The annual general meeting was held at St. Stephen's Church. Over 40 people attended.

### 7:10 p.m.

- Chairman Suzanne Forte (SF) welcomed attendees and explained that the Agenda had been rearranged to allow our resident policemen to begin the meeting.

### Neighbourhood Watch

- At SF's request, PC Hunter, with his colleagues Adrian Chapman and Zac Ali updated those present with the state of crime in the area. They reiterated that NHE is a low crime area. However, if you are the victim of a crime or a burglary or attempted crime then statistics don't matter.
- PC Hunter reported that the burglaries in our area are mainly opportunistic and associated with an open or flimsy door.
- Certain properties such as Orsett Terrace and Porchester Square had been singled out because of their poor door quality. The HA responsible has been informed and they have promised to improve the security of the buildings.
- PC Hunter suggested the following to improve home security: not allowing post to build up if away, using doorbells that allow viewing of the person at the door, good window and door locks.
- The Chair of the HRA mentioned that they had been advised by their police contact to report crimes directly to him. PC Hunter explained that the formal report still needed to start by calling 101 as this allows the crime to be logged onto the system. The crime can then be reported to the neighbourhood police representative *with* the reference number.
- A problem with scaffolding at 22 St Stephen's Gardens and the building opposite was raised as the scaffolding has been there for a considerable time and will be there for a considerable period to come. Our local police are aware of the problems. The police have encouraged the freeholder to alarm the scaffolding. John Zamit has also spoken to Genesis about alarming scaffolding on their projects.
- Scaffolding alarms can only currently be encouraged rather than enforced but more encouragement from either NHENF and/or the HRA may help.

- In addition to burglaries, two residents have had problems with rubbish being thrown into their property. The police advised them that this needed to be reported to the council as fly tipping.
- Hereford Road residents raised the issue of (mainly delivery) motorbikes speeding down their road. Recording misbehaviour, particularly if the licence plate is captured, allows the police to follow up.
- Reports of drug dealing in Bridstow Place were discussed. PC Hunter said they would attend if it were reported in real time.

### **Resumption of Chairman's address**

- SF thanked Councillor David Boothroyd of the Westbourne Ward, Councillor Richard Elcho of the Bayswater Ward, Amanda Coulson, head of the Westminster North planning team, and John Zamit, Chairman of our neighbouring residents' association SEBRA for attending.

### **Adoption of meeting minutes**

- Meeting minutes from the 2018 AGM were adopted.

### **Elections**

- SF began by showing the differences between the work of the Notting Hill East Neighbourhood Forum (NHENF) which centres around the preparation of a neighbourhood plan, and the Westbourne Neighbourhood Association (WNA) which organises events, creates newsletters, comments on planning applications, responds to consultations, liaises with Carnival organisers and participates in the Westminster-wide amenity society forum.
- She directed attendees to the list of committee members standing for re-election. All were re-elected. There were no new nominations at this time but attendees were encouraged to see us after the meeting to discuss any interest in participating.
- Committee members are: Suzanne Forte, Andrew Pilkington, David Rea, Jessica Staddon and Penny Bagnall-Smith

### **Accounts: Jessica**

- Treasurer Louise Terry has left the area so Jessica presented the accounts. The balance of the previous year was £9,609 and the balance this year was £9,181. Jessica reviewed the costs involved in the running of NHENF/WNA; printing, public insurance, accountancy and events, etc., and encouraged donations.
- Accounts were adopted.

### **Membership: Penny Bagnall-Smith**

- Membership has decreased to 160 this year mainly due to “unintentional drop outs” following GDPR. For a similar reason, some of the attendees did not have their emails on record but these have now been reinstated.
- PBS outlined the aim to increase membership in the coming year and thanked those who had generously donated this evening.

### **Cybercrime and other scams: PBS**

- PBS summarised the information given by the Met Police during our neighbourhood talk on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. (charts 25-28)

### **Neighbourhood Plan status: SF and Andrew Pilkington**

- SF updated the group on the status of the Neighbourhood Plan and drew their attention to the details displayed in the hall.
- SF outlined Resolution 1 (charts 21-26 attached), which was subsequently proposed, seconded and passed.
- SF and AP outlined the considerations when reviewing planning applications. (chart 27)

### **Carnival: Sarmila Bose**

- Sarmila reported that the Carnival Organisers for 2018 had done a good job and had been awarded the contract for a further three years.
- They are the Carnival Village Trust and can be contacted via their website [carnivalvillage.org.uk](http://carnivalvillage.org.uk).

### **On-going consultations in our area: SF**

- SF talked through various proposals affecting our area (chart 29).
- Potential plans for Shrewsbury Gardens were shown. Groundwork (a landscaping charity) is proposing how they could help us transform the space for the community.
- Royal Oak Coach Station is now NOT going ahead.
- Heathrow flight paths will be an issue and various local action groups are forming.
- Developers are still hoping to place a hotel in the block at the corner of Westbourne Grove and Hereford Rd. NHENF/WNA and HRA hope to continue to consult with developers ahead of a planning application to influence plans in residents’ favour.
- SF put forward a resolution regarding the Electoral Review of Ward Boundaries (chart 33). A debate ensued and the Forum chose not to change boundaries at present, preferring to keep in touch with councillors from both wards currently in our boundary. NHENF/WNA will continue to reach out to the residents of Wessex Gardens to make sure that their views are heard.

**Amanda Coulson was welcomed to the floor to talk about some changes to the planning process.**

- Planning Committees take place every week on Tuesdays.
- Anyone wanting to speak out publically about an application can do so by registering by 12 noon the previous Friday.
- The council is keen to improve engagement at the pre-application stage.
- There will be consultations about the process over the summer with Forums and Amenity groups.
- Nicky Hessenberg protested the lack of a Design Review Panel in Westminster for larger projects and implored the creation of one. AC agreed and explained that it was being researched and investigated currently.

**Future Activities: SF**

- SF announced the dates of future events and activities:
  - Swap Day – Saturday May 18
  - Neighbourhood walk - Sunday May 19
  - Big Lunch – Sunday June 2

**8:40 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned and guests remained for pizza, wine and conversation.