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Annual General Meeting

7:00pm Monday March 9th 2015

Woodberry Down Baptist Church

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Guests:

Cllr Dhiren Basu (Haringey Council)

Brian Ellick (Council Enforcement Team, Haringey Borough)

Judy Hallgarten (Groundwork)

Oscar K Katu (St. Mungo's Broadway)

Bernadette Kennedy (Groundwork)

Marc McKenna (Manor House PACT)

Russel King (Bridge Renewal Trust).

Residents:

Francesca, Sara, Nicolas, Allard, Mars, Anthea, Anne, Roger, Nerys, Anna, Josie, Joao, Mark, DG, Kirsty, E, Lara, Nicola, Deborah.

Committee:

Harriet, Bennie (David) , Carol, Mary, Chitra, Henriette, Ruby, Charles, Abi, Nic.

Apologies:

Jean Mann (HAGA), Safer Neighbourhood Team, Claire (committee member), Jerry and Paul (residents).

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions:

The Chair, Bennie, opened the meeting and welcomed guests and residents. Everyone introduced themselves. Bennie reminded residents that the Committee encourages their involvement.

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (AGM):

A vote was taken that the minutes of the AGM on October 17th 2013 be accepted as a true record. This was agreed without objection.

3. Chair's Report:

Bennie presented a written report reviewing the year and invited comments and discussion. He explained to residents that there are a number of local organisations working to maintain a positive environment and atmosphere who, along with residents, wish to create a sense of community. Some of these organisations have been invited to this meeting to discuss their services. A copy of the Report is available on the VCRA website.

4. Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer, Henriette, highlighted that the main resource to the Residents' Association is people's time and input into local events, of great value to the community. At the end of January the VCRA funds were £558.22 including £50 in cash. A further £100 is in gift cards, via generous donations from Stamford Hill Sainsbury's. Henriette invited questions or comments. There were none. Henriette explained that she has decided to stand down as Treasurer and remain on the Committee. Bennie and those present thanked Henriette for her support of the VCRA.

5. Appointment of Committee members:

Bennie explained that the constitution allows for 12 places on the Committee and at present two are unfilled. The VCRA encourages any resident to contribute to the community in any way they wish, either as a Committee member or via other activities. Bennie gave some background as to the various roles of the Committee. In the year we welcomed Carol as a new member. Ruby has decided to stand down from the Committee. All remaining Committee members confirmed they are happy to serve for a further year. Deborah offered to re-join the Committee and Bennie thanked her for all that she contributes locally and to the website. Bennie agreed to continue to be Chair, and Harriet to become the Treasurer. There were no objections and therefore the appointments were confirmed.

6. Discussion about current constitution:

Bennie explained that if the Committee thinks that changes to the constitution are needed then an extraordinary residents' meeting will be called to consider proposed changes.

7. Local services update – information will also be on the VCRA website.

Judy and Bernadette updated the meeting on the work of **Groundwork**, funded by Haringey Council. Groundwork holds events to encourage the community to build local capacity and get involved in local parks. The feedback has been that Groundwork should lead this. Bennie highlighted the Committee's view that, however well intentioned, this could be replacing the Council's job and that volunteer-based initiatives are unsustainable. Councillor Basu thanked Groundwork and is proud of the work that happens in the local area, and maintenance of local parks. He emphasised that Haringey is limited by the funding it receives centrally. Groundwork has also contributed to events, such as the VCRA summer and winter events, and more will take place later this year. Training has been taking place to improve parks and people's gardening skills and Groundwork has links with Triangle and local schools. Bernadette supports volunteers on Tuesday afternoons and the next session will be on Saturday March 28th.

Deborah asked about Groundwork's recent community action plans. Judy highlighted that the plans presented a range of options and invited residents to contact them via information uploaded onto the website.

Brian Ellick discussed the role of the **Neighbourhood Action Team** which covers highway safety inspections, e.g. potholes and raised pavements; inspects streets for rubbish collection; and carries out enforcement e.g. fly tipping. The local Neighbourhood Action Officer regularly patrols the area and, in partnership with Veolia, problems can be resolved quickly. Brian also encouraged residents to use the 'My Haringey' smart phone app to report problems. Residents agreed that there is a high level of fly tipping (particularly on the bend of Vartry Road opposite

Mungos, on the junction of other roads, and where there are transient populations and Housing of Multiple Occupation).

Brian reminded residents that the Council's 'Bulky Goods' collection is free to residents and if the Neighbourhood Action Team see rubbish in people's front gardens they put a leaflet through their door to remind them of the collection service. It is also a concern that so much rubbish gathers in Manchester Gardens, relying on local volunteers to clear litter. BE informed residents of the forthcoming litter collection day on March 21st.

Marc McKenna informed residents that **Manor House Development Trust** is entering the third and final year of its local PACT programme to raise awareness of climate change and local action that can be taken. The programme advises local residents on energy saving, offering home visits, energy saving devices, insulation advice, 'lifestyle' training e.g. permaculture and plants. PACT offers free community meals, holds an annual festival, e.g. hidden river festival and Woodberry Wetlands project, and runs the wildlife garden in the Woodberry Down estate. PACT works with Hackney Fixers to encourage recycling and 'upcycling' furniture. Residents were told of the Eco Active initiative offering facilitated sessions to local people to launch projects with £150 support.

Russell King from **Bridge Renewal Trust** updated residents on the health and wellbeing charity, funded by New Deal for Communities. This includes complementary therapies in the Laurels, the Community Hut and recently, the Chestnuts community centre. Services include gardening projects, cooking skills, and the 'Tottenham Talking Project' which supported local people around their mental health. BRT are about to launch a history project called Mapping Tottenham.

Chitra highlighted that there is a lot going on locally that we could better highlight through website - Deborah will see to this. Local organisations were also reminded that the VCRA has volunteers who can distributed leaflets locally on their behalf.

Oscar Katu from **Mungos Broadway** let residents know that the homelessness charity plan to hold a community event to break down barriers between clients and local community.

Nicolas, a local resident, urged residents to lobby the Council for a local, secure bike hanger. Bennie offered the support of the VCRA in this scheme and all residents present approved. Abi and Deborah will coordinate support for this, along with Cllr Basu. Anecdotally, there remains little support for the option of parking restrictions in the area, though residents note the rise in parked cars.

Charles and Ruby talked about the **Winter Shelter Project** which runs for 6 weeks for rough sleepers, urging residents to get involved.

Deborah will place information on the VCRA website regarding two residents running the marathon for Haringey Parks.

Henriette presented a petition to stand against cuts to Triangle childcare services.

Whilst there was not much time for a full discussion about what residents would like by way of local activities and events, Bennie reminded those present that they can get involved in a variety of ways, and to keep an eye on the website.

There being no other business, Bennie thanked residents for attending the meeting and contributing so fully to matters of local interest.