



**MINUTES OF THE 85th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
MOTTINGHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
HELD AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL
WEDNESDAY 26th APRIL 2017**

Richard Mainwaring-Burton, in the Chair, opened the meeting with a welcome to all, particularly our guest speaker Chris Davis from Mottingham Library.

APOLOGIES: Tom Biro, Sheila Blanks, Edmund Cavendish, Margaret Henderson Rebecca Young, Cllr David Cartwright, Cllr Matt Hartley, Ian Welch and both Bromley and Greenwich Police.

MINUTES OF THE AGM ON 27TH APRIL 2016

Proposed by Liz Keable, seconded by Ted Rowlands and it was unanimously resolved that,

Subject to a correction regarding the appointment of Treasurer and Deputy Chairman:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2016 be and are hereby approved as a true record.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman began by paying tribute to committee members who give up their time and energy for no reward, particularly the elected officers without whom the processes could not happen. He also thanked the Councillors for their support noting that Greenwich Councillor Matt Hartley had been selected to stand for election at the forthcoming General Election and wished him well. Thanks were also extended to the Bromley and Greenwich Police who work hard to keep Mottingham at the bottom of the league tables for crime in the respective boroughs.

Attention was drawn to success of the new website which regularly recorded over 100 visits per day, a figure that had actually increased to some 200/day since the AGM notice went out. There are links to the Horticultural Society, whose AGM is scheduled for this coming Saturday, and the Floral Arrangement Society amongst others.

Last year's newsletter had been well received and the Executive were currently considering producing two newsletters this year with an earlier one providing a report of the AGM and accounts details to help Road Representatives to collect subscriptions earlier in the year.

This past year had also seen the renovation of the Notice Board outside the Methodist Church, the new bench near the entrance to Foxes Field and deferment of plans to impose parking charges in Mottingham Road.

We had also received reports that Bexley had withdrawn from the agreement to work with Bromley on the Library back office functions – we await developments here.

The PDC is still working to get the Porcupine Pub re-opened however Lidl had been disappointed with the recent bids as none came near the costs they were seeking to recover. Lidl are now considering their position but may well submit a new planning application which we will have to fight. The MRA intend to apply for an extension of the ACV as it nears expiry.

It is acknowledged by the Executive Committee that there is a perpetual under-provision of at least 60 entry level school places in Mottingham partly caused by being at the junction of three different local authorities. All but one of the Mottingham Schools are no longer run by the Councils but by a selection of Trusts. The Committee drew up a prospectus for the creation of a free school to meet the identified need to be submitted to possible sponsors. Some elements of this proposal were unfortunately misrepresented and were translated into a petition which was signed by 233 individuals, not all local residents, and submitted to the committee. The true facts of the proposal were circulated to all homes.

He concluded by asking residents to consider joining the Committee.

THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT was also presented by Richard Mainwaring-Burton and began by pointing out that there are over 2000 homes covered by the Association about 920 of which are members of the MRA. That said there are specific areas where we have access problems namely the 'Everest expedition' flats and an appeal was made for more Road Representatives especially from people within these buildings. He also expressed thanks to all the Road Representatives and Section Leaders without which it would be difficult to communicate effectively with Members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer began by drawing attention to the audited accounts copies of which were available for collection at the back of the hall. The MRA income for the year ended 31st March amounted to £2367, down by £199 on the previous year leaving a surplus of £311. This does however include an agreed payment of the second £500 to the Porcupine Development Committee. Room hire costs at Dorset Rd had also risen prompting the move of Executive Committee meetings to St Andrews to reduce costs.

Surplus funds have been moved into the reserve deposit account which now stands at £13000.

The recommendation is that the Annual Subscriptions remain at £2.50 and that we continue to support the Festive Lights to the sum of £500 each year.

The Treasurer also thanked the Section Leaders and Road Reps. for submitting the road sheets and subscriptions and for all their efforts on collecting, often needing several attempts to catch people in. As mentioned by the Membership Secretary, we now have a 45% penetration Members were urged wherever they could to encourage neighbours to subscribe to and support the MRA.

In concluding the Treasurer thanked Bernie Hawes who audited the accounts so promptly to ensure their availability for this meeting.

There being no questions on the accounts **Sally Babi proposed, Seconded by Astrid Chklar that:**

The Audited accounts for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2017 be and are hereby received and adopted.

Duly carried nem. con.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

We now come to the election of officers, All the current officers have, with one variation, agreed to continue if required to do so but Members are able to propose alternatives if they wish and such proposals should be made at the appropriate point.

The Position of CHAIRMAN

Richard Mainwaring-Burton had decided his efforts were better focussed on developing the website, the newsletter and Membership database so is standing down as Chairman. The Executive Committee propose that Laurie Bell be appointed as Chairman.

There being no other candidates coming forward **Sally Babi proposed, seconded by Astrid Chklar that:**

Laurie Bell be and is hereby appointed Chairman of the MRA for the coming year.

Duly carried nem.con

TREASURER

There being no other Candidates coming forward **Liz Keable proposed, seconded by Ted Rowlands that: Laurie Bell be and is hereby re-appointed Treasurer for a further year.**

Duly carried nem.con

At this point Laurie Bell assumed the chair.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

With the current incumbent Laurie Bell having been appointed Chairman The Executive Committee recommended that Richard Mainwaring-Burton be appointed Deputy Chair. With no other candidates coming forward **Val Cheeseman proposed, seconded by Alison Lawrie that:**

Richard Mainwaring-Burton be and is hereby appointed Deputy Chairman for the coming year.

Duly carried nem.con

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Liz Keable proposed that Lesley Robins, who has been understudying the role for some months, be appointed Membership Secretary. Lesley Robins agreed to stand on condition that Richard works with her for a smooth transition. In the circumstances Richard Mainwaring-Burton decided to withdraw his nomination for this post.

Astrid Chklar then seconded the proposal that:

Lesley Robins be and is hereby appointed Membership Secretary for the coming year.

Duly carried nem.con

SECRETARY

There being no other candidates coming forward **Ted Rowlands proposed, seconded by Liz Keable that:**

Robert Blanks be and is hereby reappointed Secretary for a further year.

Duly carried nem.con

Mr Blanks gave notice that he would not be standing for re-election next year.

AUDITOR

Proposed by Liz Keable, seconded by Jim Thomas that:

Mr Bernie Hawes be and is hereby appointed Auditor for the coming year.

Duly carried nem.con

Following the election of Officers it remained to re-elect the remaining members of the Executive Committee. The Chairman advised that Astrid Chklar, after 10 years on the Committee had decided not to stand again this year. He thanked Astrid for her efforts and support over the years and called upon attendees to show their appreciation resulting in a full round of applause.

The remaining Committee members are all standing again and it was agreed to consider their re-election in one block.

Robert Timpson Proposed, seconded by Alison Lawrie that:

Sally Bettsworth, Edmund Cavendish, Margaret Henderson
Liz Keable, Jane Cornish, and Rebecca Young,

Be and are hereby re-appointed as Members of the Executive Committee for a further year.

Duly carried nem.con

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The chairman introduced this item by pointing out that, as explained in the Notice, the MRA has for many years considered membership to continue beyond the 31st March year end until such time as the subsequent year's subscriptions are paid or the member has failed to renew. Each household constitutes one Membership. For various reasons, over the last few years, the collection of subscriptions has slipped to later and later in the year which has resulted in a sort of limbo period for some Members which the Committee feels should not be allowed to continue. It is therefore proposed that this situation be formally recognised in the Constitution by adding provision for a 6 month grace period to safeguard Member's rights during this period. Steps will also be taken to increase attempts to collect subscription renewals within this grace period. If a member fails to renew membership before 30th September then the membership will lapse until such time as it is renewed.

There being no questions Richard Mainwaring-Burton proposed, seconded by Jane Cornish that:

The Association's Constitution be amended as follows:

"Under 'Membership' insert as new Clause 6:

- 6. The membership year shall run from 1st April to 31st March in line with the Association's Financial Year. Membership shall however continue after the 31st March for a grace period of 6 months to 30th September to allow for renewal following which, if not renewed, the membership shall lapse.**

Consequential amendments:

Subsequent clauses 6 through 23 to be renumbered 7 through 24

The Resolution was duly passed nem con.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, and the formalities having been concluded, the Chairman noted that, due to the forthcoming general election it was deemed inappropriate for any of the Councillors to speak to the meeting but pointed out that John Hills would be available during the break if anyone wanted to raise anything in private. He then adjourned the meeting for a 20 minute break

GUEST SPEAKER:

Following a break for refreshments the Chairman introduced Chris Davis pointing out that she had waived the normal honorarium. Chris, a well-known member of the community, gave an interesting presentation on the history and some hidden, less well known aspects of Trafalgar Square

The meeting thanked her for a very entertaining talk and there being no other Business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.45.