**REPORT OF THE 85th AGM OF THE MRA**

**HELD AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL**

**WEDNESDAY 26th APRIL 2017**

**The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 27th April 2016 were approved as a true record.**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman paid 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. 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.

**The Year’s Successes**

* The new website is now recording over 100 visits per day, a figure that had increased to some 200/day since the AGM notice went out.
* The new colour newsletter had been well received and the Executive are considering producing two newsletters this year with an earlier one providing a report of the AGM and accounts details to assist Road Representatives with collection subscriptions earlier in the year.
* Renovation of the Notice Board outside the Methodist Church.
* Replacement of the Festival bench near the entrance to Foxes Field.
* Deferment of plans to impose parking charges in Mottingham Road.

**Library**

It is reported that Bexley have withdrawn from the agreement to work with Bromley on the Library back office functions – we await developments here.

**Porcupine**

The PDC is still working to get the Porcupine Pub re-opened; however Lidl had been disappointed with the recent sealed 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.

**School Proposal**

It is still acknowledged by the Executive Committee that there is a perpetual under-provision of at least 60 entry level school places in north 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 for submission to possible sponsors for additional school places. 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.

New Committee members are always welcome.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

There are over 2000 homes covered by the Association about 920 of which are members of the MRA.

There are specific areas where we have access problems such as ‘Everest expedition’ flats and an appeal was made for more Road Representatives especially from people within these buildings.

Thanks were expressed to all the Road Representatives and Section Leaders without whom it would be difficult to communicate effectively with Members.

**Treasurer's Report**

Audited accounts were presented. Income for the year ended 31st March amounted to £2367, down by £199 on the previous year leaving a surplus of £311. This includes an agreed payment of the second £500 to the Porcupine Development Committee. Room hire costs at Dorset Rd had 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 treasurer recommended that the Annual Subscription 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.

**The Audited accounts were received and adopted.**

**Election of Officers and Executive committee OFFICERS**

**The Position of CHAIRMAN**

**Laurie Bell was appointed Chairman of the MRA for the coming year.**

**TREASURER**

**Laurie Bell was re-appointed Treasurer for a further year**.

**DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

**Richard Mainwaring-Burton was appointed Deputy Chairman for the coming year.**

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

**Lesley Robins was appointed Membership Secretary for the coming year.**

**SECRETARY**

**Robert Blanks was reappointed Secretary for a further year.**

**AUDITOR**

**Mr Bernie Hawes was reappointed Auditor for the coming year.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Astrid Chklar, after 10 years on the Committee had decided not to stand again this year. The chairman thanked Astrid for her efforts and support over the years and called upon attendees to show their appreciation resulting in a round of applause..

**Sally Bettesworth Edmund Cavendish Jane Cornish**

**Margaret Henderson Liz Keable Rebecca Young**

**Were re-appointed as Members of the Executive Committee for a further year.**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The chairman pointed out that 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 was 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.

It was proposed 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.**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Due to the forthcoming general election it was deemed inappropriate for any of the Councillors to speak to the meeting. There was no other business. The meeting was adjourned 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.