 **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the**

**Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents Association**

**Thursday, 10 May 2018 at St John’s Church Hall,**

**Friern Barnet Road, N11 at 7.00pm**

**Present:**  Yvonne Ruge (Acting Chairman), David Thompson (Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Maria Jordan, Richard Testar, Ollie Natelson, Tim Smedley

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Kate Salinger, Harry Gluck, Mr and Mrs Smedley, Dr and Mrs Wood, Elizabeth Tucker, Mr and Mrs Baxter.

**2. Minutes** of the AGM held on 6 April 2017 were approved and signed after the correction of a typo was noted - 3016 should read 2016.

**3. Treasurer’s Report and Certified Statement of Accounts:**

David Thompson presented the Accounts to 31 December 2017 shown at the end of the Minutes. Subscriptions of £1700 were unchanged over 2016. Total membership was up 8% to 351. However, donations were up by 48% resulting in income increasing by 17%.

The printing of the Newsletter continues to be the main expenditure, representing 60%. Subscriptions and donations totalling £135 were made to the Open Spaces Society, London Green Belt Association and the Finchley Society.

Two Members meetings and the Summer Splash were new expenses for this year, likewise, Public Liability Insurance cover. The Trinity Centre in North Finchley generously waived their hall hire fee for the North Finchley planning proposals meeting in November. With no membership campaign in 2017 - a cost of £500 in 2016, overall expenditure was down by £500 (18%).

The 2017 surplus was £1000 compared with £250 in 2016. The Association has reserves of almost £13000, held as a strategic reserve to cover costs, for example, for a planning enquiry or similar. The Committee recognises the inappropriateness of building up cash each year and a number of special projects are planned.

Bernard Mayes, who very kindly took up the role of Independent Examiner following the resignation of Mel Hooper, was thanked for his input into the presentation of the accounts and his general advice. He has agreed to continue in this role for 2018.

The Accounts were proposed for adoption and seconded by Helen Hooper.

**4. Election of Officers:**

Kate Salinger was re-elected as Chairman and David Thompson as Treasurer. Following Michael Harold’s resignation, Maria Jordan was elected as Secretary. Michael was thanked for all his work for the Association over the years and was presented with a gift.

**5. Election of Executive Committee:**

Yvonne Ruge, Harry Gluck, Richard Testar, and Ollie Natelson were re-elected and Tim Smedley elected to the Executive Committee.

**6. Election of Independent Examiner:**

Bernard Mayes has agreed to take on this role for another year and was duly elected.

**7. Amendment to Association Rules:**

An amendment to Rule 4 of FBWRA’s Rules had been circulated with the Agenda. This was adopted.

**8. Committee Report:**

* Four Newsletters were produced in 2018. These are delivered by a team of 15 Members who were thanked for their efforts.
* Friern Barnet Community Library has had a 25 year lease agreed in principle by the Council; negotiations are still in progress.
* Love Whetstone is now affiliated with FBWRA to broaden the local focus beyond Friern Barnet. Its remit, which fits well with FBWRA’s, is to maintain a pleasant environment on Whetstone High Road and the immediate area in the face of closed premises and much redevelopment. It has held 2 street events, installed planters and community notice boards.
* The first Summer Splash last August was a successful social occasion with good ideas raised by members one of which led to the Just Do Your Bit litter campaign - a joint venture between FBWRA and Love Whetstone.
* FBWRA supported the Residents Associations for Broomfield and Bounds Green in lobbying TfL for action on the congestion and jams on the North Circular Road westwards from Tesco and the consequent rat-runs and congestion on Colney Hatch Lane and Woodhouse and Friern Barnet Roads. So far there has been depressingly little action.
* Lorraine Patel was thanked for her work over the years running FBWRA’s Website. The Committee has commissioned Webdezign to design and build a new one. A dedicated FBWRA email, fbwra@btinternet.com, has been set up and software acquired for mass mailings. A request was made for a volunteer to help the Association with social media.
* An empty flowerbed in Friary Park has been adopted by the Association and has been professionally prepared for planting up by member, Debbie Lane.
* The Council removed its subsidy of Friary Park Bowling Club in 2017, placing it under threat of closure. With David on its committee and with the Association’s support, the club has started its second season as a self funding organisation, with no plans to close. In common with other local clubs and voluntary organisations, Friary Park Bowling Club provides a high degree of social interaction locally. In a new initiative, the Wren Academy will be going to the Bowling Club one afternoon a week.
* The Association advised Sustrans, the cycling organisation on the mapping of a Quietway on behalf of TfL and Barnet Council on the section that crosses Friern Barnet through the Oakleigh and Woodhouse wards. The potential conflict between car parking and cycle lanes means there is little hope of any action from our efforts.
* FBWRA reviews planning applications, in particular for the conversion of houses into flats and the construction of new blocks in roads where houses still predominate. Provision of adequate parking and the impact on local amenities is particularly scrutinised. FBWRA was very involved in the Supplemental Planning Document on the regeneration of North Finchley, participating in the the consultations and organising a members meeting with the Finchley Society, attended by over 100 people. Concerns centred on a proposed scheme to change the entire traffic flow in North Finchley without a traffic study and on the poor public consultation on the scheme generally. A full report appeared in our Newsletters.
* The Committee has produced an Action Plan to strengthen and modernise the Association. This includes two members events. A second Summer Splash scheduled for 19 August and a Members Meeting on 8th November on a topic to be advised.

**9. Questions and Answers:**

* Bessie Moussafir reported that residents had formed a small group to try and get the Council to deal with broken pavements caused by tree roots and potholes, with little success to date.
* Theresa Villiers, MP for Chipping Barnet voiced her support for resident associations and their work. She cited her concerns about over-development in the area. She is happy to support local groups with projects (including a litter pick) - she needs only to be asked.
* Eric Adler, a resident of Baxendale was concerned about being surrounded by building developments on three sides and the loss of local shops, banks and poor parking facilities.

**10. Guest Speaker:**

Barnet blogger, Mr Reasonable (Mr John Dix) spoke on the contract between Barnet and Capita to provide a number of local services. He covered the arrangements in place and the reported performance to date and including the joint venture with Re.

**11. Any Other Business:**

A request was made for new Committee members. Bessie Moussafir agreed to join. Following John Dix’s talk, a number of questions were raised and the local Councillors attending (Alison Cornelius, Anne Hutton and Geoff Cooke) were offered an opportunity to address members at a future meeting on some of the issues raised.

Meeting ended at 9.45pm and members were invited for refreshments.



