



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association
held on Thursday, 4 May 2023 at St John's Parish Centre,
Friern Barnet Road at 7.30pm**

Present: David Thompson (Chairman), Tim Smedley (Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Maria Jordan (Secretary), Yvonne Ruge, Richard Testar and 35 Members

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Kate Salinger, Sachin Rajput, Harry Gluck, Graham Kantorowicz, Carolyn Killen, Susan Rose, James Baxter, Sue Scott, David Gutman, Elizabeth Tucker, Robert and Julia Pearson, Edward Margiotta Penny Marlton and David Cope,
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 7 April 2022** were approved unanimously.
3. **Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022** were proposed by Michael Jordan, seconded by Bernard Mayes and approved unanimously. Tim Smedley confirmed that the Association's finances remain healthy. There were no questions.
4. **Chairman's Report for the year ended 31 December 2022.** David Thompson observed that responding to complex Planning Applications such as Barnet House takes up a large amount of time and resorting to Freedom of Information requests is invariably necessary to obtain key information. He commented that there has been a fall in Planning Applications for larger family units which developers are uninterested in building. He was disappointed that FBWRA had been unable to make the donation of £1000, approved at the 2022 AGM, to a suitable Ukrainian child resident in the area as none could be found. This was despite contacting local schools and groups. He also reported that the Committee had been strengthened during the year with the co-option of three additional members: Kate Salinger (who re-joined) and Sachin Rajput and Graham Kantorowicz. A number of questions and comments followed regarding air pollution locally resulting from traffic congestion, often caused by problems on the North Circular, and poor road layout. David confirmed that a meeting with Barnet Highways Department was planned where such issues could be raised. FBWRA's plans for the coming year included another Members Meeting to be held in early 2024, a review and possible updating of the Constitution, oversight of plans for the North Finchley Leisure Park and Bowing Alley in conjunction with other residents' groups. He noted that it is five years since the North Finchley Regeneration Plans were announced but there are still no concrete proposals from the developer.
5. **Election of Officers:** namely Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Maria Jordan advised that no nominations had been received for these positions. The incumbents, respectively, David Thompson, Tim Smedley and Maria Jordan offered themselves for election. This was approved unanimously.
6. **Election of Executive Committee:** Yvonne Ruge, Harry Gluck, Richard Testar and Carolyn Killen, existing Committee members offered themselves for re-election. During the year, Kate Salinger, Sachin Rajput and Graham Kantorowicz had been co-opted onto the Committee and also offered themselves for election. This was unanimously agreed.
7. **Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Andrew Rush confirmed that he was willing to remain FBWRA's Independent Examiner. This was approved unanimously. Andrew Rush was thanked for his services as Independent Examiner.

The formal meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Following the break, Anne Clarke, GLA Member for Barnet and Camden and Councillor for Cricklewood Ward gave a talk on the role of GLA members on the London Assembly. The Assembly consists of 25 members, 14 of which are elected and of these, each represents two or more local authorities. Their role includes scrutiny of the Mayor's policies and programmes and budget. Among the numerous questions that followed, the issue of the expansion of ULEZ into the area predominated.