

WIMBLETON PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 8.00 pm. on Tuesday 14th October, 2008
in St. Austin's Hall, Church of Christ the King,
in the Crescent.

Committee Present:

Iain C. Simpson (Chairman)
DeNica Fairman (Vice Chair)
Andrew Dalton (Treasurer)
Ivan Scott
Bracey Parish
Antoni Hoste Mackowski
Bernadette Hoste Mackowski
Kathy Blackburn
Beate Eberhardt
Ken Ball

Ex Officio Cllr. Oonagh Moulton,

Apologies: Cllr Tariq Ahmad
Cllr Stephen Kerin
Nigel Israel

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Minutes of the AGM held on 25th October 2007. The Minutes were approved by the Committee and there were no comments from the meeting.

Matters Arising: No matters arising.

Chairman's Report. Copy attached.

Treasurer's Report. Turnover and profit are higher than recent years due to the success of the Centenary Fair. £7,500 from tickets and sales on the day. Noted a cost of £1,410 for new hall (Kitchen) design consultancy.

Q. Sim Comfort asked whether hall costs to Association will escalate. Reply noted that a good float is needed for running the hall and café during the first 6-12 months. Target is £35,000 to £50,000.

Q. Jill Farmer asked how people know when their subscription is due? Reply explained that subs had not been collected recently due to pressure of other events this year, but this was due to take place soon. The database is up to date, and it is proposed to add email addresses to help communications.

Proposed: Ken Ball. Seconded: Rosemary Connell

DeNica Fairman - Report on Centenary Fair

The fair took place on 14th June and approximately 3,000 people attended. Due to its success, this might become an annual event. Ideas for activities and improvements for next year were requested; possible Merry-go-Round, Street teams for the tug of war etc. The sports competitions were very popular and even though running out of medals and having to order additional ones, Ken Ball delivered medals to all winners after the day. Sim thought the event was very well publicised, a banner particularly being able to be seen from the tube. People possibly came from a 15 mile radius. Need for a raised stage and better public address system. DeNica thought the event had given momentum for improving the toilet and stadium facilities as there is a bid for funding new building.

Q. Jill Farmer suggested advertising in local sports clubs to promote the fair. DeNica agreed together with more advertising in schools.

Front Garden Awards

(Please check with Jill's sheet because I am not sure about spellings)

Jill explained the Association's entirely objective approach towards 'awards' as opposed to a competition. The John Uden cup was first presented in 1991 by John to encourage more residents to take pride in their gardens visible from the street and improve the neighbourhood. Barbara Taylor, (Normanton Avenue – and winner in 2006) presented the prizes.

Best Summer Interest – 11 Farquhar Road, Christine and Malcolm Haworth

Best Container – 67 Normanton Avenue, Dale Richardson

Overall winner and All Year Interest – 13 Braemar Avenue, Priska and James Davies

Best Street – Brooklands Avenue

Jill thanked all the (26) judges.

Sim Comfort – The Heritage Group

Sim explained that his 40 years of marriage to Mary start at 21 Normanton where she lived.

1914 Wimbledon Corporation Act of Parliament purchased Capability Brown's park land and the golf course as best way to preserve the great oaks. This extended up to Horse Close Wood. In 1993 the golf club sold its land to the Council and the lease expires in 30 years' time. The Heritage Group subsequently intervened to stop development of this land by the LTA and to preserve the park. The Heritage Group continues to make a difference in other ways. Graffiti Wars – a group of people (Rosemary and Malcolm, Ken Ball etc) decided to remove the graffiti around the park and village with assistance from Pat de Jesus at LBM providing equipment. This is now a borough-wide campaign. Shrubs have been planted around the gates which have all been replaced with advice from the All England Club. The Wimbledon Park Road entrance alone cost £35,000. It is hoped to create revenue from the 'People Hospitality' planned in the park during Wimbledon fortnight. The Elisabeth Pool has been a great success. It continues the 'water' theme which Capability Brown designed in his original concept for the park. The Council gave £15,000 to the project but a £135,000 cheque was donated anonymously by some local residents as a memorial to their daughter.

Sim explained that all further projects are on hold until LBM manages the park properly. It is Grade II listed. The wood is in danger, the lake is silted up, drains blocks resulting in toilet problems. While the play area is excellent, the sail trainers, sports facility, tennis courts, football pitches need maintaining properly. David Simpson has a plan to hire a Manager for Wimbledon Park. The manager will report directly to the Head of Parks – possibly in 2009 budget.

Q. Nigel asked if there was any support from English Heritage to ensure it remains a Capability Brown park? In reply to another question, Sim said the new management will deal with all parks in the area.

Ken praised the Elisabeth Pool and noted the numbers of children using it from all over the area.

Richard Tracey – The London Assembly

Greater London Authority

Newly elected member for the London Assembly (May). MP for 14 years between 83-97 for Surbiton. JP. Lives Wandsworth 36 years, and covered Wimbledon area from Sir Cyril Black's time. Richard explained the GLA responsibilities covered budget and performance budget monitoring, Transport, Met Police. The London Assembly is part of the Greater London Authority created 8 years ago. Outer boroughs felt they did not get anything out of it. Election of Boris is set to change things. The Mayor commands 1 million votes – largest single mandate for anyone. 25 members, 14 directly elected and 11 elected proportionally – to scrutinise the Mayor and other bodies in the Greater London family including Met Police and Transport for London; i.e. budgets and performance. Met Police budget £3.5 bn, Transport for London c. £8 bn. Mayor in ultimate control of these bodies – beginning to see results. SNT (is this Safer Neighbourhood Teams?) across 32 London boroughs improving safety on buses and trains. Knife crime – 70,000 searches with body scanners resulted in successful capture of around 4,000 knives. Reassurance that do not suspect all young people, but those they catch will be dealt with. The fear of crime is at the top of the list of worries by residents. The presence of the local SNT unit in the hall was noted and they handed out a leaflet explaining how to get in touch to report crime or suspicious events.

District Line trains between Wimbledon and Edgware Road will be airconditioned and upgraded by 2011. Northern line to improve signalling which is the cause of the current delays. Determined to improve buses. Hope for River transport to be improved between Putney and Westminster as an excellent source of transport. Planning – not trying to interfere with local Councils but Mayor will protect green spaces, parks and commons as integral to the lives of Londoners. Talked about Nine Elms regeneration and preserving Clapham Common among other projects.

London Development Agency besmirched by planning – but now aiming at regeneration projects within the boroughs and industrial areas (Mitcham and Morden). Part of youth strategy to keep them along the right lines is to give them some good sporting facilities. Scope for applying for LDA assistance.

Q. Sim talked about preserving residential gardens. How do we make the local Council understand this message. Reply: Sir Simon Multon, Deputy Mayor for Planning and the Mayor say they do want local authorities to stand against destroying gardens. It is important that this is put in London Plan. Boris will not be interfering like Ken in housing and strategic planning. Oonagh and Steve (Councillors) can intervene.

Q. Complaint about insufficient carriages on tubes – any plans to add extra carriage. Reply that there are plans to add an extra carriage and if some stations have a short platform, passengers can be pre-warned. This is not just being applied to underground but also overground services. Email address for people to add their concerns is overcrowding@london.gov.uk as research is currently underway. Also closed circuit TV will be introduced.

Q. Nigel noted recent problems with trains stopping short of Wimbledon at Parsons Green, and excessive trains to Ealing/Richmond. Replied Stephen Hammond and Justine Grealing (sic Wandsworth MP) are fighting TFL about this.

Q. Andrew – re. cycling provisions. TFL no proper provision for cyclists as lanes are too small. Also no provision for cycles on trains. Email: mayor@london.gov.uk and Richard.tracey@london.gov.uk

Sir John Wheeler

Resident of Wimbledon, Deputy Lieutenant of the Borough, Patron of the Wimbledon Park Heritage Group and Chairman of Community Safety Panel. Distinguished history as MP and Government Minister.

Safer Neighbourhood Panel – email address and newsletter.

Introduced Sgt. Danny Smith and Dave Beasley, Terry Elmer (resident of borough)

Police Community Officers Brett, Steve, Andrew

They like to hear from residents. Any concerns about anything or if you see something that does not fit; any evidence of graffiti and will pass it on.

Crime pattern is unchanged – reported crime is going down. Do you feel safe? Their achievement is to help you feel safe. The office in the Park is their base (– but not to be confused with the main Police station – you explain this)

LBM – fireworks night. The police will man the gates with about 20 officers. No alcoholic drinks allowed.

Efforts made so as not to offend various residents. Let them know if this does not work out or any problems.

Suggested the Councillors perhaps could tweak a bit more help for upgrading the toilets?

Oonagh speaking on behalf of Councillors Stephen Kerin and Tariq (not able to be present)

Clarified some points:

Cabinet member for environment is Cllr Simpson. – we are all concerned with the park refurbishment and toilets ahead of spring/summer 2009 – Wimbledon Park Manager to be appointed. To be discussed at 27 Nov Wimbledon Park Heritage Group meeting. Financial year is May so this will be 09-10 budget

No Council money invested in Iceland. Funds safe.

Council Tax: hope to keep it under inflation as in the past 2 years.

Mentioned improvements such as: resurfacing of roads (Arthur), removing bicycle racks, permanent relocation of zebra crossing, painted railings green. Street scene to be kept as clutter free as possible.

Consultation – 20 mph in grid area.

Revelstoke Road – abuts Wandsworth – want to have joint discussions about (something)

Haslemere – planning is an area Councillors can help and keep an eye on things.

Graffiti – Councillors continue to watch and update

Fly tipping – locally elected Councillors will take matters forward on your behalf

Election of Officers – performed by Sir John Wheeler

Sir John proposed Iain Simpson as Chairman, and the collective body of Committee Members, be re-elected (according to the Korean way!). Agreed. He offered a word of thanks to the excellent Committee, and also the assembled residents for their presence and contribution.

Thanks to Richard Tracey, Stephen Hammond and Councillors efforts

Didn't realise as a Privy Councillor he would be privy to fixing the privies! (reference to toilets upgrade required in the Park)

Meeting closed for drinks and nibbles.