

Minutes of the Camden Residents Association AGM 2015 Claremont Methodist Church Hall 18/11/2015

1. Apologies: Damien and Louise Scott, Brian and Liz Sherriff, Peter and Ursula Norris, Lisa Brett Cllr, Sue Brooke, Julia Sherwen

2. Welcome by the Chairman: The Chairman, Nigel Sherwen, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Minutes of the AGM 2014: These were summarised by the Chairman and approved, proposed by Paul Brockensha, seconded by Joy Russell

4. Chairman's Report: Nigel reported that during the year the speed bump at the eastern end of Camden Road had been replaced as the CRA had requested. It was worrying, he said, that despite resurfacing work on the road not too long ago, potholes were developing towards along the centre line of the road. The Association would have to keep an eye on this.

Though not in our area, the crossing on Lansdown Road was well used and useful for our residents.

As mentioned in the newsletter some of the bins in Hedgemoor Park had been replaced but some benches still needed repairing or replacing.

Notices had gone up in Belgrave Crescent to say that the Council were going to remove the bollards and install speed bumps but this did not happen because of the lack of funds. Even obtaining a Traffic Regulation Order apparently cost £5000. The Association must continue to press the Council for this work to be done.

Nigel mentioned the Low Emission Zone for Bath which the Council were considering. The Feasibility Study that the Council had commissioned had recommended the zone cover only the city centre. Richard Samuel and Julie Platt were looking into this and were working to get this zone widened as a narrow zone would be likely to displace traffic to the Camden and Lansdown areas.

Nigel welcomed Perfect View residents to the Association.

Speed readings on Camden Crescent had been taken by the Council with a vehicle activated display.

The first week, before the display was switched on showed a mean average of about 22mph, the second week, after it had been switched on, a mean of 19mph.

A section of the road at Camden Crescent had been resurfaced, but the 20mph sign on the road not yet re-instated nor the metal sign replaced, and we would have to mention this to the Council.

Nigel gave his thanks to the Committee for their work during the year and said that after 10 years as Chairman he would now be stepping down.

Deepali disputed the figures from the speed survey and said she had seen many cars passing the sign showing figures in the high 20s.

Nigel said that the figures showed a mean speed, but he noted that the traffic numbers reported were very low as it was believed that some 3000 journeys in each direction were made on the Camden Road each day. Perhaps they were joining at different points. He had asked the Council for more information.

Patrick A-J asked if we had inventory for the furniture in Hedgemoor Park. Nigel P said we did not, but he would look into the situation further.

Julie thanked Nigel for all his work as Chairman.

5. Treasurer's Report: Julie said that the accounts for the year had been more or less static. There were small items of expenditure and no major donations from Councillors this year.

The balance of the current account at 31/10/15 stood at £959.80 and the railings (savings) account at £5,629.55.

Julie suggested that we amalgamate the two accounts to make accounting easier.

There was some discussion of how the Association's expenses were to be funded, which had in the past been by donations when delivering the newsletter. For the past two years committee members had been too busy to knock on doors. But several committee members spoke to say that they could do this in the future.

The Treasurer's report was proposed by David Kerneck and seconded by Chris Smith.

6. Proposed amendment to the constitution: Nigel spoke about the difficulty of finding a new chairman, but of our wish for the CRA to continue. We had written asking for nominations to all the households in our area with no response. We were lucky enough to have Richard Samuel put forward his name as being willing to take over the chairmanship, but this presented a problem as his wife Julie was currently the Treasurer. The Constitution at present said that no two persons should be elected from the same household.

The proposed amendment was as follows:

'In general no more than one person shall be elected from the same household. In special circumstances this rule may be waived by a vote at the AGM or an extraordinary meeting of the CRA! Provided not more than one of the three executive committee posts shall be held by members of the same household : Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.'

The amendment was proposed by Stephen George, seconded by Deepali Gaskell.

There were no objections and the amendment was approved, proposed by Joy Russell, seconded by Hilary Fraser.

7. Election of the Committee: The new members of the Committee were to be Richard Samuel as Chairman and Malena Griffiths (representing Perfect View)

Julie would be stepping down as Treasurer and Nigel Pollard had agreed to take her place.

The Committee were re-elected by a block vote, proposed by Gloria Goodsell, seconded by Patrick A-J.

At this point Richard took over the Chair.

8. Richard's Report

Richard said that he had moved to Bath some four years ago, and much enjoyed living in Camden.

There were, though, a few issues with the area.

One was the waste collection, not always as good as it could be.

Then there was the highway maintenance issue. One problem which particularly concerned him was that of vehicles mounting the pavement and the damage that was done.

He had also noticed an increased pressure on parking, particularly after 7 in the evening.

He then went on to speak about the Low Emission Zone. All Council policy statements talked about the possibility. The consultants had recommended to BaNES that it set up a tight central zone. There were therefore issues about displacement of traffic that needed to be looked at.

Paul B asked how vehicle charging might be done and Richard explained that in other LEZ zones such as London this was policed by automatic registration recognition.

Richard explained that all this was still in the planning stage. But the Government had been threatened with fines by the EU for not reaching European air quality targets, and one idea was to pass these fines on to Local Authorities which did not comply.

Bath was not built for modern traffic, he said, and development such as that at the Riverside will bring even more traffic into the city.

Richard went on to say that the petition for an elected mayor of BaNES had been successful and the Chief Executive was soon to announce the date of the referendum.

9. Camden Crescent Railings

Nigel S explained that he and Stephen had met with consulting engineers at Camden Crescent last year.

Since then he believed things had progressed quite well. The Council, he understood, were consulting with English Heritage over repairs to the vaults and stonework and the railings, and about the funding of the work. He had been given to understand that work might begin next year.

Malena spoke about the possibility of raising money towards the cost, including crowdfunding, and the added educational function this has. Deepali said she had neighbours who might be willing to contribute.

Stephen said that it would be better to time any fundraising to an actual project and knowing how it would be funded. As English Heritage were involved, we must wait to see what agreement was reached with them before we considered fundraising.

Stephen reported that last year he had been offered the railings which were being removed from near Green Park to be relocated on the road at the lower boundary of Camden Lawn, but it now looked as though this would not be possible.

Nigel P said he had heard there was talk about Wild Camden being moved into the Parks Department, making it part of Hedgemoor Park. Patrick A-J replied that he had heard nothing about that and doubted it would be possible. But Camden Lawn had been registered as a Local Green Space which gave it more protection.

Stephen said he had been trying to get the Council to do some considerable renovation work at Camden Lawn and he understood this was scheduled for this winter.

10. AOB

Chris Smith explained that our Association is again participating in the Council's Snow Warden scheme.

Gloria said that in all the talk about Camden Crescent she hoped that Belgrave Crescent would not be forgotten, and that we should keep up pressure on the Council to remove the bollards. They were taking up parking spaces and making vehicles mount the pavement to pass each other. Gina spoke to agree.

Paul B spoke about the need for a change in the boundaries between parking zones 14 and 15 on Bennetts Lane, so that motorists could see the sign. There was no parking anyway where the present sign was. He said he had heard that Residents Parking might be extended further along the eastern end of Camden Road to the spaces near the shops.

Fiona Bailey said that she knew nothing of this but understood there was pressure on parking in Frankley Bdgs. Nigel pointed out that when the consultation was carried out for the RP they did not want to be included as many of them had garages.

Richard wondered why Camden was the only RP that needed visitor permits on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Patrick and Nigel explained that at the time of the consultation that had been the most popular option, but agreed that it might be time for a new consultation.

The issue of road sweeping was raised.

Hilary F mentioned complained about the poor state of repair of the steps going down to the road at Camden Crescent, the weeds on them, and the rubbish accumulated at the bottom. Malena pointed out that people could easily sweep around their own car and the steps in front of their house.

Leaves are obviously a problem at this time of the year and Deepali complained about them causing a particular hazard on St Stephens Road.

Richard said we could perhaps raise this with the highways department, but for the road to be swept properly we would have to agree to suspension of parking while it was carried out.

Nigel P complained that while there were street cleaning vehicles, there was no one with a broom.

Joy said that she had been told by the Council that they couldn't get people to do the job. Nigel said that Lisa Brett had also told him this was the case.

Deepali spoke about the campaign to have a plaque erected in Camden Crescent to the noteworthy resident Adela Breton. Richard wished the campaign well.

The meeting was then closed.