

## **Minutes: Annual General Meeting of Bushwood Area Residents' Association**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016**

### **1. Welcome and confirmation of quorum**

The Chair, RLJ, welcomed everyone and confirmed quorum. Thanked Nick and John guest speakers for attending. We acknowledged Steve O'Hara's work for BARA and said how much we all miss him. Personal thanks also go to Brian Hopson, Tori who worked on the BT and Website. Thanks also go to the road reps for the work they do around membership.

All committee members stood up and were acknowledged by attendees.

### **2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM**

Proposed a vote for the minutes to be a true record of events. RLJ explained that we are going to try to put in place a BARA Library Box.

**The Proposal was agreed UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **3. Presentation of BARA's audited accounts**

RLJ presented audited accounts. See separate sheet

RLJ offered thanks to:

- Christine Davies who has performed the vital role of auditing our balance sheet in line with BARA's constitutional obligations

RLJ detailed some key points of activity in the financial year 2015-16:

- Membership increased thus subscriptions have increased
- Printing costs met by Theydon's this had meant we can have colour for BT
- Events held that raised money
- But expenditure was down 2% on the previous year
- RLJ asked members present to ask their neighbours to join explaining the value of membership

RLJ proposed that we adopted the audited accounts (printed copies were provided).

**The proposal was agreed UNANIMOUSLY.**

Christine Davis thanked RLJ for his work in keeping an accurate record of income and expenditure, and she asked this to be officially recorded in the minutes. Duly noted.

### **4. Election of Committee Members**

There is a requirement of the executive committee to stand down and offer up ourselves for re-election. All committee members stood down and offered themselves up for re-election.

RLJ proposed that the members agree these actions.

**The proposal was agreed UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **5. Presentation by Nick Tiratsoo – Sally's Kitchen**

RLJ thanked Nick for presenting at the AGM. Nick thanked BARA for their support over the year. Sally's Kitchen is a social enterprise with 3 staff and 30 volunteers. They are based in the Salvation Army Hall, who give the use of the hall for free and fully support them. They felt there was a need to set up a

friendly, inclusive, environment where people and that means everyone, could get a healthy meal. So they run a pop-up Café every Tuesday. Now catering for 40-50 people and where possible they pay £3 for a two course meal. Nick offered free meal. They also inherited the food bank which supports 100 people, 50 adults and 50 children. Often people are having problems with their benefits or they may be asylum seekers and they have no way of getting help. Always referred to the service, have to live in Leytonstone and not receiving benefits. This rule can be broken as they are an independently run organisation. Basic foods provided for a period of 6 weeks but always try to give them a preference. There are some people who have been receiving bags for 15-16 weeks. The referrals come from Social Services. There is a real balancing act getting the food in, although some supermarkets and local providers do help out, but there is still a need to buy in. Individual people have been very generous and helped to keep the enterprise going. Facebook Page – Sally’s Kitchen E11 available to donate or take products in to Southwell Grove Road ideally on a Wednesday or Thursday. Always a need for volunteers and cooks if you know any!!

Future plans not to increase service but to add an advisory service – where clients can talk to someone to get the right signposts to try and move them on and resolve some of their problems.

Member asked - could they drop stuff off at the St Mary’s church and then organise a collection or drop off to be taken down to Sally’s? RLJ to look into this.

Member asked – is it hard to keep the money coming in? Nick explained that the online donation system was working really well but they always need help to keep things going.

#### 6. **Presentation by John Meehan – Chair of The Friends of Wanstead Parklands**

RLJ thanked John for presenting at the AGM. John explained some of the history of the park. Leaflets made available. The 350 year old chestnut trees are still around the area. The Angel and The Cad book explained and well worth reading. The Corporation bought the park in 1880 and still manages it today. The Friends of WP have over 400 members; together with the Corporation have put in a bid for £5 million to bring the park up to date and more user friendly. Dwight spoke about how the Charity Commission recognised the importance of the Park. However BARA are Associated members and highly valued and with other local organisations means there are over 2,000 members. There will be a Quiz, fund raiser, at the end of November please look out for adverts locally. There will also be other events held in the Temple over the coming months.

Member – asked if BARA could get more involved in the local historical aspects that are gradually being lost as the area returns to natural wildlife. Clyde said there are issues with the Corporation but hopes that the bid will lead to other bids being successful in the future. John believes that positive partnership is the way forward and this is what they are working towards.

BARA will look into how they can work together.

#### 7. **Open Forum** RLJ asked for questions from the floor on local issues

BARA has launched a new website. [www.baralondon](http://www.baralondon) (domain name)

- Clyde – Walthamstow Village enters bloom competition, good community spirit, well supported by the Council. Believes Bushwood could have a similar feel if people could come together. A meeting will be arranged in the future and some people expressed an interest in this. Dwight pointed out the improvements in St John’s Churchyard over the past few months. He suggests we should link this to Clyde’s ideas.
- CPZ prices have gone up – different prices according to the size of car. First increase in 7 years!

- The area near Laura Lee is a real mess. Clyde said they are looking into changing/improving the area.
- When will the planting start in the new planters on the Copenhagen crossings? Clyde said planting will start in the Autumn/Winter. Lister Road a concern – this will be improved when final installation is complete.

**8. Prize giving 2016 for Bushwood Front Garden competition**

Anna introduced Prize winners and gave out the vouchers.

RLJ thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.21pm.