

# Belsize Residents Association

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 6 March 2016 Hampstead Town Hall at 3pm

**Present:** Prabhat Vaze (Chair), Judith Farbey, Neil Harris, Consuelo Phelan, Sheila Wrigglesworth, Cllr Buckland, Cllr Leyland and about 40 other BRA members

**Apologies:** Alexandra Crisp, Judith Gubbay, Pat Holden, Anne Stevens, Handley Stevens, Cllr Roy

1. Minutes of the 2015 AGM: Approved, proposed by Terence Freedman and seconded by Jill Tyrrell.

Matters arising: None.

2. Presentation of the Chair's Report for 2016.

Key developments included:

- The year had been dominated by the planning appeal for 100 Avenue Road, where the BRA had been represented by a barrister and had supplied expert evidence.
- The BRA had applied for the Sir Richard Steele Pub to be an Asset of Community Value.
- The Chair had appeared before the HS2 Hybrid Bill Commons Committee to express members' concerns.
- The website had been redeveloped and Anne Stevens was thanked for her work on this.

Questions and comments on the Chair's report covered:

- The benefits and difficulties of further appeal in relation to 100 Avenue Road development.
- Members' principal concern in relation to the Royal Free development was the effect on St Stephen's Church.
- Concern was voiced about an increase in air pollution if the Swiss Cottage gyratory is changed.

3. For decision: Does the AGM authorise the Committee to undertake further work with a view to deciding whether the Association should seek charitable status?

- There was a lively discussion about the pros and cons of changing the BRA's legal status. On the one hand, there would be tax advantages to seeking charitable status. On the other hand the trustees would have additional obligations. On an indicative vote: 12 members - no change; 17 members – explore charitable status; 31 members – explore other status ie non-charitable incorporation; 5 abstentions.

4. Presentation of Accounts for 2016. Expenditure had been dominated by the Avenue Road appeal. Jill Tyrrell was thanked for acting as independent examiner.

The accounts were presented and were accepted nem con on the proposal of Helen Cordell and seconded by Sarah Courtin.

5. Appointment of independent examiner for accounts. Jill Tyrrell was appointed nem con for 2016 on the proposal of Helen Cordell and seconded by Jonquil Stewart.

6. Election of Committee Members. Nine members stood for election. All were elected nem con on the proposal of Jill Tyrrell and seconded by Anthony Kay.

7. Any other business.

- Members were concerned that Camden is shutting down public toilets and asked the Committee to scrutinise any further proposals for closures.
- The Committee asked for more helpers for catering (baking cakes and serving tea).