

**St Peter's Residents' Association**  
**Minutes of the Forty-Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Association**  
**In the Barns of The Cross Keys, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 7pm**

**Those present:** Joanna Edmunds (JE) (Chair), Steve Askins (SA) (Vice Chair), Alessia Pulieri Lichtenberg (APL) (Secretary), Lou Devonshire, Elizabeth Ryland, and upwards of 30 members of the Association.

JE opened the meeting by welcoming new and old members to the 46<sup>th</sup> SPRA AGM, thanking Charles Clapham, Vicar of St Peter's Church, David Millar, who chairs the Ward Panel meetings, and Richard Farthing, Chair of the Hammersmith Society, for joining the meeting, and everyone for supporting SPRA. She introduced herself and the current SPRA Committee members, and advised that the meeting would be recorded to aid with the minutes.

JE confirmed that copies of the Agenda, 2023 AGM Minutes, the 2024 Chair's Annual Report, and a financial statement for the year 2023-24, had all been shared by email and were also available as hand-outs if requested.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from: Phil Back (Treasurer), Oliver Leighwood (committee member), Charlotte Reed, (School PTA Chair), Phil Pritchard, Ferry Lichtenberg, Nick Hennigan, Anne Knox, Renata Moretti, Michael Daley, Clarissa Farr, Zack Valentier and their respective partners as appropriate..

**2. Approval Minutes of the 2023 AGM**

The Minutes were proposed (Bill Stevens), seconded (Jilly Paver) and were formally approved.

The changes to the financial statement 2022/23 were formally approved having been proposed (Lou Devonshire) and seconded (Margaret Lind-Smith) after SA pointed out two changes had been recommended and implemented by the auditor at his review. These did not change the cash position of the association. 1. He recommended changing cash accounting into an advanced payment, due to the payment for the furniture for the Coronation being in one year and the event itself in the second year. 2. He recommended grossing up the winter party receipts.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 2023 AGM**

Shop Unit at Entwistle Terrace – JE reported that the lease is held by Strachan Furniture. They have not provided any updates since the spring, despite requests from JE. There has been some further work to make ready this year but a shop fit out would still be required before they can open.

Cycle Highway – No material change in the SPRA area following last year's AGM, when we fed comments and suggestions back to the council. We haven't received any updates despite chasing. Unfortunately, Liz Collins, one of our two local councillors, who was due to join us at the AGM couldn't make it.

Leaning Woman renovation – This was completed in May this year. JE thanked all those who contributed. She explained that the council stepped in and topped up the shortfall at the last minute so the restoration could go ahead; the landscaping still needs to be finalised; a porous pathway will be built

across the grass, some low level lighting is being installed and some new planting; the hedge will be trimmed further to frame the statue, although it should not have any impact in terms of noise. All this should be done in October or by Christmas at the latest.

Path in St Peter's Square – Issues were raised about the state of the paths on the east side of the Square. Two thirds of the Square paths have been replaced in recent years but this remaining section wasn't in the council's budget. We have been petitioning for the work and some progress has been made. SA explained that on the north east corner of the square there is going to be a porous surface to allow vehicles to come into the square, which will make the garden maintenance easier, and it will also make it less expensive for the council to redo the paths.

St Peter's Square Gardens – The management of the Gardens on the Square is a joint effort between SPRA and the council. Oliver Leigh Wood manages the expenditure from the Garden fund and coordinates effort with the council. JE thanked those who contributed to the additional funds for extras that are beyond the reach of the council.

Poo Bags – They are provided by the community so that all can enjoy the square. They are filled up by volunteers, with 36,000 poo bags just in the last year. This is the single largest expense that SPRA has now. Sometimes people seem to be stocking up. Philip Pritchard and other volunteers will try to find a cheaper supplier, or some local vets for sponsorship. JE appealed to anyone with contacts who might want to sponsor the poo bag dispensers.

Wheelie Bins – They were delivered last July and the roll out went better than expected. The council took account of people's preferences, whether sent by email or whether it was in their window, and it introduced a smaller size. JE asked for any feedback on them so that it can be passed on to the council.

Local Crime – It is an ongoing issue. Car crime is one of the biggest in this area, and is not limited to the SPRA area. The police ran a targeted campaign last winter, and were able to apprehend a number of known offenders, one of whom is now in jail. The latest statistics for March and April show that the numbers of car crimes per month were down. JE encouraged residents to report a crime, by phoning 999 if the crime is ongoing, or if the crime is not live anymore by calling 101, or by filling in a form on the Met Police website, or by emailing the local Police. All these allow the Police to pick up trends.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – Some of the previous Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators are still active and communicating with their local neighbours but there is no current police coordination or input. David Millar later mentioned that the Police are considering rebuilding the network but there are no details yet.

CCTV – The feedback from last year's AGM was communicated to the council, and their response was that there are currently a million and a half pounds worth of higher priorities. The local police acknowledged that having CCTV on King Street would help in terms of crime, but we need to find a different way to be in the list of priorities.

Ward Panel – David Millar, present this evening, is our point of contact for the relationship with the police. The forum is relatively new and is called the Ward Panel Meeting. Meetings occur three or four times a year, where residents meet with the police. JE invited residents who are interested to get involved and join the meetings. The forum helps the police to set priorities, and residents to understand

what the police are doing locally. The next meeting is on October 15 6.30-8pm, Ashchurch Centre, 280 Goldhawk Road. JE invited David Millar to say a few words.

Noise Level at Scott Hall – The concerns about the noise emanating from the Hall out of school hours were raised during a meeting with the Chair of the School Governors. A number of improvements have been made and issues are less frequent however there are still occasions where parties have got out of hand. The School Chair has been responsive in trying to address these and we are grateful for her involvement.

#### **4. Chair's Report**

Autumn Bulb Planting – About 1000 bulbs were planted over a couple of weekends by volunteers a year ago, and we will be hoping to repeat the initiative this year. JE thanked Charlotte Reed, our school PTA lead, and Oliver Leigh Wood, who organised the event. JE also invited residents to participate in the next event.

Winter Party – It was held at the Cross Keys last January. It was a fun event with well over 50 attendees. About 15 people decided to come along in the last 24 hours, which affected the amount of food provided and the ease of reaching it so early ticket purchase is requested. JE thanked all those who joined.

Shakespeare in The Square – JE thanked Lou Devonshire for her coordination of Shakespeare in the Square, and Georgina Askins for hosting the Green Room. The event was very well attended and the weather was good. A winter event will be held inside the church and the details will be available on the SPRA and on the Church websites.

(Re)Launch of The Leaning Woman Statue – The statue was unveiled by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester - the patron of Heritage of London, in July. The event was very successful and well attended.

Garden Waste Service – To enable recycling of garden waste, this will be collected via a new system. It will cost £90 a year subscription for two reusable sacks. Residents with a bigger garden and needing more sacks can have multiple subscriptions. Garden waste will no longer be removed for free. Collection days will be the same. The Council will communicate this soon, and in the meantime information can be found on the Council website.

New SPRA Website – SPRA new website was launched in April. JE thanked Mark Levesley for having managed the legacy website long after he moved away from the area. The new website is easier to update, and updates have been done more regularly. There will be an ongoing cost of £300 a year to use the software, with 50% off for the first year. JE encouraged residents to view it and to send an email to the SPRA address that appears on the website if they wish to post something.

#### **5. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

Nominations for the re-election of:

SPRA Chair 2024-25: Joanna Edmunds,

Vice Chair 2024-5: Steve Askins

Secretary 2024-25: Alessia Pulieri Lichtenberg

Treasurer 2024-5: Phil Back

Committee members 2024-25: Lou Devonshire, Charlotte Reed, Oliver Leigh-Wood, Elizabeth Ryland.

Proposed (Aaron Quirk), seconded (Margaret Lind-Smith), and approved.

JE informed that Philip Back will not be standing next year, and invited residents to volunteer as new Treasurer. She also asked if a couple of more people could join the Committee.

## 6. SPRA Heroes

Georgina Askins – For kindly allowing her and Steve’s house to be used as Green Room for Shakespeare in the Square, and for staying behind helping the players.

Liz Ryland – For all her contribution to the committee over many years, both as Treasurer and general member.

Raj and Asha – From Efficient Stationers who support SPRA with selling tickets, last minute supplies, printing, and so many other things over the years.

And a mention of the late Anita Woods – who was a founder member of SPRA and pillar of the community, and who sadly died in August. Her funeral will be on the 10th of October at St Peter's Church, and then afterwards at the Corinthian club.

JE thanked all SPRA Heroes and awarded them with either a bouquet of flowers or a bottle of not-so-local-anymore produce (aka Sipsmiths gin), to rounds of applause from the AGM.

## 7. Presentation and Adoption of Accounts

### Accounts for the years ending 31 March 2024

On behalf of PB, SA reminded attendees that the draft accounts were circulated by email prior to the meeting. He explained that although in the year to the 31st of March, 2024 there was no filming income, thanks to the garden fundraising event, SPRA net accounts have not changed, and we are still using the surplus from previous years. SPRA funds are expected to go up this year thanks to a few days of filming. SA highlighted the expenditure on the dog poo bags, and the net costs of parties and other events. He invited anyone interested to look at the figures in more detail.

JE said that the accounts will be audited for us this autumn by Richard Thom, and that any material change would be communicated.

## 8. AOB

Bicycles parked in random locations – Margaret Lind-Smith raised the issue of the many bikes parked randomly and obstructing passers-by. APL mentioned the skeleton of a bike chained to the sign post in front of the Willows Pre-School in Black Lion Lane for over a year.

ACTION: JE to feed back to the Council

Crime and Ward Panel – An AGM attendee mentioned that Tesco have recently installed tall security screens for staff to hide behind, in response to two recent robberies.

David Millar thanked SA, JE and Richard Farthing for being pillars of the Ward Panel. He said that everybody is welcome to participate and that the purpose of the Ward Panel is to have a sense of the effect of crime on the community, and to then put priorities to the Police and hold them to account for delivering them.

Neighborhood Watch – David Millar said that there used to be a thriving Neighborhood Watch in this borough until the council stopped it six years ago. He said that there is hope to try and rejuvenate a

borough-wide Neighborhood Watch scheme, and that, although it's still early days, there is funding for it.

History Of St Peter's Estate – Jilly Paver said that she has written a book about the area, and that anyone who wishes to purchase a copy for £12 can contact her. JE added that details can also be found on the SPRA website.

Planning Application for a 20m Telecoms Mast – Caroline Carrington, a resident of South Black Lion Lane, wrote to warn about the proposal of a 20m Telecoms Mast on the patch of grass between South Black Lion Lane and A4. SA said that a similar application was submitted about 5 years ago, and that at 20m high, it is a concern. It was mentioned that over 12 years ago there was yet another application to have the Mast near St Peter's Church. JE said that comments should be submitted to the council by 16 October.

ACTION: SA to look into it on behalf of SPRA.

Neighbours disturbances – A member reported disturbances from her downstairs neighbour. Rev. Charles Clapham offered to support her.

Hammersmith Society – Richard Farthing, Chair, introduced himself and talked about the aim of the Society. He invited residents to join the Society and its forthcoming AGM, with a number of nominations for awards, including the Leaning Woman.

Thanks and Acknowledgements – SA proposed a vote of thanks to JE's husband, Ian, who supported her in making a huge impact on the community. SA also praised JE for her vigour, professionalism, humour and drive, addressing long standing issues - with the Leaning Woman being a prime example.

Trees near Entwistle Terrace – A resident of Entwistle Terrace reported issues with overgrowing branches of two trees. JE advised to keep asking the council to intervene, and that SPRA would try as well.

ACTION: JE/SA to contact Stefan.

**There being no further business, JE called the 46th AGM to a close, and attendees were invited to stay and socialise for the rest of the evening.**