

Minutes: CANBURY AND RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION (CARA) AGM 2017

26th October 2017, 8.00 pm at Canbury Gardens Pavilion

In the Chair: John Parrish, who welcomed the CARA members and guests who had come to the AGM. Apologies had been received from Penny d'Souza, Nic Lewisohn, Des Noble, Filippo Selini, Marilyn Mason and Clare Francis.

1. Copies of the agenda and special resolution, the draft minutes of the 2016 AGM and CARA accounts for 2016/17 were available for all present.
The **minutes of the previous CARA AGM**, on 15th September 2016, were approved, with no Matters Arising.
2. **Highlights of 2016/17.**
John Parrish outlined some of CARA's highlights during the past year:-
 - a) CARA's Late Summer Barbecue in September 2016 at Kingston Riverside Tennis Club had been attended by 137 people, and was so successful that CARA had held the 2017 Late Summer Party at the same venue.
 - b) CARA had taken forward Alan Petitt's suggestion for a public defibrillator in Canbury Gardens. The equipment would be kept at the Boaters pub, with the costs shared equally between the pub, Canbury Pavilion, Kingston Riverside Tennis Club, Kingston Rowing Club and CARA (whose share had been funded by a donation from Berkeley Homes).
 - c) CARA had continued to support the Community Garden, set up by Marilyn Mason 18 months ago. It was already very well established.
 - d) CARA had encouraged Filippo Selini to set up his Secret Café in Canbury Gardens. It had proved popular, and seemed to be doing well.
 - e) CARA had continued involvement in the Canbury Gardens Working Party, chaired by Cllr Hugh Scantlebury. CARA's recent focus had been to support the proposed sports pitch. Other projects were also under consideration, including improvements to the river bank and the cycle path through the gardens.
 - f) CARA had given active support to the development of the North Kingston Forum. CARA members had been actively involved across NKF. Three of four NKF groups, on Environment, on Business and on Heritage & Design, were led by CARA members.
 - g) CARA's work with the Police Panel was led by Des Noble, who was now also coordinating liaison with our local Neighbourhood Watch. John commented that despite a recent increase in burglaries locally, CARA area was still a low crime locality.
 - h) CARA had continued to organise litter-picks twice a year, and to use our familiarity with Canbury Gardens to alert the council to maintenance and other issues that needed attention.
 - i) CARA had encouraged members to make known their views on matters of local importance, notably:- lighting the courts at the Riverside tennis club; the revised Barge Dock development proposal; the alcohol licence extension at Sainsbury's; the proposed suspension of controlled parking in Albany Park Road and the confusion over the introduction of a paperless parking payment system for the local Controlled Parking Zone. Cllr Scantlebury commented that there were no current plans to withdraw the paper visitors' parking permits.
 - j) John Parrish highlighted the value to CARA of having two local council members who were CARA members, Cllr Hugh Scantlebury and Cllr Maria Netley. Both were present at the AGM.
 - k) CARA's work to become a charity, which would be covered under agenda item 4.
 - l) Mirella Docherty had taken over as Street Rep for Woodside Road, as Jenny Langridge would soon be moving just outside the CARA area.
3. **Finance and Membership Report.**
Charles Roscorla spoke to the CARA Accounts which had been distributed. He commented that subscription income reflected the high membership, at 220, which was exactly the same as the previous year. Charles highlighted that expenditure had been significantly higher than the previous year, but there was a surplus as income had been even higher, due to the number paying for the 2016 Late Summer Party and the generous donation from Berkeley Homes. The Accounts, proposed by Jonathan Rollason and seconded by Carrie Foulkes, were approved unanimously.

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4. **Special Resolution - CARA Membership Rules.**

Before considering the special resolution Richard Mobbs gave the disappointing news that the previous week CARA's application to become a charity had been rejected. The Charity Commission had deemed that the wording of CARA's charitable objectives had been too vague and some CARA activities might not be charitable. He suggested that some small changes might be needed to qualify as a charity. For example, social events like the Late Summer Party might have to become fundraising activities. If more significant changes to the way CARA operated were needed the Committee would not proceed with the application without full consultation with all CARA members. Members present supported this approach.

Peter Wolf commented that he worked with another charity whose initial application had been rejected by the Charity Commission. He understood that it was quite normal for the first application to be rejected, so CARA Committee should not be discouraged.

Richard presented the special resolution to implement this year the change to the Membership Rules that would be required when CARA became a charity, to avoid the need to change the rules part-way through the year if charitable status was granted. There were no dissenting voices, so the special resolution was passed unanimously.

5. **Election of CARA Committee for 2017/18:** Three committee members had stood down during the year – Marilyn Mason, Stuart Devall and Jonathan Rollason. The other current committee members, Penny D'Souza, Clare Francis, Nic Lewishon, Richard Mobbs, Des Noble, John Parrish and Charles Roscorla, were standing for re-election and there were two new nominations: Sandra Quinn from the Kingston Riverside development and Filippo Selini, who ran the Secret Café. There were no objections, so all were re-elected or elected unanimously.

6. **AOB:**

The meeting was alerted to

a) the fact that the roses in Canbury Gardens had not been pruned for far too long. John Parrish agreed to raise this matter with the council.

b) the problem of the large illegally moored boats that had been moored for considerable time at the Barge Dock and elsewhere in Kingston; what action was being taken. Peter Oldham said that the council and the Environment Agency were taking action against Mr Trotman, the owner of the boats, but it was subject to a confidentiality clause. Hugh Scantlebury reported that changes were being made to council arrangements, so that boat owners would not be allowed to return to moor on any council land once action had been successfully taken against them.

c) Alan Petitt raised a call volunteers to be trained as local 'First Responders'. John agreed that this could be circulated through CARA channels.

As there was no further business John Parrish drew the AGM proceedings to a close.

Following the AGM refreshments were served.

Peter Oldham, skipper of the Thames Venturer, gave a most interesting presentation on the **Thames Boat Project** and their new vessel, **Thames Discoverer.**