

CANBURY AND RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION (CARA) AGM 2019

MINUTES: 15th October 2019, 8.00pm at The Kingston Academy

In the Chair: Sophie Cavanagh,

who welcomed to the CARA AGM and to The Kingston Academy (TKA) the 20 CARA members and guests and Alison Whybrow, who would be speaking later. She said it was her intention to embed the school in the local community.

The Agenda, Draft Minutes of the 2018 AGM, and the 2019 Treasurer's and Membership Report were available for all present. The Chair drew particular attention to the sheet on the back of the agenda asking for volunteers to help with various CARA activities.

Apologies

had been received from Penny D'Souza, Nic Lewisohn, Kelly Page, Corinne Foster, Cllr Katrina Lidbetter and Mike and Wendy Seigel.

Minutes of the previous CARA AGM,

on 24th October 2018, were approved, proposed by John Parrish and seconded by Charles Roscorla. Matters Arising would be covered in the later items on the agenda, but if they were not addressed they could be taken up during Any Other Business.

CARA Highlights 2018/2019

were reviewed by John Parrish who commented it had been a good year, with membership maintained and strong finances and many things done, and he thanked the various CARA members who put in the effort to make all these things happen.

CARA members had kept an eye on council activities such as parking, planning developments and plans for Canbury Gardens.

To influence and monitor local developments CARA members were on committees in North Kingston Forum, the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, Thames Landscape Strategy, Canbury Gardens Working Party, and the Police, and had liaised with the local groups TARAK, FOLAR and BRAG.

CARA Committee had kept in touch with KRC (tennis club), KRC (rowing club), the Pavilion, The Boaters Inn, the Secret Café, Leander Sea Scouts and the local Schools (through TKA).

CARA had been involved in a number of positive outcomes, like the new sports pitch, which had been driven by Trevor Willis, Hugh Scantlebury, Cllr Maria Netley and Cllr Katrina Lidbetter, who was also a force behind maintaining summer Sunday concerts in Canbury Gardens, with Trevor, Filippo (Secret Café) and Sarah (Boaters). John asked for volunteers for a small group to help organise future concerts.

CARA had organised litter picks, well supported by The Kingston Academy and the Sea Scouts, and a successful social event, the Late Summer Party and Christmas Get Together, with support from the Tennis Club, the Secret Café and Boaters.

CARA had helped organise and contributed to funding for scrub cutting along the riverbank (with TLS) and the Sunday concerts.

There remained a lot of work to be done. CARA would:-

Work with the council on problems in Canbury Gardens, like illegal parking on the towpath, litter and, more recently, dog poo, and

Fulfil our funding pledges for the gym equipment beside the sports pitch, a wild flower meadow and a bench in the children's playground,

But progress on these projects was dependent on finalising the Master Plan for Canbury Gardens.

John ended his review with CARA newsletters, which were a great success, with thanks due for the technical expertise of Ken Buckle, the contributions from many writers and photographers, and the efforts of the people who distribute them – all together far too many to name individually.

Treasurer's and Membership Report.

Charles Roscorla spoke to his report, noting that CARA finances continued to be in good shape and that membership had continued in some 25% of the households in CARA area. Members whose subscriptions for the current year were overdue would be notified in the CARA newsletter to be delivered in the coming weeks. Charles clarified various notes to the accounts, and commented that it was helpful that more people had begun to pay their subscriptions by standing order.

The accounts were approved, proposed by Richard Mobbs and seconded by John Parrish.

The Chair thanked Charles for his excellent handling of CARA accounts and membership.

Re-election to CARA Committee of Penny D'Souza, Clare Francis, Nic Lewisohn, Richard Mobbs, Des Noble, John Parrish, Charles Roscorla and Sophie Cavanagh, was proposed by Martine Roscorla and seconded by Mary Mobbs.

A new volunteer to join the Committee, Kelly Page, proposed by Richard Mobbs and seconded by John Parrish, was elected unanimously.

The Chair commented that there was space on the Committee. New members would be welcome to join, at the AGM or they could be co-opted anytime during the year.

Special Resolution

Richard Mobbs proposed that to avoid difficulties managing CARA activities because the Committee had fewer members than before, several of whom often could not attend Committee meetings, the Quorum in CARA constitution be amended as follows: Replace "*Five shall constitute a quorum.*" in paragraph 5 with "Half the full Committee (rounded down) or four, whichever is the fewer, shall constitute a quorum." Martine Roscorla seconded the proposed amendment which was passed unanimously.

Any Other Business

The Chair thanked Alan Pettitt for the first aid training for cardiac arrest that he had arranged following CARA AGM last year. Alan replied that if people were interested he would arrange another, similar training session. He commented that there had been 4 calls to Boaters potentially to use the defibrillator, but fortunately it not been necessary to use it. His local team of First Responders had been kept busy, and following additional training they were being called out to a broader range of medical emergencies.

The Chair outlined her plan for the daffodil bulbs bought by CARA in the past year to be planted by TKA pupils on the morning of Saturday 9th November near the Half Mile Tree.

The Chair brought the formal AGM proceedings to a close.

Refreshments were served.

The evening finished with an interesting presentation and discussion led by Alison Whybrow on "**A practical approach to Climate Change. Where are we, and what do we need to do?**"