CHERRY TREES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Cherry Trees Residents' Association held on 19th November, 2007 at St. Mary Abbots Hall, Vicarage Gate

Present:	Willoughby Wynne (Chairman)	Charles Shaw (CS)
	Ashley McNeile (AM)	Mimi Carney (MC)
	Mary Marshall (MM)	Jennifer Crompton (JC)
	Brett Burkhart (BB)	Charles Penney (CP)
	Fiona Simmons (FS)	Isabelle de Henin (IH)

1. **Apologies and Minutes**

WW welcomed all those in attendance. Apologies were received from Myrto Rochat, Huw Thomas, Stewart Robertson, Tory Robertson, Ed Buxton, Nigel Massey, Thomas Blomberg, Jan-Otto Van Boetzelaer, John Basket, Evelyn Ellison, Idina Le Geyt and Ingrid de Bruijn.

John French proposed the minutes of the 2006 AGM; John Lansley seconded them. WW declared the minutes passed.

2. **Accounts**

AM noted General Expenditure in 2007 was roughly the same as 2006 and that subscriptions were slightly higher this year. This resulted in a surplus for the year of £974, nearly double that of 2007. WW reported that balances are healthy with the current account and reserves now totalling £4,868.

Ian Du Pré proposed the accounts for the year ended 31st October 2007; Barnabas Brunner seconded them. WW declared the accounts passed.

3. Composition and Election of the CTRAA Committee 2008

WW outlined the current Committee membership and their roles/portfolios. By a show of hands the Committee members and their roles were approved without dissent.

4. Status of Membership

WW reported that the CTRAA now totalled 454 members, with membership numbers on a steady increase. He encouraged those present to continue to welcome new residents to the Association.

5. Neighbourhood Watch

Ward PC Roberto Rossi (RR) reported various crime statistics for the CTRAA area:

	2006	2007
Cycle Thefts	1	2
Snatches	0	1
Robbery	0	2
Residential Burglary	7	1
Thefts from Motor Vehicles	12	7

The Ward has been targeting the reduction of both robbery and thefts from motor vehicles this year. RR then went on to explain the role of the flat-hatted PCSOs, whereby 2 PCSOs are dedicated to each of (a) PGT/BG and the other side of Kensington Church Street; and (b) Vicarage Gate/Vicarage Gardens.

Charles Franklin, a RBK&C Community Safety Officer, then reported that crime in the Borough has increased 4.6% year on year (with robbery down 15% and vehicle crime up 3%). He stressed that the only way to lower the crime levels is to cooperate with police and take precautions against theft (lock doors; remove valuables from cars, etc.). He noted that there were no longer "voicemail" updates by telephone and that all updates were being sent by email. He thanked those present for their active support.

JC introduced a discussion of the Garden Security Scheme and thanked all those who had contributed to the voluntary scheme, noting that it has been active for more than five years. She noted that the scheme had a large role in deterring crime within the CTRAA. The GSS now has 70 houses and 30 flats supporting its activities and would like to recruit additional support so that guard hours could be further extended.

7. Environment

FS reported that the Council would be replacing light bulbs in the street lanterns from yellow to new-technology white bulbs that better illuminate the street with less glare. Two cherry trees were planted outside #32 and #44 PGT this year, and a dead tree outside #1 BrG has been reported. IH reported that the Council has filled in the areas around the trees with gravel so as to prevent tripping – and to allow prevent movements in the roots underneath from disturbing the pavement above. She noted that asphalt should no longer be present on the pavements in our area and will report any remnants of that to the Council (a member mentioned there was some outside #48 BrG).

AM asked RR about the prevalence of dog waste in the area and RR noted that PCSO could give £80 on the spot fines for the offence to dog owners. It was suggested that a "plain clothes" effort be mounted to catch such dog owners and RR recalled that something similar had been done in Holland Park.

8. Traffic, Parking and Congestion Charge

BB reported that motorcycle bays in the CTRAA were to be reconfigured with resident-permit only bays. The Vicarage Gate bays will now have both a resident permit-only bay (with anchorage) and a bay for any motorcycles. Berkeley Gardens will remain a free bay for all motorcycles. The top of PGT may have a dedicated resident-only motorcycle

bay installed in the northern-most metered (car) bay. BB was asked but could not confirm whether this means that motorcycles will not be allowed to park in car bays.

It was noted in the meeting that cars continued to drive the wrong way on Vicarage Gate. RR reported that he spent two weeks monitoring and ticketing motorists here – and it was suggested that the Ward revisit such monitoring/ticketing again soon.

9. Planning Issues

- **Vicarage Gate House**
  Cllr Christopher Buckmaster reported the history of the planning issues surrounding this matter. Looking forward, he noted that the matter would go to another inspector in the 1st Quarter of 2008. Developers have put in a new application for 10 luxury flats with 10 affordable housing units. He asked that with the new inspector coming on board and the new application, residents should provide fresh/new letters either for or against the proposals (the old ones are no longer sufficient). A member in attendance asked about the health and safety risks associated with the now derelict building and Cllr Buckmaster noted that it is likely that the building will ultimately be torn down – neither side is trying to protect the building itself; the argument centres on the future use of the building. WW lamented that the home has been closed for over five years; this sentiment was shared by those present who would like to see the matter conclusively resolved.
- **Holland Park Comprehensive School**
  David White, Chairman of the Campden Hill Residents Association reported that there was to be a independent inquiry for the plans for the new school on 5th February at the Town Hall. His group is against the decision to sell off the southern portion of the school's land for additional housing – which would only add to the present congestion problem.
- **Notting Hill Gate Improvement Group**
  John Scott reported on the recent activities of Land Securities, which in partnership with Delancy (part of British Land) operate in the Nothing Hill Gate area – and in particular Newcombe House. Delancy want to develop the site with a new building which would occupy the open space now occupied by the "Elephant" sculpture. The Farmers Market is currently at risk and a gated community development is being considered for the site. He reported the NHIG's efforts to preserve local independent shops, working with the Council to create the Retail Commission which hopes to replicate the success of Marylebone High Street in Notting Hill Gate. Cllr Buckmaster reported that David Prout and Cllr Moylan will be putting in place a 5/10 year plan for the future of NottingHill Gate which is intended to have what, he called, a "wow" factor.
- **Planning Applications**
  MM (speaking in the absence of MR) reported that sub-terrainean development is causing major concerns within the CTRAA. The Council currently has no general guidelines for such development – but there are fears about the risk of flooding and the risk to the foundations of adjacent buildings. The Council has appointed an external review of its policies but it is a piecemeal approach. Cllr Buckmaster agreed that sub-terra nean development is a "nightmare," with there currently being a general presumption to approve such plans. The only way to stop such development is to prove that the development will cause damage (the

threat of damage is not enough) and therefore a surveyor report would be necessary. Saying "I do not like it" is not enough.

10. Newsletter: The Cherry Tree

WW reported that TB is no longer able to produce the newsletter due to his other work/travel commitments. WW encouraged anyone who might like to take on TB's role as author of the Cherry Tree Newsletter to come forward as assistance in this area is very much needed. The Cherry Tree Newsletter has been a part of the CTRAA for over 10 years and WW thanked TB for his significant contribution in this regard.

11. Dates of 2007 Garden Parties

- Spring Party in Inverness Gardens; Wednesday, 14 May at 6:30 – 9:00 pm.
- Midsummer Party in St Mary Abbots Vicarage, 24 June at 6:30 -9:00 pm.
- Autumn Party in Inverness Gardens; Sunday, 14 September at midday.

12. Address by MP The Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind

WW welcomed the attendance of the Rt Hon Sir Malcom Rifkind to the CTRAA AGM. Mr. Rifkind began by noting how many residents associations there are in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, reflecting the strong sense of community within the Borough and the activism its residents demonstrate in their neighbourhood affairs. He reported that there would be a new Parliamentary boundary to unite Kensington – bringing together the representation of North and South Kensington into a single Parliamentary seat for which Mr. Rifkind will stand next term (Chelsea will be combined with Fulham). Mr. Rifkind reminded residents of the future Mayoral election and encouraged all those present to vote. WW thanked Mr. Rifkind for his presence at the AGM and encouraged him to attend the CTRAA parties this summer.

13. AOB and Concluding Remarks

There being no other business, WW declared the AGM concluded and thanked all members in attendance. The meeting finished at 9:30 pm.