

CHERRY



TREES

RESIDENTS'

ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 1 December 2021 at 6 P.M.

By video conference

Committee Members Present: Charles Penney - Chairman (CP), Frances Manthos - Membership (FM), Bruce Fair - Treasurer (BF), Caroline Cuffe - Secretary (CC), Myrto Rochat (MR), Mimi Carney - Environment (MC), Elisabeth Meunier - Police (EM), Thomas Blomberg - Planning/Website (TB), Alessandro Tonchia (AT), Monique Bahadur - Social Events (MB)

Apologies from Committee Members: Romanos Brihi - Retailer Discount Scheme (RB), Peter Hoffmann-Fischer (PHF)

1. Apologies and Opening Remarks

The Chairman (CP) welcomed all members and opened the meeting at 6.01pm. 25 CTRAA members (including the 10 Committee members listed above) attended the meeting. CP thanked members (including the Committee) for attending the meeting. Apologies had been received from our Councillors.

2. Minutes of Last AGM on 19/11/19

Draft Minutes of the 2019 AGM held on 19th November 2019 (and being the last AGM held) were circulated to members by email. The minutes were proposed and seconded and approved by the meeting.

3. Sponsorships During Year

Strutt and Parker generously sponsored the autumn party in the Vicarage Garden. Huntsworth Wine kindly provided wine at cost. John D Wood kindly agreed to sponsor a spring party which the Committee hopes to hold in March.

4. Accounts for Years Ended 31/10/20 and 31/10/21

BF presented the Accounts for both 2020 and 2021. A successful subscription drive has been completed. Many members have kindly caught up with their subscription payments. The number of members jumped from 229 to 245. The Zoom talks were instrumental in recruiting new members. The subscription fee is £24 for 3 years. There is a surplus of £2,000 in 2021. The bank account currently stands at £7,000 in credit. CP thanked BF for his hard work as Treasurer. CP stated that dues would not increase in the near future. Both sets of Accounts were approved.

5. Composition and Election of CTRAA Committee 2022

A draft List of Portfolios for 2022 was circulated by email prior to the meeting. The meeting approved the proposed Committee portfolios for 2022 as well as the continuing membership (without portfolio) on the Committee of Peter Hoffmann-Fischer and Myrto Rochat. CP thanked the Committee for their work throughout the past year. 4 members (Brett Burkhart, Ashley McNeile, past Treasurer for many years, Ryan Mullins and Rae Than) have stepped down from the Committee. CP expressed thanks to all of them for their input.

6. Membership

FM stated that she had two goals, first to retain existing members. The new financial year has started and members will shortly be receiving reminders to pay the membership subscription. Standing Order is the preferred method of payment. Secondly, she is also actively recruiting new members and asked all members to let her know if new neighbours move to the area. CP and FM asked all members to welcome new arrivals in the area and to invite their neighbours to join CTRAA. CP thanked FM for her hard work.

7. Local Retailer Discount Scheme – MB said that the scheme was on hold during lockdown. RB hopes to review the discount scheme to make sure that it is of most appeal to members. If any members have any thoughts about this, please do get in touch with RB – discount@ctraa.org.uk If any member uses a local retailer frequently, please let RB know so that he might ask them to join the scheme.

8. Environment - Cherry Trees, Dog Mess, Pavements and Lampposts, Rubbish

MC updated the meeting that the cherry trees were pruned last year; they are pruned every year. Two trees were removed and new trees will be replaced. Three new electric car charging stations have recently been added to the area, located at 3 and 53 Brunswick Gardens and one at the south end of Palace Gardens Terrace. MC had received two questions from member Jana Gough who questioned whether rubbish should be removed from basements closer to the time when the dustbin truck arrives. The rubbish collectors are supposed to remove rubbish just before the truck arrives. Member Lydia felt that the 6am arrival only applies to some houses; at her home on Vicarage Gardens the collection is around 9am and therefore does not pose a problem. BF confirmed that it is the same situation for Kensington Church Street. TB thought that the workers who bring the rubbish to the kerb are a different group from those who collect the rubbish. CP asked MC to raise this issue with a Councillor and ask whether the Councillor might ask the contractor to keep the time that the rubbish is on the pavement to a minimum. Jana also complained about the amount of dog faeces on the pavements. Dog bins do get very full at weekends and bank holidays and need to be emptied more regularly. CP thanked MC for her work.

9. Police Report

EM attended the last police meeting on 8th September; she will also attend the meeting on 13th December. Two women are very active on this committee; they live in Holland Park and are concerned about car noise. The police said that those complaints should be sent to our MP, Felicity Buchan. Two specific issues are happening in the area: (i) expensive watches are being stolen from pedestrians by thieves on motorbikes. The police said that owners should keep photographs, receipts and reference numbers of precious items; and (ii) scammers are asking homeowners to see a payment card because of suspicious activity and then take the card. On bank holidays, people may approach homeowners offering to cut trees or remove rubbish; they are often "rogue" and probably not insured. Scooters are not allowed to be ridden on the pavement and these are impounded by the police. Bicycles on the pavements are also a dangerous nuisance.

There is a budget from RBKC of £534,000 for noise monitors to be installed to try to crack down on very noisy cars. The Public Space Protection Order team are responsible for applying for a portion of this budget. CP would be happy to pass on any resident's concerns to the police. One possible request would be a camera at the north end of Palace Gardens Terrace to try to crack down on the cars who drive past the "No Entry" sign. BF said that any person can report any dangerous driving to the police. There is a police initiative to try to get the public involved. There is an email address for members to report police issues to the CTRAA committee - police@ctraa.org.uk The public can also report issues directly to lee.a.lane@met.police.uk

10. Traffic and Parking

MC had nothing to add to the Traffic conversation covered above in "9. Police Report".

11. Planning Issues – including Newcombe House

TB said that two planning applications have been submitted for Berkeley Gardens. Three applications have been filed for the junction of Brunswick Gardens and Palace Gardens Terrace. There is no update on the development at Newcombe House. There is a rumour that the developer has sold the property. Lancer Square appears to be finished. Work has commenced on Orlov Court opposite Sainsbury on Kensington Church Street. Another floor will be added. FM asked about the Odeon Cinema; her understanding was that the façade was to be kept; and yet it appears to have been removed, TB will investigate. MR had heard that it will be rebuilt exactly the way it was but the original had to be taken down for safety reasons. CP noted that the hotel on Notting Hill Gate at the old site of M&S is going up quickly.

12. Website

TB hopes to revamp the website in 2022. CB thanked TB for his work both on planning and the website.

13. 2022 Garden Parties and Other Events

CP said that the three Zoom talks were very popular. The Committee hopes to hold another one between now and Easter. The Committee hopes to resume the parties and AGM with drinks next year subject to COVID constraints. The committee is open to other ideas for social events. CP asked all members to contact any Committee member if they have any ideas. MB added that the pivot from parties to Zoom talks was highly successful. She thanked speakers Philip Mould, Simon Sebag Montefiore and Christiane Amanpour for their excellent presentations. MB thanked MR for her excellent work coordinating the Zoom talks. MB also thanked Tuggy Meyer and Huntsworth Wine for the wine tasting event which was well received. MR acknowledged the many generous sponsors who have agreed to continue their support. The committee had reached out to residents who were alone during the pandemic. CP thanked MB and her team for their work. Member Victoria asked for a Zoom talk on the history of the area. CP will investigate this possibility.

14. Any Other Business

BF and CP welcomed any members who wished to volunteer their time as a Committee member. The Committee thanked CP for his very hard work and support for so many years.

15. Concluding Remarks

CP thanked members for attending. The formal meeting ended at 7.18 p.m.