

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 91st Annual General Meeting held in the Wellcome Great Hall of Berkhamsted Town Hall on Thursday 17th March 2016.

1. The Chairman, Susan Johnson, welcomed Councillor Elaine Collins, Deputy Mayor of Berkhamsted and about 65 members of the Association. She announced the programme for the evening: AGM business, a 20-minute break for refreshments, the Environment Award, and a short talk by Julia Hedger, Group Manager for Housing Development at Dacorum Borough Council.

Apologies were received from: Lesley and David Brown, Sarah and Colin Garrett, Pat and Peter Berkley, Jenny Habib, Giles Clark, Julia Black, Bruce and Suzanne Nixon, Doug and Christine Billington, Ray and Grace Phipps, Graham Spittle and Jenny Sherwood.

2. The minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 15th March 2015 had been circulated, previously and at the meeting, were taken as read, and signed as a correct record. These were proposed by Gordon Bluck and seconded by Lindy Foster Weinreb.

3. **Chairman's Report**

This had been circulated previously and at the meeting. The proposal by Paul Crosland and seconded by Hazel Ward that the report be received was carried nem con.

The Chairman thanked all committee members, particularly Paul Crosland, Katy Collins for the newsletter, Elaine Mercer for arranging activities, Jude Egan and Gordon Bluck.

Life Membership:

Gordon Bluck was awarded Life Membership. He has been on the committee for 24 years and has served as Chairman and Vice Chairman and as Chair of the Town Amenities Sub-Committee.

Beryl Edwards was also awarded Life Membership. She served for nine years as Membership Secretary and served on TASC until she had to resign on becoming a Northchurch Councillor.

Gordon spoke of the great contribution Susan Johnson had made to the Association. She is now retiring from the main committee after 25 years, six of them as Chairman. She was presented with a bouquet. Lindy said she would be a hard act to follow.

Lindy, in accepting the Chairmanship, said that she had been in the town for 50 years and talked about what we can all do to protect what we love about the town. She asked members for any ideas.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Christine Manning, presented the accounts for the year. On the proposal by Jean Bluck and seconded by Ann Brown, the accounts were adopted.

5. **Election of Officers**

One nomination had been received for each office and the following were duly elected:

Chairman	Lindy Foster-Weinreb
Vice-Chairman	Gordon Bluck
Treasurer	Christine Manning
Secretary	Miranda Cummins
Membership Secretary	Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby.

6. **Election of Committee Members**

Two members are resigning from the committee: Katy Collins and Jude Egan. Many thanks for their contributions.

The following Committee Members were elected last year and are therefore continuing for a further year: Paul Crosland and Tony Statham.

Nominations had been received and the following were elected for two years: Jenny Habib and Rita Jones. Elaine Mercer had been co-opted on to the committee during the year and was now elected.

There are still seven vacancies on the committee.

7. **Election of Auditors**

On the motion of the Chairman, it was resolved that Colin Gray & Co. of Berkhamsted should continue as independent examiners of the accounts. This was proposed by Christine Manning and seconded by Gordon Bluck. Thanks were expressed for the work that they do.

8. Subscriptions

Subscriptions have been £5 per annum per household since 2004. After some discussion it was decided that there was no need to raise this unless there was a specific project for which additional money was needed. Members were invited to submit suggestions for any such projects.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Environment Award

Certificates of Commendation were awarded to:

Sheldon Lodge, 380-392 High Street. Received by Yvette Christy of Churchill Retirement Homes.

Farm Place, Durrants Lane. Received by Julia Hedger, Group Manager for Housing Development at Dacorum Borough Council.

Talk

Julia Hedger gave a short talk on housing in Dacorum. 5000 families are on the housing register. She described the various ways that they manage housing including affordable, shared ownership, help-to-buy, social renting, starter homes. Dacorum try to get 35% affordable housing on any new site.

Gordon said that Berkhamsted Town Council had set up a working party to discuss Section 106 money.

..... (Chairman)

..... (Date)