

**THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

MINUTES

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION
held at the Cornerstone Centre on Saturday 12th January 2013 at 11.30am

Present **Chairman:** **Susan Hunter**
 Committee: **Ruth Addison**
 Balint Bodroghy (note taker)
 Susie de Castilho
 Rory Connelly
 Richard Hawkes
 Katherine Simpson
Apologies: **Ella Clark**

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked all those attending and announced that all Committee members elected in 2012 agreed to stay on for 2013:

Ruth Addison	Richard Hawkes
Katherine Simpson	Balint Bodroghy
Susie de Castilho	Ella Clark
Susan Hunter	Rory Connelly,

Existence of a Quorum, with attendance by 24 members including those on the Committee, was confirmed by the note taker. Apologies had been received from Assad and Geraldine Afifi, Julia and Dan Bodroghy-West and Margaret Nussey.

The Chairman confirmed that an Agenda, List of Candidates standing for Committee re-election, Minutes of the previous AGM and Annual Accounts had previously been delivered to Members by e-mail or by hand. Therefore, unless comments or objections were raised at the meeting, the Minutes, Accounts and election of Committee members could be agreed by acclamation.

Proceedings

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| 1. Minutes of the 13th AGM: | Agreed by acclamation as to content (see above) |
| 2. Annual Report: | Agreed by acclamation as to content (see above) |
| 3. Annual Accounts: | Agreed by acclamation as to content (see above) |
| 4. Committee Members: | Elected by acclamation (see above) |

Discussion in response to comments from the floor

Richard Hawkes outlined experience with the new website. Detailed and up-to-date information is available through the Mail Chimp facility, including number of visits, whether opened any pages or not, which pages were accessed and the enquirer's e-mail identity. The level of activity has been encouragingly high. The most frequently accessed pages were those dealing with deaths and local history (who lived where),

in that order. Some 100 known residents have reapplied for membership and the website activity resulted in 10 new recruits.

Balint Bodroghy reported that the site attracted many dubious applications for membership (phishing attempts) on a daily basis. Methods for blocking such attempts are now under consideration by the website team.

Katherine Simpson and Susan Hunter noted that the Association's finances under the new voluntary donation regime so far appear to be comparable to that under the old regime. The PayPal arrangements for collecting donations appear to be working well.

Richard and Claudia Albright requested information on VAT-rating of work on listed buildings (repairs vs alterations). Information available at the meeting seemed uncertain and in view of the subject's importance, an enquiry may be justified.

The new Newsletter format was generally well received but several members expressed a desire for distribution of a printed version. Richard Hawkes noted that the new format reflects the facility available on a website to seek more information on a subject of interest. A printed version could not offer that, so either it would have to reproduce all information or be subjected to considerable additional editing. Susan Hunter acknowledged the desirability of supplying printed copies to those without Internet access and promotion but noted that it was expensive and time consuming and future provisions will have to match our resources.

Referring to the accounts, Richard Albright suggested that the Police Property Fund, idle over many years, could be better invested in equities. Susan Hunter recalled that our plan has been to provide security lighting in the gardens but without ever obtaining sufficient funds to implement it; currently we are observing a similar project in St Ann's Wells Gardens involving solar powered lighting – if successful, this might provide a better and more affordable model. Having said that, Richard was invited to put forward some investment suggestions.

A discussion ensued concerning lack of enforcement for bylaws affecting dogs. Adrian Woodcraft was pleased by the existence of a dog-walking fraternity while some others, including Richard Albright, objected to dogs that are not kept under effective control. Susan Hunter recalled past attempts to address this problem, all of which foundered on lack of resources for enforcement. Richard Albright proposed in due course to write to our Member of Parliament about the issue.

Gardening matters raised lively discussion. Good relations are maintained with our gardener (with a small Christmas gift still awaiting delivery). Financial constraints limit what can be achieved. Experience suggests that aims (such as a request to have snow-drops planted *in memoriam*) are best achieved through direct contact avoiding administrative complexities. Earlier plantings now need to be cut back but there is no money for replanting. FOPA could make a small donation from general funds and there are facilities on the website to donate money specifically for the purpose.

Susan Hunter invited the membership to participate in the work of the Committee in whatever area they find interesting, be it finance, gardening or civic responsibility. The Meeting closed by 12.15 with hot mince pies and wine served by Rory Connelly and Chris Davidge.