

THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the

NINETEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

at the Cornerstone Centre, Saturday, 9 January 2016 at 11.30am

Present **In the chair:** **Frank Inglis (Acting as chairman by rotation)**
 Committee: **Balint Bodroghy (note taker)**
 Ella Clark
 Rory Connelly
 Sue Hitching
 Susan Hunter
 Frank Inglis
 David Sewell
 Trish Thompson
 David Ward
Guest Speaker : None

Existence of a Quorum, with attendance by 28 (including those on the Committee and two who had to leave early) was confirmed by the notetaker.

The Chairman opened the meeting with an apology that Notice had not been served 21 days before the event, as specified in the Constitution, and expressed the hope that there would be no objections . None was raised. He then welcomed all present.

The Agenda, Minutes of the previous AGM and the Annual Accounts had been disseminated in advance via the FOPA website and e-mail to all who have registered an interest.

Unless comments or objections are raised at the meeting, the Minutes, Accounts and re-election of a Committee (see below) can be agreed by acclamation.

Members, standing for re-election	Their Interests	Helpers	Their Interests
Balint Bodroghy	Record keeping	Simon Asplin	Website maintenance
Ella Clark	Website, fund raising	Chris Davidge	Events
Rory Connelly	Street scene, events	Ted Davis	Photo records, events
Sue Hitching	Membership, finance	Laurie Jean -Baptiste	Website management
Susan Hunter	Public relations	Richard Hawkes	Heritage, planning
Frank Inglis	Planning, ext'l relations	Brian Philpott	Gardens
David Sewell	LAT, organization	David Ryan	Website maintenance
Trish Thompson	Gardens	Peter Simpson	Gardens, events
David Ward	LAT, organization	David Sewell	External contacts

Proceedings

- 1. Minutes of the 18th AGM:** **Agreed by acclamation as to content**
- 2. Annual Report:** **Agreed by acclamation as to content**
- 3. Annual Accounts:** **Agreed by acclamation as to content**
- 4. Committee Members:** **Elected by acclamation (see above)**

Frank Inglis introduced a proposal to agree to changing the name of BARG (the Brunswick & Adelaide Residents Group) to BTA (the Brunswick Town Association). Richard Hawkes and Susan Hunter explained that BARG's aim is to become an umbrella for all amenity associations in the area, thus making representations at the Council (notably via CAG, the Conservation Action Group) and Police (notably via LAT, the Local Action Team) more effective and efficient (particularly by sharing the task of attending meetings and preparing notes). The change leaves FOPA unaffected while relieving pressure on Committee members. The proposal was accepted by acclamation.

Sue Hitching, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, reported 225 individuals on record on the FOPA website and wished to thank all who supported the work of FOPA in 2015 with donations.

In accordance with custom, the Committee will reconvene and agree particular roles for individual members. Susan Hunter retired from the Chair in 2013, having already served longer than envisaged in the Constitution. Since then, Committee meetings have been chaired by volunteers by rotation. An attempt to elect a new Chairman will be made at the first meeting of the Committee following the AGM.

In response to discussion about the best way to help and influence B&H Council to deal with the demarcation and administrative issues noted below, Melanie Davis (who served as Councillor from 2007 to 2011) offered to join the Committee.

Any Other Business

Anti-Social Behaviour: Referring to the presentation of last year's speaker Brendan Mullee, a question was raised regarding the current level of anti-social behaviour. Several Committee members responded, noting that it seems to have abated since last year while emphasising that Committee and Police become aware of anti-social incidents mainly if reported by the public. Quoting from the minutes of last year's AGM:

Brendan's advice is to use the *Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014* sensibly to get redress where needed, making sure that the **Community Trigger** is activated by calling (and if possible writing or e-mailing) the Authorities at least three times within 6 months.

The '*Community Trigger*' for such action is defined locally, with a specified maximum of *3 complaints in 6 months* (but it could be less); the response by the relevant agencies is also defined by the Act but is locally agreed in the light of the circumstances.

Ella Clark noted that information on the Act had already been posted on the FOPA website, along with the form suggested for recording and reporting anti-social acts; she undertook to re-mail it in the next few days to everyone on the FOPA list.

Tim Kirkup asked if the 'Police Fund' could be used to support measures combating anti-social behaviour. This possibility had been discussed in Committee over several years but ran into the problem that the money was insufficient to cover the cost of any worthwhile project and it proved impossible to secure the balance from other sources such as, for example, the Lottery Fund or the Crime & Police Commissioner's fund (both of which require active support by the Council, which was not forthcoming). Impasse!

Tree Plantings: Trish Thompson reported on efforts to get the Council to replace the defunct cherry trees they had planted south of the Palmeira gardens bird bath; she has finally obtained an indication that three will be planted this spring, using more mature saplings with a better chance to survive the harsh conditions. Success?

Tree Lopping: The west side of Palmeira is lined with mature trees that survived the 1987 storm. They now present a nuisance to residents (limiting light and views on that side) and a hazard to users of vehicles parked under the trees. Efforts to remedy the situation have run into cash and administrative problems: Urban trees belong either to Parkland or Roads, maintained by different departments from different funds. Road trees are regularly lopped and replaced as needed but there is no money for Parks. Ours are classified (erroneously, we believe) as Parkland trees. It was suggested that the Council's hand might be forced by pointing to potential hazards to safety but it is believed that their likely reaction will be lopping only the lowest branches. Impasse!

Adelaide Retaining Wall: Ella Clark asked for an update regarding the Adelaide Garden south retaining wall. Richard Hawkes responded: This is a Listed structure under the care of the Council, in poor and deteriorating condition. It is Listed Grade 2 though in the opinion of FOPA should be Grade 2* (as the rest of Adelaide Crescent) which would help secure funding for repairs. Were this Listed structure the responsibility of anyone other than the Council there is no doubt that a Section 215 repair notice would have been issued, but as the Council cannot serve a notice on itself the wall continues to deteriorate while the Council can claim that funding is unavailable and do nothing. In contrast the ramps bordering Kingsway are repaired as proximity to the pavement raises safety issues. There were suggestions from the floor that the same argument should be applied to the retaining wall, but the pavement alongside it is rarely used and can be cordoned off if any public danger is apparent. Securing help from The Heritage Lottery Fund has been investigated but without the support of the Council this cannot be progressed. Impasse!

No 17 Palmeira Square: Richard Hawkes reported that nagging over several years seems at last to have forced the owners to start external repairs and repainting. Unfortunately, the specified paint (BS 08B15, popularly known as *magnolia*) can vary in colour from cream to pink depending on manufacturer. The colour on 17 is a pale cream. Success?

Rubbish Collection : Ruth Addison raised the Council proposal for meeting residents to discuss complaints, views and plans for the future. P&A have fought to retain 'black bin' collection from basements while most other areas have switched to mechanised collection from community rubbish and recycling bins. The arguments have been rehearsed over several years: Many buildings no longer have rubbish storage space, collection is messy, smelly and rare, space for community bins is hard to find and threatens parking spaces, putting rubbish into bins may require crossing the street, bin-men are reluctant or prevented from descending stairs by concern for health and safety – **while** mechanised collection from community bins is efficient, frequent and clean (except at times of vehicle shortage due to the need for unforeseen repairs or industrial action). It was also noted that the recycling rate in B&H, once near the top of the league, now lags behind. This has little to do with the method of collection but reflects lifestyle preferences of the population. A suggestion was made that as community bins come in different colours we might express a preference for something other than black. It would also help to get more precise guidance on what, among the many types of packaging employed, can be effectively recycled with the system used in B&H. In any case, it is evident that the Council are determined to make mechanical collection the norm throughout the City and it may now be better to accept it with good grace and work towards achieving the best outcome from our residents' point of view. It was agreed to put the issue on the Committee's agenda.

The Meeting closed by 12.00 noon with hot mince pies and wine served by FOPA volunteers.