

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

**MINUTES of the**

**TWENTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION**

at the Cornerstone Centre, Saturday, 14 January 2017 at 11.30am

**Present**    **In the chair:**    **Susan Hitching (Acting as chairman by rotation)**  
                 **Committee:**        **Balint Bodroghy (note taker)**  
                                 **Rory Connelly**  
                                 **Susan Hunter**  
                                 **David Ryan**  
                                 **David Sewell**  
                                 **Trish Thompson**  
                                 **David Ward**

**Apologies for Absence: Ella Clark, Melanie Davies**

**Guest Speaker : Cclr Ollie Sykes, Apologies**

Existence of a Quorum, with attendance by 33 (including those on the Committee) was confirmed by the note taker.

The Agenda, Minutes of the previous AGM, the Annual Accounts and results of the Communal Bins Survey 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.

<b>Members, standing for re-election</b>	<b>Their Responsibilities</b>	<b>Helpers</b>	<b>Their Interests</b>
Simon Asplin	Website management	Laurie Jean - Baptiste	Website maintenance
Balint Bodroghy	Record keeping	Simon Asplin	
Ella Clark	<b>Does not wish to stand</b>	Chris Babbidge	Events
Rory Connelly	Street scene, events	Ted Davis	Photo records, events
Sue Hitching	Membership, finance		
Susan Hunter	Public relations	Richard Hawkes	Heritage, planning
Frank Inglis	Planning, ext'l relations		Gardens
David Ryan	Website management		
David Sewell	LAT, organization		
Trish Thompson	Gardens		
David Ward	LAT, organization		

## **Proceedings**

- 1. Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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:**                      **Relected by acclamation (as listed above)**

Sue Hitching informed the meeting that FOPA currently has no chair person, as those willing to act are not eligible and others have so far proved unwilling to assume the role. She invited volunteers to come forward to fill gaps in the foregoing table by contacting a Committee member in person or via the FOPA website. It was suggested from the floor that it might help to outline the duties involved; these are Susan Hunter's notes:

### **Chairman's role:**

- Chair three meetings a year, 7.30 – 9.0 pm at the Cornerstone, and the FOPA AGM on a Saturday morning early in January (followed by Wine & Mince pies) plus a possible Xmas Party planning meeting at someone's home.  
Agree a small group to co-ordinate party planning.
- Represent FOPA on the Brunswick Town Association Committee (BTA) approximately 4 times a year, afternoons from 2.0 to 4.30 pm at the Cornerstone. (Susan Hitching has been attending until a new Chair is appointed, as well as David Sewell and/or David Ward re LAT (Local Action Team).  
The Brunswick Town Association includes a representative from all the local Associations in the Brunswick area, usually (but not always) the chair.
- Respond to e-mails from Members, Councillors and Committees or delegate to other committee members. All incoming and outgoing e-mails from FOPA to go on [info@fopa.co.uk](mailto:info@fopa.co.uk), which is seen by all members of the Committee.  
Usually share any responses to outside people prior to sending, inviting views.
- Have the [info@fopa.co.uk](mailto:info@fopa.co.uk) e-mail link on your computer to separate those e-mails from personal ones.
- Agree AGM papers to be sent out approximately a month before the January meeting and write the Annual Report to be included. (Planning for this starts at the end of October.)
- Ensure Cornerstone room/s are pre-booked for all meetings and Xmas Party if necessary.
- Arrange with one of the team for items to go onto the Website and Facebook.
- All Committee members have roles; some could take on another role if needed.

- Planning – Richard Hawkes, although he has stepped down from the Committee, still looks at local applications on behalf of FOPA, then e-mails his thoughts prior to a Committee meeting and/or attends in person if available.

In her role as Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Sue Hitching reported that there are now 238 individuals on record on the FOPA website (225 at last AGM) and wished to thank all who supported the work of FOPA with donations and volunteering for particular roles, in particular Tim Kirkup for checking the Accounts.

Ella Clark stood down this year but remains available to help with FOPA matters. She had made a huge contribution to FOPA, helping to move the organization into the digital age, notably by creating a Facebook page, organising events and suggesting new ideas for promotion; her skills and enthusiasm will be sorely missed and Sue expressed her thanks on behalf of us all.

In accordance with custom, the Committee will reconvene after the AGM to confirm particular roles for individual members, welcome new volunteers and elect a Chairman.

#### **Rubbish Collection :**

Proposals to rationalise rubbish collection, improve low recycling rates and facilitate mechanical handling throughout the City have been promoted by the Council and its contractors for some years. It is now obvious that these measures will be introduced regardless of any protest - all that remains now for amenity associations like FOPA is to ensure the best outcome from the point of view of residents, including aspects such as safety, architectural heritage, visual appeal, noise and preservation of parking spaces.

Tracy Phipps, of contractors City Clean, will review feedback from questionnaires sent to all residents, contact people where necessary, and (reflecting the results) propose revised bin-sitings and bin numbers. She will also submit for comment a 1st draft of a leaflet for delivery to all households explaining the proposed changes.

She disclosed that 400 bins are on order and will be deployed throughout the City on agreed sites; bin utilisation will be monitored and any that are underused will be moved to better locations. Later, bins will have means for monitoring filling levels; this information will be used to evaluate the locations and alert the collection vehicle dispatchers by e-mail to take appropriate action.

Provisionally, 10 rubbish bins and 10 recycling bins have been allocated to Palmeira and Adelaide. Tracy Phipps was informed of our main concerns, raised on the basis of our knowledge of the geography and habits of our residents:

- nobody wants bins at the north (Church Road) entry points to P&A
- concern centres on the east entry point (as on the west side there are bins already)
- nobody wants bins in the gardens or lawns
- aim to minimise the need to cross roadways to safeguard the disabled
- we would prefer visually less intrusive bins than black
- we would consider placing bins behind hedges at the former composting site
- no glass bins, to minimise noise (some can already be found at the flower stand)
- suggest trialling bins on Kingsway for residents taking walks towards the sea
- prefer concentrating bins at the figure-8 'waist' passed by the majority of residents

- suggest putting recycling bins (usually manhandled by crews) on top of the electrical substation to minimize loss of parking space

City Clean intend to organize a follow-up meeting at the Cornerstone to discuss these matters. The scheme is likely to be introduced towards the end of March and arrangements will be made to collect redundant black recycling bins now used in P&A.

**Gardens:**

There are additional plantings on both sides of Palmeira gardens, with 50 *rosa rugosas* bought with FOPA funds. Some were planted to hide the former compost bin site.

**LATs and antisocial behaviour:**

David Ward and David Sewell maintain contact with the Local Action Teams (LAT) initiative of the Police, making a strong effort to restore its original format that allowed amenity groups like FOPA to influence the choice of police priorities. The meetings are open to the public and are occasionally attended by the Crime and Police Commissioner Katy Bourne. A recent meeting considered the proposition to increase rates by £5 to allow coordinating neighbourhood action. Information is posted on the FOPA website and a detailed description of the operation of LAT is in the minutes of last year's AGM. Jane and Peter Jukes, newly resident in P&M, noted evidence of a lively trade in illegal substances in the Square. Sue Hitching thanked David W and David S for their hard work on behalf of FOPA.

**Any Other Business**

**Brighton Bikes:**

Rory Connelly, keeping an eye on the 'street scene' around P&A, reported that hire bikes, also branded 'Boris bikes', will arrive in our City in June. Twelve of the 50 docking and battery recharging stations will be on the triangular island by the Flower Stand.

**Xmas Party and Raffle Prizes:**

The Christmas Party had to be cancelled owing to insufficient interest - we need to sell over 45 tickets in advance to allow booking band and venue. Raffle prizes donated and advertised remained undistributed and so the opportunity was used to sell tickets and hold an impromptu draw; this raised £57. Sue Hitching thanked all those who had worked so hard to organize the event and solicit prizes.

**Parking in Palmeira Avenue:**

Dan Bodroghy-West is concerned by the current pattern of parking along Palmeira Avenue: four lines of cars in echelon, two centrally for metered parking and two kerbside for residents. The road space remaining is too narrow for large vehicles, notably refuse trucks. He proposes action to persuade the Council to revert to chevron parking in the centre, as it was years ago and is still found in nearby streets. In his view this would not lead to a loss of parking spaces but contribute to safety (notably of children crossing the street). The Council have no money for such purposes, so Dan regards it as a long term project with pedestrian safety implications, worthy of FOPA's interest.

**Visit to the Hollingdean MRF:**

A report on a visit to the Hollingdean Materials Recovery Facility of Veolia, posted on the FOPA website, provides an insight into current rubbish collection and recycling practices. Visitors are welcome on weekends, with special tours laid on for children.

The Meeting closed by 12.00 noon with hot mince pies and wine served by FOPA volunteers, notably Rory Connelly (in party hat) and Chris Babbidge (more conservatively attired).

A sociable time was had by all and Sue Hitching was thanked and congratulated for providing such highly effective chairmanship.