

THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

THE 19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will take place at The Cornerstone Centre at 11.30am on Saturday 9th January 2016

**IT WILL GREATLY HELP IF YOU COULD LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING
IF ATTENDING PLEASE PRINT THESE FOUR PAGES AND BRING WITH YOU
TO REDUCE COSTS HARD COPIES WILL NOT BE PROVIDED AT THE MEETING**

Coffee will be served from 11am
Wine and mince pies will be served after the meeting

AGENDA

- 1) Minutes of the 18th AGM (see below)
- 2) Comments on the Annual Report (see below)
- 3) Agreement of the Annual Accounts (see below)
- 4) Election of the Committee for 2016

The following Committee members have agreed to remain:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Susan Hunter | Balint Bodroghy |
| Ella Clark | Sue Hitching |
| Rory Connelly | Trish Thompson |
| David Ward | Frank Inglis |
| David Sewell | |

If no objections are received all will be elected by block vote.
The Chairman for 2016 will be elected by the Committee at its first meeting.

The Committee welcomes new ideas and help with its work
If any members would like to join the Committee please contact us before 31st Dec
by writing to: info@fopa.co.uk

Minutes of the 18th AGM

If you have any objection to the content, please contact the Chairman before 31st Dec.

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

MINUTES

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION
held at the Cornerstone Centre on Saturday 10th January 2015 at 11.30am

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|---|
| Present | In the chair: | Susan Hunter (Acting chairman pending election) |
| | Committee: | Balint Bodroghy (note taker) Ella Clark Rory Connelly Sue Hitching Frank Inglis David Sewell Trish Thompson David Ward |
| | Guest Speaker : | Brendan Mullee |

Existence of a Quorum, with attendance by 38, including those on the Committee, was confirmed by the notetaker.

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed all present and introduced the guest speaker. She confirmed that an Agenda, Minutes of the previous AGM and the Annual Accounts were disseminated by posting on 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) could 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 Babbidge | 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 | To be announced | Brian Philpott | Gardens |
| David Sewell | LAT, organization | David Ryan | Website maintenance |
| Trish Thompson | Gardens, composting | Peter Simpson | Gardens, events |
| David Ward | LAT, organization | | |

In closing the formal part of the Annual General Meeting, The Chairman extended special thanks to past and present committee members and helpers whose enthusiasm and dedication made it possible to sustain FOPA's mission to protect and improve our environment and forge a community from residents living in Palmeira and Adelaide.

In accordance with custom, the Committee will reconvene and agree particular roles for individual members; she herself, having already served longer than envisaged in the constitution, will retire as Chairman and an attempt will be made to elect a new Chairman at the first meeting of the Committee following the AGM. She asked anyone interested in becoming involved in the work of the Committee to come forward after the meeting.

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

Proceedings

- 1. Minutes of the 17th 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)

Presentation by Brendan Mullee and Comments from the Floor

Brendan Mullee, barrister, "practises exclusively in areas of public and administrative law, with particular expertise in social housing, homelessness and anti-social behaviour, acting both for claimants and defendants and providing training for professional bodies, local authorities and solicitors" (see <http://www.3djb.co.uk/brendan-mullee>).

Brendan outlined the impact of the relevant sections of the *Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014* on the public, local authorities and other agencies including the police. The act came into force in October last year. It was designed to empower the public (individuals, businesses, associations) to obtain redress in the face of anti-social acts. In many instances, it sweeps away and/or replaces past legislative attempts at addressing this problem such as ASBOs and bylaws which proved ineffective. It is a 'draconian' concept, allowing any member of the public to give notice to the local authority and/or police that some act or behaviour *detrimentally affects the quality of my life*, thereby obliging the local authority to acknowledge the complaint, propose a remedy and take action under closely specified conditions. 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. In extreme situations it could result in banning named individuals from attending at a specified location, closing down a pub or banning a specified activity (such as ball games) in some instances for up to five years. As an extreme example, a person may declare to the Environmental Health Dept/Noise Nuisance Team that loud music played by a neighbour at night affects the quality of life, repeat the complaint three times within 6 months and thereby trigger a chain of actions that might involve a pre-defined procedure of 1) confirming the complaint, 2) serving notice on the perpetrator (by leaving a note under the door if there is no other response) and if the notice is breached 3)

confiscation of the music equipment, a fine or possibly imprisonment. In circumstances where the perpetrator occupies social housing, a mandatory order for eviction may also follow.

It appears that the police and local authorities are struggling to come to terms with the Act in the face of severe, continuing cutbacks in funding. Similarly, the legal professions and pressure groups guarding civil liberties are trying to foresee the likely consequences while facing new restrictions on the availability of Legal Aid. Clearly, much is still to be learned before a sensible balance is reached where the Act empowers the 'public' to act against anti-social behaviour without offering a pesterpower charter to influential and vocal busybodies for curtailing the Civil Liberties of those least able to defend themselves – all that, while we celebrate the Magna Carta!

Brendan's advice is to use the Act 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.

Ella Clark noted that information on the Act has 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.

Brian Philpott, former police officer, stressed the difficulties the Police face trying to meet the strictures of the Act while dealing with many other demands on their resources and having to reduce costs, most likely by cutting manpower and patrols.

Renee Hunt expressed concern over possible effects of the Act on her quality of life, should it result in a ban on enjoying a glass of wine with a picnic or letting children in her care play football. She recognises the need for young people to take part in sport and asked where they should go, once they are squeezed out of Palmeira? Finally, her quality of life is also affected by rubbish left behind by picnickers in the absence of litter bins.

Brendan noted that Brunswick Town is richly endowed with open areas where activities such as grown-up football can be pursued without causing undue distress to the public.

Brian Philpott recalled that shrubs planted in the lawns restrict the scope for 'grown-up' football without limiting child's play – could we not offer to plant and tend shrubs ourselves – something he would be happy to undertake. Brendan and Susan warned that such acts could have unexpected consequences, such as becoming obligations that must be sustained even if a volunteer, for whatever reason, gives up

Sue Sinclair remarked that providing lighting in areas frequented by partying youths at night can be an effective deterrent, without the need to invoke the might of the Act.

In response, Susan recounted FOPA's past attempts to deal with daytime congregation, nighttime partying, suspected drug dealing and intimidating football in P&A. Our efforts have been frustrated by the need to reduce gardening costs, most simply achieved by replacing shrubbery with grass; also that the cost of clearing litter bins in gardens is part of the gardening (not waste collection) budget (which explains why missing bins have not been replaced), and finally that we have already made many moves to obtain security lighting and CCTV cover for the most vulnerable parts of the gardens, without success.

On conclusion of the meeting, Melanie Davis and Andy Ryder took the opportunity to introduce themselves as, respectively, Labour and Conservative candidates in the forthcoming local authority elections.