

**JERICHO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR
1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2015
HELD ON 25 APRIL 2016 AT 7.30pm AT ST BARNABAS SCHOOL, JERICHO**

Present: Elizabeth Barnes, Michael Barnes, Orit Bayley, Lisa Bendall, Fr. Jonathan Beswick, Uma Bhattacharyya, Helen Brock, Sebastian Brock, Carolyn Brown, Christina Bushnell, Charlotte Christie, David Clark, Genefer Clark, Cllr. Colin Cook, Donald Degenhardt, Katherine Duncan-Jones, Fred Ellis, Scott Ellis, David Feeny, Felicity Feeny, Hoonie Feltham, Henry Gibbon, Margaret Goodall, Carole Guberman, Helen Hatcher, David Hearn, Richard Hillier, Hannah Hirst-Dunton, Tom Hirst-Dunton, Sheila Jones, Anne Joshua, Alan Joyce, Marilizi Kenward, Tom Lubbock, Beatrice Lucas, Ann Luke, Trevor Luke, Jenny Mann, Susan Pead, Cllr. Susanna Pressel, Anne Mobbs, Max Savage, Anne Marie Schoonhoven, Dick Smethurst, Peter Stalker, Hugh Starkey, Phyllis Starkey, Rosemary Strawson, George Taylor, Margaret Villameura, Cynthia Watson, Bob Weedon, Anne Wiles, Helen Williams, Bill Wilson, James Wright.

1. APOLOGIES:

Judith Condor-Vidal, Fr. Andrew Greener, Bee Hillier, Jacky Sadones.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM (FOR 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2014) HELD ON 20 APRIL 2015:

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, Charlotte Christie:

During the year the Association continued in its objectives to manage the Community Centre and to promote the benefit, and represent the views, of the residents of Jericho within the City.

The Association continued to support the community café which opened every Saturday. The Committee took a decision to continue to subsidise the café in order to keep prices down and allow this one weekly opportunity to open the Centre to all association members on a 'drop in' basis which we felt was important.

The association supported local groups such as Alive & Kicking over 50s group, the Mothers and Toddler's group, and the St Barnabas Sunday school by waiving the fee for the use of the building.

Local residents lent their skills in making small repairs and we were grateful to them.

We took up the opportunity through a city council scheme to provide Wi-Fi in the Centre for the benefit of all users.

The Vice Chairman Paul Hornby has moved away. We acknowledged the contribution he has made as a member of the committee over the last 9 years at his last meeting in November.

Achievements and performance

The Community Centre continued to be well used. We maintained a high number of bookings for classes and there were still a number of users who had run classes regularly for many years. The Centre continued to be used throughout the day and into the evening most days of the week, and it remained popular for use as a venue for birthday parties and family celebrations.

The Community Association continued to work alongside the Jericho Wharf Trust to pursue the development of the Jericho Canalside site which will incorporate a new Community Centre. The committee continued to play an active part in the debate and champion the Community's need for a sustainable new Community Centre. A planning application was submitted by the developer in February 2015. JCA formally expressed concern that the percentage of affordable housing was still below the expected 50% at 39%. There were approximately 45 conditions placed on the application which remained unresolved in December 2015.

The JCA's business plan for a new Community Centre was used to contribute to the discussion of the viability of the proposed new Centre. JCA continued to hold its view that any new Community Centre must have the capacity to generate sufficient income to be completely self-sustaining, which is what has been achieved at the current Centre.

The annual Street Fair in Canal Street took place once again on 13th June. The Fair is run for community benefit, it creates an opportunity for local people to gather and enjoy the entertainments offered, and it does not generate significant profit. As the city council no longer maintains the street stalls the commercial organisation which provides the stalls in Gloucester Green provided them at a reduced rate for which we were grateful. Local businesses once again donated generous prizes for the raffle and the Co-op store in Walton Street provided volunteers on the day which was welcomed.

The Association applied successfully for grant funding from the Oxfordshire Community Foundation for half term play schemes to provide sporting activities in Jericho for young people between ages 11-16. This is an age group for which there are very few activities locally and we were pleased to facilitate this. We were grateful again to Maggie O'Sullivan for her work on organising the activities.

A further successful application from the Big Society fund enabled us to replace the old computer equipment in the office which has enabled the Administrator to upgrade the systems.

The 'Alive and Kicking' over- 50s group, co-ordinated by committee member Anne Mobbs, continued to provide a varied programme of meetings and outings.

Our annual litter pick took place in March. This is an activity which has spread across the city as Ox Clean.

The Oxford University Students Union once again provided student wardens in Jericho. They attended JCA committee meetings and organised events such as the fashion evening and Gin tasting for all residents.

The committee supported residents who challenged the noise generated by the trains as they 'idle' outside the station during the night. This continues to be an on-going issue.

The Association's community website 'Jericho Online' at www.jerichocentre.org.uk became the main channel of communication. It is updated regularly with community news and information relating to the Community Centre and a mix of articles and information about Jericho. Key meetings and activities are also notified by leaflet distributions and posters in the Centre windows and the two community notice boards.

Health & Safety report

There were several instances of the electricity fusing which caused inconvenience and concern to users. This was tracked to a small unused water heater which was removed and the problem has not re-occurred.

A tile fell from the roof and caused some damage to a vehicle parked in front of the Centre. The city council provided support to provide a permanent net around the roof to catch any other loose tiles. While the scaffolding was up a thorough investigation of the roof was undertaken and declared to be 'robust' so we feel confident such an incident is unlikely to occur again.

There were also a few small acts of vandalism which caused broken windows on the lower floor which were quickly repaired but an unnecessary expense.

The committee has reviewed and updated all its policies and undertaken checks of the fire alarm and electrical appliances.

Future plans

In addition to the usual activities, the two key priorities for next year are once again:

1. Continuing to work within the Jericho Wharf Trust for the development of the Canalside site and a new community centre.
2. Complete the creation of a charitable incorporated organisation to replace the existing JCA.

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

4. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT, Susan Pead:

During 2015 we hosted between 35 and 40 classes a week at the Community Centre, offering a highly varied range of activities. We had a Czech Playgroup on Tuesday mornings from 10.30 to 12.00, and Mothers and Toddlers on Thursday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30. Ballet classes for children were held on Monday afternoons, and children's boxing on Saturday mornings. On Sunday morning there was a Sunday School here.

Four evenings a week there was a National Childbirth Trust class, in preparation for birth & childhood.

The Café, run by Tracey Heppell, opened on Saturday mornings, offering cooked breakfast, tea, coffee and homemade cakes, and was especially popular with the older residents of Jericho.

We continued to offer a wide range of other activities for adults at the centre, including classes in Zumba, Salsa Dance, and Belly Dancing. The Alive & Kicking Group for people over 50 met on Monday afternoons. We also had Pilates, Tai Chi, Yoga, Pole Flux and Wing Chun Martial Art Classes. Tango dancing, Indian dance and Classical Ballet were enjoyed by people of all ages, and University students hired our rooms in term time for dance classes.

The Oxford Baptist Chapel ran a free English Class here on Friday afternoon, and a Youth Club on Friday evenings.

A Tattoo Artist used the upstairs Art Studio and we also let out our four offices to the British Electrical Rope Sports Association, Jericho Low Cost Counselling, Trading for Development (Fair Trade), and the Jericho Complementary Health Practice.

The Jericho Street Fair would be held on Saturday 11th June from 12 noon, including live music outside the Bookbinders. Stalls were still available for hire and everyone was welcome to come.

4a ALIVE AND KICKING, Anne Mobbs:

The Group started at the end of April 2013 and has been active now for three years. Membership fluctuates between 10 to 15 people with contacts made with over 20 people.

There has been a lot of active work in trying to save the 17 Bus service with the group making a submission to the Oxon. County Council, Oxford City Council, Nicola Blackwood, MP, the Oxford Bus Company, Stagecoach, etc. One of our members, 92 year old Margaret Donaldson, appeared on the front page of the Oxford Mail, after she spoke at the Full Council meeting of the County Council. She was quoted as saying "take your bus pass – it's no good to me without the 17 bus". Members of the group also appeared in the Oxford Mail outside the bus stop in Canal Street urging the County Council to stop the cuts in subsidised transport. We have received a positive letter from the Oxford Bus Company indicating they will do their best to provide a service in Jericho if Stagecoach pull out after the subsidy ends. We have also met with Inspire who hope to help with transport in the area.

Our oldest Member, Barbara Harvey, reached 100 in January 2016. The occasion was celebrated in fine style at her flat in Castlemill House with over 60 people including past teaching colleagues, students and friends coming and going throughout the afternoon. The Lord Mayor, Cllr. Ray Humberstone presented Barbara with a splendid bouquet and Peter Stalker interviewed her for Jericho Online. Barbara has had problems with mobility and has now moved to Marston Court where she has been welcomed with open arms.

During the past year the Group has made trips to the Museum of Oxford for a 1st World War Play *While They're Away*, a guided tour of Worcester College Gardens by the head gardener organized by members of the group, a trip to the Museum at Woodstock for an exhibition of past fashions, and a *We are Oxford* theatrical presentation held at Furnace House. The Christmas Dinner sponsored by the Jam Factory in conjunction with Age UK Oxon was a great occasion. Magdalen College School students entertained us with concerts and tea at the School on several occasions. The group went on the tour of the Blavatnik Building and also a trip to the Ashmolean when Carole Guberman talked about the pictures with members. The catering students at the Oxford and Cherwell College of FE provided us with some lovely meals at affordable prices.

There are regular craft sessions organised with fashion designer, Chris Eady. Everyone's birthdays are celebrated with parties, presents, cakes and live music from Johnny Hinkes and blues singer Mavis Bayton. There is an annual garden party at the home of Anne Mobbs with a garden quiz. Helen Fountain brought artefacts from the Museum of Oxford on the theme of Seaside and there was a really good reminiscence session.

Our Exercise Tutor, Janey Potter, has had problems with her health. She ran the chair-based exercise classes until December but these have now stopped. The Group recruited a Tai Chi tutor, Lee Jefferson, who will be running exercise classes during April and May. We had several anonymous donations during the year and also a welcome contribution through Councillor Susanna Pressel from the City Council's community fund towards the cost of our exercise classes.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT, Peter Stalker:

The charity receives rental income from letting out rooms and uses it as necessary to subsidise core activities such as a parent and toddler group so that the centre may be financially viable whilst also being affordable for local and community users. There is also a café, operated as a community facility, which runs with a small subsidy as required.

On a turnover of £54,109 over the year there was a net surplus of £9,807 which increased our accumulated reserves to £68,978. This was achieved as a result of the continued income from rental and classes and additional income from grants in comparison to last year.

Our reserves are largely held to fund legal and consultancy costs for the development of a new Community Centre.

6. PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE FORM OF JERICHO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FROM A CHARITY TO A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION:

This was carried unanimously. The committee will undertake the necessary steps to carry the transfer forward.

7. CURRENT COMMUNITY NEWS:

Phyllis Starkey for the Jericho Wharf Trust gave an update on the Canalside development. We were grateful for Colin Cook's forceful advocacy for a stringent 106 agreement, which would tie the developer down as much as possible to deliver what he had promised in order to achieve planning permission. The developer still had to reach agreement with the Canal and River Trust, St Barnabas PCC, the JWT and the JCA, and set out a transfer agreement to transfer that part of the site occupied by the boatyard and community centre to the JWT. The council had to approve this. The developer would be responsible for building the boatyard. We hoped the developer would engage in a constructive way but the JWT would need to raise the fees for further legal advice.

Fr. Jonathan Beswick reported on the uniting of St Barnabas and St Thomas parishes. Hoonie Feltham described her battles with Thames Water over fatbergs that were causing flooded sewers in her street. Cllr. Susanna Pressel reported that the old health centre had been sold to Lucy's but we had not yet seen any plans for it. Susanna thanked the committee for their hard work over the year.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES:

The following were elected unopposed:

Chairman: Charlotte Christie	proposed by Rosemary Strawson seconded by Hannah Hirst-Dunton
Treasurer: Peter Stalker	proposed by Beatrice Lucas seconded by Judith Condor-Vidal
Secretary: Jenny Mann	proposed by Joelle Mann seconded by Michelle Hansen

There was an election for Vice Chair:

Henry Gibbon was elected	proposed by Anne Marie Schoonhoven seconded by Rosemarie Howard
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Committee:

There was an election for the remaining seven places on the committee. The following were elected:

Jonathan Beswick	proposed by Ann Beswick seconded by Henry Gibbon
Scott Ellis	proposed by Fred Ellis seconded by Jenny Mann
Hannah Hirst-Dunton	proposed by Jacky Sadones seconded by Tom Hirst-Dunton
Anne Mobbs	proposed by Jenny Lewis seconded by Mrs I Turner
Jacky Sadones	proposed by Hannah Hirst-Dunton seconded by Tom Hirst-Dunton
Phyllis Starkey	proposed by Peter Stalker seconded by David Feeny
George Taylor	proposed by Bill Wilson seconded by Susan Pead

9. GUEST SPEAKER:

Maggie Black introduced a screening of her television programme 'Jericho Open Door', made for the BBC in 1974. This gave a wonderful insight into Jericho in the 1970s, and the people who lived here, and it was fascinating to see the changes that had taken place since that time, compared to those aspects which still remain the same.