

THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

THE 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will take place at The Cornerstone Centre at 11.30am on Saturday 14th January 2017

**IT WILL GREATLY HELP IF YOU COULD LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING
IF ATTENDING PLEASE PRINT THESE FIVE 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 19th 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 2017

The following Committee members have agreed to remain:

Sue Hitching	Rory Connelly
Trish Thompson	Balint Bodroghy
David Ward	Frank Inglis
David Sewell	Susan Hunter (BTA rep)

If no objections are received all will be elected by block vote.
The Chairman for 2017 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 19th AGM

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

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

THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

held at the Cornerstone Centre on Saturday 9th 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

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

- | | |
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| 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.

Annual Report for 2016

This is to update all our members on the events in 2016 and what your committee has been involved in on behalf of FOPA.

One of these items is that the group formerly known as BARG (Brunswick & Adelaide Group) has now been renamed BTA (Brunswick Town Association) and has its own constitution. The group still joins together one or more representatives from each of the local associations, and acts on behalf of all these groups. BTA has a voice on the CAG (Conservation Advisory Group) and the changes have made it easier especially in regard to the paperwork. It now only requires the one copy of BTA's documents each year.

Probably the main issue that FOPA has been involved in for the past year is in connection with the Council's planned changes on how they will collect refuse from Palmeira & Adelaide, and in fact Brunswick Square as well. As I am sure you will all know, plans are in place to stop any basement collections and only to use the large black refuse bins placed around our area instead. We had believed that we could keep the weekly recycling collection as it is, but now understand that there will be bins for this too. We are hoping that our suggestion of reduced numbers of refuse bins will be accepted. It is certainly not ideal, however, few of the old basement cupboards are suitable for the amount of rubbish to be stored each week. It is to be hoped that the bins and the area around them will not attract litter.

On the garden front, our garden representative aims to act as a liaison with the Council gardeners and FOPA, communicating with both to offer suggestions and occasionally funding for plants. The Council has reduced the amount of time the gardeners can spend in Palmeira & Adelaide now and we hope the gardens will not deteriorate because of this. One of their jobs is to clear all litter in the gardens before they can do any actual gardening which is such a shame, and not very pleasant for them either.

One success in the gardens has been the hedge planted at the top of Adelaide crescent garden a few years ago, with members help, it looks very healthy now. Also new trees have been in place along the east side of Palmeira Gardens and seem to be coping with the weather there.

The LAT (Local Action Team) meetings are well attended by two of our committee members and they continue to work with our Councillors to resolve any issues, with travellers setting up camp in the gardens, for example. Swift action can usually resolve this without too many problems.

This group have also been looking into many of the local traffic issues, especially in regard to the delivery vehicles for the local stores. They have definitely been successful in influencing good outcomes on this thorny issue.

We were all very sorry to see our local PCSO, Julie Wornham leave the Police. She had been looking after our area for a long time and had been such a help on local issues, and had the advantage of knowing so many local people. FOPA wished her well and contributed to a gift for her. She had attended most LAT meetings and had been a great contact for us all.

On the social side, unfortunately we had to cancel our Christmas Party this year but are hoping to hold one next year. No coffee mornings were held in 2016, and if anyone would like to hold one do please contact the committee, it would be very welcome.

Also just to say that Ella who has been a committee member for some time has decided to step down from FOPA, and we will miss her input, she has been very much involved in all that we do. Especially regarding the web site and production of newsletters, all of which has been much appreciated.

Fortunately another committee member has taken on the web site for FOPA along with sending out any communications to members, but at the moment we are not sure about newsletter production.

Should any of our members feel they would like to become involved with the Friends of Palmeira & Adelaide committee, please do say so and make contact, maybe at the AGM in January. You would be most welcome.

Once again thank you to you, our members, whose support we value, and to all the committee members as well, for the time spent supporting this association which is so much appreciated. The committee members deal with membership, finance, minute taking, communications, planning, gardens, social events, any issues with the roads and lighting, and the local action team and so on, all in their own time which makes the committee run very smoothly - as well as anything else I have forgotten.

With best wishes for a happy new year.

The Friends of Palmeira and Adelaide

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2016

FOPA Account Income and Expenditure 1.12.15 - 31.12.16 (cut off 30.11.16)

INCOME	
Donations - Cash/Cheques/Standing Orders	£ 200.00
Christmas party 2015	£ 383.00
Bank interest (Police Property Fund)	£ 0.35
TOTAL	£ 583.35

GENERAL EXPENDITURE	
Southern Water Garden Supply (December 2015 to June 2016)	£ 31.50
AGM January 2016	£ 83.44
Cornerstone meetings (Room hire January, July, October)	£ 60.00
Christmas Party 2015	£ 518.52
Gardeners Christmas present (*has not been taken)	£ 12.75
Donation to Julie Wornham (PCSO)	£ 25.00
Donation to Brighton in Bloom	£ 70.00
UK2 Webhosting	£ 85.68
TOTAL	£ 886.89
EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	£ 303.54

FUNDS IN BANK (as at 30th November 2015)	
HSBC Current Account	£ 1,242.53
HSBC Police Property Fund	£ 525.12
TOTAL	£ 1,767.65

FUNDS IN BANK (as at 30 November 2016)	
HSBC - Current Account	£ 932.63
HSBC - Police Property Fund	£ 525.47
TOTAL	£ 1458.10

Sue Hitching, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, 12th December 2016