

THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

THE 17th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will take place at The Cornerstone Centre at 11.30am on Saturday 14th January 2014

**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 16th 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 2014

The following Committee members have agreed to remain:

Katherine Simpson	Balint Bodroghy
Ella Clark	Susan Hunter
Rory Connelly	

The following members have agreed to join the Committee:

Trish Thompson	Sue Hitching
Julia Bodroghy-West	Miranda Mayne

If no objections are received all will be elected by block vote.
The Chairman for 2014 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 the Chairman before 31st Dec
by writing to: chair.fopa@gmail.com

Minutes of the 16th AGM

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

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION
held at the Cornerstone Centre on Saturday 12th January 2013 at 11.30am

Present	Chairman: Susan Hunter
Committee:	Ruth Addison Balint Bodroghy (note taker) Susie de Castilho Rory Connelly Richard Hawkes Katherine Simpson
Apologies:	Ella Clark

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked all those attending and announced that all Committee members elected in 2012 agreed to stay on for 2013:

Ruth Addison	Richard Hawkes
Katherine Simpson	Balint Bodroghy
Susie de Castilho	Ella Clark
Susan Hunter	Rory Connelly,

Existence of a Quorum, with attendance by 24 members including those on the Committee, was confirmed by the note taker. Apologies had been received from Assad and Geraldine Afifi, Julia and Dan Bodroghy-West and Margaret Nussey.

The Chairman confirmed that an Agenda, List of Candidates standing for Committee re-election, Minutes of the previous AGM and Annual Accounts had previously been delivered to Members by e-mail or by hand. Therefore, unless comments or objections were raised at the meeting, the Minutes, Accounts and election of Committee members could be agreed by acclamation.

Proceedings

1. Minutes of the 13th AGM: Agreed by acclamation as to content (see above)
2. Annual Report: Agreed by acclamation as to content (see above)
3. Annual Accounts: Agreed by acclamation as to content (see above)
4. Committee Members: Elected by acclamation (see above)

Discussion in response to comments from the floor

Richard Hawkes outlined experience with the new website. Detailed and up-to-date information is available through the Mail Chimp facility, including number of visits, whether opened any pages or not, which pages were accessed and the enquirer's e-mail identity. The level of activity has been encouragingly high. The most frequently accessed pages were those dealing with deaths and local history (who lived where), in that order. Some 100 known residents have reapplied for membership and the website activity resulted in 10 new recruits.

Balint Bodroghy reported that the site attracted many dubious applications for membership (phishing attempts) on a daily basis. Methods for blocking such attempts are now under consideration by the website team.

Katherine Simpson and Susan Hunter noted that the Association's finances under the new voluntary donation regime so far appear to be comparable to that under the old regime. The PayPal arrangements for collecting donations appear to be working well.

Richard and Claudia Albright requested information on VAT-rating of work on listed buildings (repairs vs alterations). Information available at the meeting seemed uncertain and in view of the subject's importance, an enquiry may be justified.

The new Newsletter format was generally well received but several members expressed a desire for distribution of a printed version. Richard Hawkes noted that the new format reflects the facility available on a website to seek more information on a subject of interest. A printed version could not offer that, so either it would have to reproduce all information or be subjected to considerable additional editing. Susan Hunter acknowledged the desirability of supplying printed copies to those without Internet access and promotion but noted that it was expensive and time consuming and future provisions will have to match our resources.

Referring to the accounts, Richard Albright suggested that the Police Property Fund, idle over many years, could be better invested in equities. Susan Hunter recalled that our plan has been to provide security lighting in the gardens but without ever obtaining sufficient funds to implement it; currently we are observing a similar project in St Ann's Wells Gardens involving solar powered lighting – if successful, this might provide a better and more affordable model. Having said that, Richard was invited to put forward some investment suggestions.

A discussion ensued concerning lack of enforcement for bylaws affecting dogs. Adrian Woodcraft was pleased by the existence of a dog-walking fraternity while some others, including Richard Albright, objected to dogs that are not kept under effective control. Susan Hunter recalled past attempts to address this problem, all of which foundered on lack of resources for enforcement. Richard Albright proposed in due course to write to our Member of Parliament about the issue.

Gardening matters raised lively discussion. Good relations are maintained with our gardener (with a small Christmas gift still awaiting delivery). Financial constraints limit what can be achieved. Experience suggests that aims (such as a request to have snow-drops planted *in memoriam*) are best achieved through direct contact avoiding administrative complexities. Earlier plantings now need to be cut back but there is no money for replanting. FOPA could make a small donation from general funds and there are facilities on the website to donate money specifically for the purpose.

Susan Hunter invited the membership to participate in the work of the Committee in whatever area they find interesting, be it finance, gardening or civic responsibility.

The Meeting closed by 12.15 with hot mince pies and wine served by Rory Connelly and Chris Davidge.

Annual Report for 2013

Once again much has been going on behind the scenes in the FOPA Committee. The main area of our local involvement has been influencing the plans for the gardens in the Square and Crescent where possible, along with involvement in the very successful composting initiative.

At this point I would like pay tribute to two Committee members who have given sterling work and their valuable time to the Committee, specifically in the support of our gardens. Ruth has also chaired the FOPA committee and worked tirelessly for it. Susie has also been involved for several years and has established a good relationship with our gardeners. She was instrumental in starting the discussions on having a composting site in the Square. Both Susie and Ruth have said they will step down from the Committee at the AGM, However, I know they will still be supporting all that FOPA does.

Regarding the gardens FOPA has some funds set aside to help with new planting in the flower beds in the Crescent gardens, once the bindweed has been removed, and I know Susie has discussed this with Graham our gardener. The new trees we hoped for have been planted and seem to be doing well.

The FOPA composting Committee was set up with encouragement and help from our Councillors and the B & H Food Project. It is now in its second year of operation serving the emotional inner needs of the good people of Brunswick Town who are pleased to see their kitchen waste turned into compost rather than being dumped – it ends up enriching crops planted in school projects, public parks and private gardens. FOPA is very fortunate that Balint took on the composting initiative in the early days and has been instrumental in organising it so efficiently. He has had the help of Trish, who now has a rota of people using the compost boxes, who take on the key job of turning the compost.

FOPA is represented at the Brunswick & Adelaide group meetings to discuss planning and licensing issues which all take time to look into and we give support to our Brunswick Town colleagues whose committees mirror our own to a large extent. We have been able to influence issues raised by the Conservation Advisory group when they arise in Palmeira & Adelaide, in our endeavours to preserve the state of the buildings here. Richard's experience in this area is therefore invaluable in checking all local planning applications for us.

One or more of the committee members attends the Local Action Team meetings organised by the local Police on behalf of residents in Brunswick Town. Recently a number of our Members had raised serious concerns about groups of young people causing trouble in the area. The Police have taken all comments on board and are now patrolling Palmeira & Adelaide more often and will respond to any further problems promptly, as they have always tried to do in the past.

As often as possible we have been able to produce newsletters and it has helped us to be able to send these by e-mail to our members, with just a few delivered to individuals who cannot receive them that way. This has saved a great deal of money and time. This with the website is, of course, the main way we are able to communicate with residents. Ella has been a tower of strength in keeping the newsletters going, with the aid of one of our residents. Richard started the website initiative along with some help from two of our members and this too has been very successful. So a big thank you to all of them.

On the social side Ella has also hosted another successful coffee morning, and book exchange and also managed to achieve having good weather for the second year running for us to enjoy her garden. We had hoped to have a summer event of some sort, but in the end that was not possible.

However, the Christmas Party is most definitely on again at the Cornerstone, and by the time you read this will once again have been successful I hope. We have not changed anything and the very successful musical trio will be there on the night. Tickets are still £10., and we will have a raffle on the night to help with the costs.

Two other Committee members to mention, Rory who takes on contacting the relevant people when bikes are abandoned and reports problems with street lighting and damage locally, he also makes sure that the food and wine are circulated at the party. Two completely different areas, but both essential.

Finally, our Treasurer Katherine, who manages our finances and banking, which is much appreciated. We no longer have a membership fee of course, but now depend on donations and we are extremely grateful to all of you who have made these throughout the year.

Well, 'that was the year that was' – for next year we expect our committee to grow again and are very fortunate that several Members have said they will come on board to help with the various jobs. This is marvellous and I know I can speak on behalf of the whole committee in saying we all really look forward to the new ideas this will bring in 2014.

It has been a pleasure to chair this fantastic committee and I look forward to next year with optimism. My best wishes to everyone for a happy Christmas and New Year.

Susan Hunter
Chair of Friends of Palmeira & Adelaide

Annual Accounts for 2013

INCOME

PayPal	234.07
Cash/Cheques/Standing Orders	146.00

TOTAL	380.07
--------------	---------------

EXPENDITURE

Plants	35.97
Cornerstone Rental	35.00
Southern Water Garden Supply	13.16
Printhouse – News Letter	22.00

TOTAL	106.13
--------------	---------------

INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	+273.94
--------------------------------	----------------

FUNDS IN HAND 18.11.2013

HSBC Current Account	1080.01
HSBC Police Property Fund	524.60

Katherine Simpson
Treasurer and Membership Secretary
18th November 2013