

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF RICHMOND GREEN HELD AT THE DUKE STREET CHURCH RICHMOND AT 7:30 PM ON 17th MARCH 2010

Present

FORG executive Peter Willan (Chair); Vivien Harris; Malcolm Mirrielees; Don Anderson, Martin Anderson; Peter Griffiths
Residents 40 attended
Apologies Tracy Hurley; Dr Eric Dux & Dr Margo Norton; Mr & Mrs Lyndon Jones; Margot Webb; Marian Bontempo; Paolo Marengi; Sir Brian & Lady Fall; Pamela Hodges; Nick Tarsh; Julian Paxton; Richard Young.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting were approved (proposed Bob Harris; seconded Don Anderson) and signed by Peter Willan.

There were no matters arising which were not scheduled to be covered in the General Meeting which followed the AGM but issue was raised regarding why the minutes had not been distributed in advance so people could read them. In fact they had been put on the web site. February 2010 Newsletter was submitted as the Executive Report.

Treasurer's Report

Malcolm Mirrielees presented the accounts and these were approved (proposed John Coates; seconded Martin Edgar). The issue was raised regarding expenditure on such a large hall. Secretary explained that change of venue at last minute had been made by Duke Street Church and FoRG had not been informed. In fact bill had been halved as a result. Issue was also raised re exhaustion of funds and whether we needed membership revenue but general consensus that this was not necessary at this stage.

Election of Officers and Executive Committee

Peter Willan agreed to continue as Chair.

Malcolm Mirrielees agreed to continue as Treasurer.

Vivien Harris agreed to continue as Secretary.

Tracy Hurley was standing for election.

By a show of hands of members the three officers were re-elected and Martin Anderson, Peter Griffiths and Don Anderson were re-elected as members of the Committee; Tracy Hurley was elected to the Committee.

Formal meeting ended at 7.50pm.

General Meeting

Individual Committee members spoke about each of the specific topics listed below although issues of ASB dominated the meeting. The main points were all covered in the Newsletter of February 2010 previously distributed to members' homes and also available at the meeting. The Newsletter forms part of these Minutes.

1. Anti Social behaviour (ASB) and policing
2. Town Centre Traffic plans and proposals for The Green
3. Litter
4. Licensing and planning
5. Heathrow
6. Paths & grass
7. Club Cars
8. Website

Comments from the floor:

ASB

1. View that Police are not able to deal with the issue because of insufficient resources; request that we put telephone number for Safer Neighbourhood Police on web site.
2. When we are advised by the Police of any planned assembly of youths on the Green we will endeavour to notify residents so people know to lock gates etc.
3. Nick Coleman said that 200 or 300 people on the Green at weekends was not acceptable and stronger measures were needed. Unanimous show of hands in support of this view and confirmation that all thought that the numbers were too high and measured reduction was required over a prescribed timetable. Consideration should be given to a possible curfew on street drinking in Richmond after a certain time in the evening.
4. Graham Walker said that this is a national problem and that consideration be given to escalating the local issues to a higher level.
5. Harmit Kalsi requested information regarding what actions were proposed to address the problem ; and John Coates suggested we might want to make it a political issue
6. Harmit Kalsi said we need to think outside the box as we had created a nice area with a strong feel safe factor; now we need to take steps to encourage young people to go elsewhere.
7. Bob Harris raised issue re under age drinking and unwillingness of police to accept the findings of the MAKE report. There was strong support for focussing on one issue with the police eg under age drinking
8. Peter Griffiths proposed we all register if disturbed so there were more comprehensive records of complaints.
9. Cllr Francies Bouchier raised re how we can stop more licences being issued; varied and reviewed eg Tesco
10. General view that more lighting and temporary toilets will not help but some action needs to be taken to curtail asb on the Green.
11. Tony Winslade raised issue re free transport making it easy for young people to congregate in Richmond.
12. Proposed that FoRG distribute cards stating “*Disturbed at Night*” and call 020 8721 2928/ mobile 0784 3291352 plus email Sergeant George on southrichmondsnt@met.police.uk.
13. Fred Hauptfuhrer said we should reconsider tactics/perception and that we should emphasise the conservation aspect so as not to appear to be territorial residents.
14. Suggestion by Nick Coleman that FoRG should be renamed to focus on conservation.

OTHER MATTERS

1. Litter – significant progress but concerns remain regarding broken glass. If residents see broken glass, they should ask Veolia to action/remove.
2. Town Centre – No protrusions and Clarence Street kept open. Traffic calming and road repairs have been put on the back burner due to lack of funds. John Coates said roads were a disgrace for a conservation area. FoRG would continue to work with the Council on repairs to the worst areas.
3. Club Cars – Fluid situation as Car Clubs are expensive and have not seen level of take up expected. Concern re lack of data from the Council. FoRG to continue to press for the removal of Club Cars from the Green.
4. Legible London signs – criticism re location, content and design not suited to conservation area. Show of hands – 70% opposed to new signage. FoRG to continue to press the Council on this issue.
5. LDF – need to retain as conservation area.
6. Heathrow – Peter Griffiths summarised key points and the imminent judicial review decision.
7. Website – encourage wider use of email.
8. Cyclists on the Green are still a problem; general view is that the Council need to do something to enforce the bye-law. Frances said priority should be given to pedestrians. Show of support for pressing the Council to take action eg signs of pavement showing no cycling.

We agreed to take all these helpful suggestions on board and take appropriate actions.