

Charlton Central Residents' Association
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 5th October 2017 at 7.30pm in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

- 1. Welcome & introduction:** Brenda Taggart (chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** received from

Barbara Buchan, Peter Somerville, Liz Somerville, Duncan Alexander, Jayne Hine, John Galloway, Andre Bain.
- 3. Minutes of AGM 2015 – 6th October 2016:** The Chair invited members to comment on any inaccuracies in the record of last year's meeting. The minutes were adopted as a true record of the meeting with a spelling amendment to p.1, Item 2 , line 3 to read "Joy Ogden" not "Odgen", and p.2, para 3 to read "once" not "one".
- 4. Matters arising:** There were no matters arising
- 5. Report from the Chair of the Association**
I'd like to welcome everyone to St Richard's Hall for not only our AGM but also to an opportunity to celebrate 10 years of CCRA's service to the community.

As I step down as Chair I have to say what a privilege and honour it has been to represent this community through an organisation which has made a real difference to life in Central Charlton. When the Association was set up 10 years ago (and we have some of the founding members in this audience) the aim was to make our area a safer, cleaner and friendlier place to be. I think we can say with pride; we've achieved our stated ambitions.

Since our last AGM the Association has continued to thrive against a backdrop of some interesting challenges both nationally with the Brexit negotiations and locally with plans to re-development Charlton.

I would like to start with **planning** with some massive changes proposed for the locale. One thousand new residents in Victoria Way and many more along the riverside will have an impact on us. During this year two CCRA planning stalwarts, XXX and XXX, stepped down from the Management Committee. I would publicly like to thank them for their contribution to improving planning applications and their dogged attention to detail when liaising with RBG's Planning Department. They have ensured that our 'voice' has been heard. CCRA is not anti-development but we want 'incomers' to have as rich a community as we have. We must build on the foundation established by XXX and XXX as there is an immediate need to scrutinise planning applications. If you care about our environment, then please volunteer and help with this aspect of our work.

This year has seen an exceptional programme of social events: The Big Lunch, the Christmas/Spring socials, Handmade in Charlton, Quiz nights, Ceilidh, Open Gardens and the Flower, Produce and Craft Show which this year attracted a record number of entries. It was a pity our planned Hustings event was cancelled due to the sad events in West Yorkshire. Our Annual Community Day saw us greening and cleaning with surplus free cycle goods going to the Mental Health Activity Trust at Blackheath Standard. Our Carol Singing raised a record amount for the Greenwich Food Bank and Charlton House Toy Library. The highlight of this year's social programme was undoubtedly our 10th Anniversary Weekend which included a wine reception, BBQ, Open Gardens and music event. Tributes at our reception from Nick Raynsford, Matthew Pennycook, Janet Gilman, Colin Brown and our Safer Neighbourhood Team pay testament to the improvements CCRA have made to the community. We are grateful to Sainsbury's for sponsoring the reception buffet with the catering team providing us with top notch canapés.

Our interest groups continue to provide social opportunities across the age spectrum, from Playing Out through the book/singing/instrumental/walking groups to the Knit and Natter we truly tap into a wide range of social demographics. Our Station bookshop is yet another demonstration of a thoughtful and caring community. I would like to thank all those who involve themselves in our social events both

attending and running them. We would be a much poorer Association without these events that bring people together.

The neighbourhood watch continues to liaise with our Safer Neighbourhood Team. The Watch, following a spate of unfortunate incident in the area, applied for and were awarded a Ward budget grant to set up a No Cold Caller/Rogue Trader zone. Details of this will be in future editions of Grapevine. More on the CCRA Greening Grant to come. The Watch now has 9 street co-ordinators and continue to produce a regular newsletter as well as sending out INSTANT ALERTS. If you are not a member then sign up tonight, it costs nothing to join.

This year we have distributed 6 editions of our newsletter **Grapevine**, including our 10th Anniversary edition. It continues to be not only a popular read but an excellent vehicle for local advertising. I am grateful to our Communication Group who produce Grapevine and all those who contribute to this publication. I am also grateful to those who have expanded our social media coverage this year with an increased use of Twitter and our Facebook page.

We continue to independently monitor air quality but more of this later. If you are interested in the environment and would like to join our Environment group, please get in touch.

Outside of the work of the Action and Interest groups we continue to champion local issues, supporting individual residents when they are in need. We have also tackled anti-social behaviour, cold calling and RBG's policies and practices when responding to Freedom of Information requests. We have been successful in ensuring the Council's performance in record keeping and archiving has been included in next year's programme of topics to come before an Overview and Scrutiny panel. We continue to be consulted by a range of organisations such as the RBG (Better Together), Rockwell, Fairview, Komoto and IKEA (planners), The Greenwich Weekender, local businesses groups (Wellington Mews) and those seeking to set up local residents' groups (SE7action group and The Village residents' group) as well as existing amenity groups (Charlton Society, DAGRA, Parkside Hub). We were represented at the institution of the new Rector for Charlton; Liz Newman and we wish her well in her ministry. We are deeply grateful to the Benefice for allowing us to use St Richard's Hall.

At the risk of repeating myself from last year's report, I cannot but stress that the success of the Association is down to the membership supported by the Management Committee. For an association to survive we need an engaged membership and active Management Committee. I'd like to publicly thank all those who have served on the Management committee these last three years for making my time as Chair such an interesting and enjoyable position. We are lucky to have such talented and committed people in Central Charlton and their passion makes this a very special place to live. As the Chair I have been enormously supported by them all and owe them a great debt of thanks.

Stepping down from the Management Committee this year is Linda Pound. Linda was a founding member of CCRA as well as an ex-Chair. It is hard to imagine CCRA's Man Comm without Linda who has given selflessly of her time over so many years. We are delighted she will continue to support the Association and I want to publicly thank Linda and say how much we will miss her practicalities, sound judgement and wisdom. Thank you Linda.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mark the passing of Elaine Picton who as a founding member of CCRA. Elaine will be remembered for her good humour, vivacity, generosity and the endless support she gave to our Association.

I would also like to thank our Officers Martina Keating (Vice Chair), David Gayther (Treasurer) and our Membership Secretary, Duncan Alexander for their support over my time as Chair. As often happens in Associations you have a little 'churn' as you bring new people into the Association. I'd like to heartily thank Martina, Duncan and David for all their hard work and commitment to our Association. They have all served as Officers for a very long time and are passing on the baton. I am delighted we will continue to benefit from their wisdom as they remain on Man Comm. Duncan I will still turn up at yours for the best coffee in Charlton. I am also grateful to Jane Ruthven for her time during part of this year as the Association's Secretary.

Reflecting on my time as Chair and over the last 10 years of the association I am constantly amazed at what we have achieved. Nothing sums it up better than something that happened last week. Myself and Jodie Coughlan were invited to a meeting with the Charlton Manor school's Year 6 News team. They interviewed us about CCRA, its beginnings, structure and work in the community. The children asked many very sensible questions and just as we were leaving one little boy said to me 'what you do is awesome' (and you were better than Mary Berry who was here last week).

I agree with him that CCRA is 'awesome'. Together we are a strong force for good in the community. I shall finish, as last year, by reminding everyone that if you care for your community then get involved. Its fun and you can contribute as little or as much as you are able. The AGM will be ratifying nominations to Man Comm so please 'step up' or come along and support our events.

So CCRA here's to another successful 10 years and long may we continue to flourish. Thank you.

6. Report from the Vice Chair:

Constitution

There is one submissions received for changes to the constitution which will be taken later at this meeting. The management committee have held 10 meetings during 2016 – 2017. All meetings were quorate and detailed minutes kept. Minutes have been scrutinised for accuracy and signed off as true records of the Association. Officers have had 3 meetings during the year (Oct 2016, May and August 2017).

Liaison

Formal letters, minutes of meetings and emails have been sent during the year to RBG's Planning Department (Enforcement), Law and Governance, Regeneration and Enterprise Directorate and Traffic Dept.

We have also had exchanges with Officers from the following departments: Community Safety and the Environment, Housing and Safer Communities Dept, Environmental Health, Community Services (Waste, Cleansing and Street Services), Housing Policy and Performance Unit, Pollution and Noise Team, Environmental Enforcement, Trading Standards, Tenancy Enforcement Dept., Anti-social behaviour and Community Participation & Diversity Teams.

In addition, we have liaised with all 3 of our local councillors: MacCarthy, Parker and Williams. We would like to thank them for their continued support for CCRA and for championing our causes in wider fora. We have attended Cllrs MacCarthy and Parker's surgeries to support members of the Association on a range of local issues. We have also liaised with Greenwich Action for Volunteer Services who have given us advice on procedural matter.

We have also held meetings with local amenity groups such as The Charlton Society, Derrick and Atlas Gardens Resident's Association and the Blackheath Society. We have assisted in the distribution of leaflets designed by the Blackheath Society regarding the consultation of Southern train services to central London. We have also help many other meetings and consultation as outlined in the Chair's Report.

Membership

The current membership stands at 215 and we urge you all to renew your membership for next year here, this evening, and to encourage others to join the Association. The membership subscription is to remains at £5.00 per person per year which is outstandingly good value for money. I would like to say thanks to our membership secretary Duncan Alexander who is stepping down after many years of sterling service to the Association. We are delighted he is remaining on the Management Committee. I would like to offer my thanks to all committee and association members, who have worked so hard over the year, helping at events, with letters, submissions, attending various meetings in the community and further afield and other exercises such as air quality monitoring, all done on behalf of the CCRA. We should like to thank Brenda Taggart for her work as Chair.

Communications

We are grateful to Chris Harrison and Sarah Hornsey for their work on our website. Jason Palmer who manages our membership email account and Jodie Coughlan for her work on our Facebook page. I have enjoyed working alongside of John Stephens in further promoting our Twitter account – please

follow us. To expand on an aspect of Brenda's report. You can be an active member of the Association without being on the Management Committee. Our Action Groups welcome new members. We would particularly encourage anyone with an interest in the environment or planning issues to talk to any member of the Committee at the end of this meeting and join us.

We welcome feedback about any aspect of our work so please let us know what you think about the public face of CCRA.

7. Report from the Treasurer, including statement of accounts and Auditor's report:

David Gayther (Treasurer) addressed the meeting having circulated the report and accounts (audited). He stated the overall financial position to be reasonable stability. He had not expected to do the role for 6/7 years but had found it to be an enjoyable and rewarding job. He stated it had been a privilege to serve the Association in this capacity. The report and audited statements were circulated. The Treasurer invited questions from the floor but there were no queries on the accounts. The Treasurer said he could be contacted if any further queries arose.

8. Proposed changes to the constitution:

One proposal was tabled, having been circulated to members in advance. It sought to amend Item 6.3 of the constitution as it appears on the CCRA website to include: *Committee officers should serve in any one role for a maximum of 3 years*. The Chair drew attention to the Constitution being publicly available on the CCRA website. Robert Clay asked about the thinking behind the proposed change. Jane Ruthven as the proposer responded by advising that the change would ensure occupants of roles did not get complacent or stale. Every organisation should seek new blood, encourage younger membership and ward against complacency. Linda Pound supported the amendment as she believed it wasn't good practice for people to stay in roles too long. Malcolm Ruthven suggested alternative wording as follows: "serve in any one role, for no longer than 3 years" with Brenda Taggart suggesting "committee officers should serve in any one role for a maximum of 3 consecutive years". Various members warned about time limits on what were voluntary roles and such a clause might be counterproductive given a circumstance where no-one volunteered for a role. The motion was then voted on and defeated (12 for and 14 against). Both Dave Picton and Martina Keating advised that there was some sympathy with the 'spirit' of the proposal, so it was meritorious of further consideration with more careful drafting. The Chair agreed it could be considered at next year's AGM should there be a proposer and discussed further with the Management Committee. The proposer was content with this.

There was a follow up discussion about AGM procedures for accepting/voting on amendments and both Rosemary Leek and Sue Free offered to provide the Chair with more information on committee procedures.

9. Election of officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary & Treasurer:

Chair: Jodie Coughlan – Proposed by Brenda Taggart/Seconded by Joy Ogden

Vice Chair: Brenda Taggart – Proposed by Katrin Bain/ Seconded by Linda Pound

Secretary: Sonja Nolte – Proposed by Brenda Taggart/Seconded by Katrin Bain

Treasurer: Katrin Bain – Proposed by Jodie Coughlan/ Seconded by Joy Ogden

Membership Secretary: Jacqui Mitchell – Proposed by Brenda Taggart/Seconded Jodie Coughlan

10. Election of General Management Committee:

In addition to the officers named in item 9 above, the following members were elected as members of the committee: Chris Harrison, Barbara Buchan, David Gayther, Martina Keating, Duncan Alexander, Ali Gall, Dave Picton, Elizabeth Palmer, Jane Bland, Joy Ogden, Kevin Harrison, Liz Somerville, Peter Somerville, Wendy Barrington.

11. Any other resolutions: None

12. Any other business: None

The formal part of the meeting concluded at **8.30** pm.

Minutes taken by Jodie Coughlan (Items 1-9) and Sonja Nolte (Items 10-12).