

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

### **Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum**

**8 March 2022**

The Annual General Meeting of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum took place at 6.30pm on 8 March 2022. It was held on Zoom with 26 people attending. The slides of the meeting are available to be viewed on the Forum's website [here](#).

Stephen Taylor, chair of the Forum, chaired the meeting.

#### **1. Approval of Minutes from the last AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM, held on 9 March 2021, had been posted on the Forum's website. As proposed by Linda Chung and seconded by Janine Griffis, the minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **2. Approval of Accounts**

Clyde Whittaker, the Forum's Treasurer, reported on the Forum's income, including donations, and expenditures for the year past. The Forum continues to seek and receive donations to meet annual costs such as the website, as well as project costs, principally the air quality monitoring project. At the end of 2021, the Forum had cash of £2,021.75 in its bank account. As proposed by Nicola Sinclair and seconded by Alex Nicoll, the accounts were approved unanimously.

#### **3. Election of the Committee**

Nominees to the committee had been published on the Forum's website. The chair asked for the nominees to be elected as a single slate. This was proposed by Andrew Haslam-Jones and seconded by Pamela Castle and passed unanimously.

The nominees were:

- David Castle
- Linda Chung
- Oliver Froment
- Janine Griffis
- Vicki Harding
- Sean Lask
- Elena Moynihan
- Alex Nicoll
- Glen Robinson
- Nicola Sinclair
- Stephen Taylor
- Clyde Whittaker
- Guy Wingate

These nominees were proposed as a slate by Nicola Sinclair and seconded by Pamela Castle, and were elected unanimously.

Andrew Haslam-Jones had been omitted from the published list of nominees due to a misunderstanding. Following examination of the Forum's constitution, it was determined that the AGM could re-elect him as a committee member. He was proposed by Alex Nicoll and seconded by Ria Booth and elected unanimously.

#### **4. Planning and enforcement**

Janine Griffis reported on the Forum's activities in the field of planning over the past year. The Forum submits comments on planning applications selectively in order to reinforce the Neighbourhood Plan. During 2021, Camden (or the Planning Inspectorate) made determinations on 22 applications on which the Forum had commented. The outcome was in agreement with the Forum's comments in 18 cases, and in disagreement on four. A further six applications were withdrawn when presumably they would have been refused. The Forum is monitoring areas where the Plan's policies could be refined or improved in future years.

Oliver Froment reported on work he has been doing to encourage Camden to toughen its enforcement of planning regulations, in particular by adopting a code of conduct similar to those of Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea.

#### **5. Air quality project**

Francesca Agostini reported on the air quality project which she is leading with Katharina Schauer. Tubes to measure nitrogen dioxide levels have been placed in 10 locations around Hampstead and are renewed monthly so as to record changes over a twelve-month period. This is being done with the help of volunteers including children from three local schools. Francesca said the early indications were that NO<sub>2</sub> levels would fall within legal limits at all the locations – in contrast to the previous project in 2015.

A discussion followed in which Tom Parkes, Camden's Senior Air Quality Officer, participated. It was noted that UK legal pollution levels were a long way from those recommended by the World Health Organisation, and that Camden would be working towards WHO guidelines. A government consultation on air quality levels is due. It was noted that NO<sub>2</sub> levels fluctuate widely, and that the peaks rather than the averages were important. The popularity of wood-burning stoves has risen, and it was pointed out that in spite of the manufacturers' claims, each stove produces hundreds of times more particulates than a gas boiler.

#### **6. International car-free day**

Stephen Taylor reported that Camden had allotted officer time to exploring the borough's participation in international car-free day in September 2022. He invited ideas for Hampstead.

There being no further business, the chair brought the AGM to a close.