**CLEAVER SQUARE, CLEAVER STREET AND BOWDEN STREET RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7pm on 23 November 2016**

**at the City and Guilds of London Art School**

**1. Introduction and apologies for absence**

There were 32 residents present. Apologies for absence were received from: Owen Meredith, Hilary Gal, Patrick Tatham, Billy Marshall, Adrian and Victoria Bartlett, Claire and Ade Cordell, Nick Bundy, Councillors Jo Simpson and David Amos.

The Chair, Penny Ritchie Calder (PRC) noted with sadness the recent passing of Ian Pettman, one of the square’s longest living residents. He would be much missed.

PRC thanked the City and Guilds of London Art School for again providing the venue for the meeting, and expressed the residents’ regrets following the death of the former principal Tony Carter. She introduced the Deputy Director, Magnus von Wistinghausen, who updated the meeting on the school’s building programme. The new entrance would be completed in January 2017. Plans for Phase 3, including the rebuilding of the studios backing onto the square, were being drawn up. These would be shared with residents in a consultation process before any proposals reached the formal planning stage.

**2. Minutes and matters arising from the AGM on 18 November 2015**

The minutes of the last AGM were approved. Matters arising would be dealt with under the relevant items on the agenda.

**3. Neighbourhood Watch report**

PC Maisie Simmonds and PCSO Samantha Kelly gave an update on local policing issues. Crime was at its lowest in Prince’s Ward since January 2015, although theft (including burglaries) and violence against the person remained the most frequent type of crime in the area. In response to questions, they confirmed that residents should not give money to door to door salespeople without proper credentials, or to children seeking charity sponsorship. If necessary such people could be reported to the police or the local Trading Standards office. It was safer to make charity donations online.

It was noted that a main concern for square residents was rowdy behaviour in the early hours, particularly during the summer. The introduction of all night weekend services on the Northern Line could potentially exacerbate this as the square was a main route to and from the tube. This would be monitored.

**4. Chairman’s report and Association finances**

The committee had met 3 times and various members had taken responsibility for specific areas of action.

1. **Report on street cleaning**: Renewed thanks were due to Elizabeth Filkin for continuing to liaise with Lambeth Streetcare to get standards of cleaning improved and to deal with local businesses dumping refuse in the street. It was noted that an archive copy of the minutes of the 1974 AGM reported poor street sweeping, showing that this was an enduring problem. Several residents regularly collected litter in the square and pub staff also did a daily litter pick. Edward Hutchison had undertaken regular sweeping and had been investigating possible bins for cigarette ends.
2. **Parks department**: £480 was to be spent by the parks department on improvements to the square from the Environmental Impact Fund budget. Suggestions had been sent by residents, and it was likely the money would be spent on additional bins.
3. **Northern Line Extension**: Residents living close to the line of the extension and the Kennington ‘loop’ had been significantly affected by noise and settlement. The Heart of Kennington Residents’ Association were taking the lead in negotiations and liaison with the NLE team and Transport for London. Thanks were due to Priscilla Baines, chair of HOKRA, and to Lucy Newman Cleeve who had recently reinstated the Kennington Park Road Residents’ Association to lobby on this and other problems affecting them.
4. **Planning and licensing**: Two main issues had arisen over the year: the proposed use of the old town hall in Kennington Road as a backpackers’ hostel (rejected), and the licence conditions for the newly refurbished White Bear pub/theatre, where committee members and residents had attended relevant meetings.
5. **Boules**: A meeting had been held with the London Petanque Society to address concerns about players taking over the square for tournaments. An amicable agreement had been reached and the situation would be monitored.
6. **Plan of the square**: Edward Hutchison’s detailed plan had been selling well. Once production costs were covered by sales, any profits could potentially go towards local improvements or local charities.
7. **Report on events**: There had been several successful events in the past 12 months. Carols in the Square in December 2015 raised £656 for The Dystonia Society. A Rake Up Day was held on 16 April 2016 in conjunction with Lambeth’s Community Freshview initiative, when some 35 residents helped to rake the square, sand benches, clear litter and tidy up Charlie’s Patch. The Association’s summer cocktail party on 30 June 2016 was well attended. Thanks were due to K Newman and those who helped with the organization, and to Sam Breuning for playing the piano. The popular Supper Club met at local restaurants several times during the year, and thanks were given to organizer Polly Hutchison.
8. **Broadgates Court:** The installation of security doors had greatly improved things for residents but action has stalled on other repairs and improvements. The committee would be chasing the council.
9. **Charlie’s Patch**: Guerrilla gardening had continued on this patch in Bowden Street, with additional support from Heart of Kennington residents.
10. **Website**: It was hoped that the Association’s website (cleaversquare.org), launched in January 2013, could be redesigned in due course.
11. **Finances**: The Chair reported that full accounts were available for inspection, and that the current balance stood at £324. Expenditure over the year included the website hosting fee and domain name, and the cost of the AGM. The summer party takings were £28 after costs had been deducted. The Association was grateful to those residents who had paid for various items that benefited all, but had not sought reimbursement.

**5. Forthcoming events and proposed dates for 2016/17**

The annual Carols in the Square would be on 20 December, featuring the Fever Pitch choir. This year’s charity would be Maggie’s Cancer Care Centres. Nearly £5,000 had so far been raised from these events Other events for 2016 would include:

* Spring clean/Community Freshview: confirmed for Sat 22 April 2017
* Summer Party: date in June t.b.c.
* Carols in the Square: date in December t.b.c.

**6. Membership of the Committee**

The Chair thanked the committee for their work over the last year. All were voted in to serve a further year. Damian de Conno was voted in as a new member. The committee therefore now comprised: Mark Wallace, Edward Hutchison, Elizabeth Filkin, Hilary Gal, Carola Breuning, Emma Moody, Mike Tyler, Simona Springer, Rod Spence, James Taylor, K Newman, Damian de Conno, Penny Ritchie Calder (chair).

**7. Any Other Business**

Local businesses: Several residents stressed the importance of supporting local independent businesses, particularly in the run up to Christmas.

**8. Date of next AGM**

November 2016: date to be confirmed.

There followed a short talk from **Vaila McClure, councillor for Prince’s Ward**, who summarized the key issues concerning residents in the ward and the rest of the borough:

* Street cleaning – this was considered the no. 1 priority. The council was working with its contractors to improve the service by analyzing areas of greatest need and allocating resources accordingly. Residents were encouraged to report litter and flytipping online.
* Northern Line Extension – councillors were trying to help minimize the impact on residents living close to the works, liaising with relevant contractors and TfL.
* Licensing – councillors and residents had a key role to play in supporting or objecting to licences to premises, particularly those linked with anti-social behaviour or street drinking.
* Business rates – there were moves by Lambeth to challenge the government re the increase in rates which would affect many small businesses in the area.
* Boundary review – it was hoped that sense would prevail and that Prince’s Ward would remain within the Vauxhall seat rather than being split across the borough.

PRC thanked Vaila for all the work she and her fellow councillors undertook on behalf of local residents.

The meeting finished at 8.00pm.