

Minutes of the 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the LONDON FORUM OF AMENITY AND CIVIC SOCIETIES - held 7.30pm, 17th November 2016, at 77 Cowcross Street, London EC1

Chairman Peter Eversden opened the meeting and welcomed members. Apologies for absence were noted and the minutes of the 2015 AGM were agreed

The Chairman thanked Helen Marcus and Peter Pickering for helping to compile the review of the year. It summarises the key activities of members of the London Forum's team and their work. More detail on several topics of the past year can be found in the Newsforum which he hoped is circulated to society committees and members. He reminded members that they are free to use text from it for their own publications. PDFs of it are issued and past editions are on the Forum's web site.

The Chairman continued: "The London Forum has had to continue devoting a lot of time and resources to opposing the Government's proposed planning policy changes. Our concerns have been made known to you so that you could involve your MPs but permitted development and harmful policies in the Housing and Planning Act were driven through by the Ministers.

"Since then the new Government shows signs of reconsidering the top-down planning that we have seen. The Minister for Planning, Housing and for London, Gavin Barwell, has indicated in speeches that parts of the Act may not be implemented as expected. We shall see...

"We will continue to work through the All Party Parliamentary Groups in Parliament and several MPs that we know well have been appointed as Shadow Ministers, which could be helpful.

"We will continue to seek on your behalf policies that will help the creation of sustainable neighbourhoods and the control of tall buildings and housing densities.

"The election of a new Mayor and Assembly this year has given us opportunities to forge relationships with people who are new and we are working with the key people in the Assembly committees and officers in the planning and housing units. London Forum's people will be participating over the next year in the preparation of the Replacement London Plan and I hope

some of you will become engaged in that process, as you have for previous versions.

“We have held some useful open meetings this year on topical issues and, in particular, meeting the new Historic England people.”

Financial Report

The Chairman apologised that London Forum’s Treasurer Tony Allen was not able to get to the meeting. He therefore continued in his place and would do his best to answer any questions.

There was no need to increase subscriptions this year; the Forum is still in a satisfactory financial position. However, an increase in 2017 is almost inevitable as we have to increase our activities and cover our objects more fully. More use of email was reducing postage costs.

Some societies have been late in paying subscriptions; he urged members to check that their society had paid.

Approval of Annual Report and Accounts for 2015/16

Tom Ball asked about the steep fall in donations. The Chairman explained that in

2015 we had a legacy from Bernard Selwyn of the Open Spaces Society. Tom Ball also asked whether we actively sought donations. The Chairman said there was a request on the Renewal Form but a more positive approach and recognition would

be considered. Tom Ball also asked about other figures: he pointed out that the Balance carried forward at 30 June 2016 on page 18 is clearly wrong. After some discussion a Motion to approve the

Accounts subject to checking and correction if needed was approved, proposed by Andrew Bosi (Islington Society), and seconded by Chris David (Earls Court Society).

Election of Honorary Independent Examiner

The Chairman reported that John Egan is willing to continue; this was approved by general assent before request for motion. The Chairman thanked John for his services to the London Forum.

Election of Officers and Trustee

Three trustees retired, two by rotation under the rules: Tony Allen Treasurer, and Derek Chandler Hon. Secretary. They are willing to stand for election and have been duly nominated. Martin Jones ceased to be a Trustee during the year.

Peter Eversden stated that he was happy to continue as Chairman of the London Forum. The other members of the Executive Committee with specific positions as Officers are Michael Bach, Chair Planning & Transport Committee; Bill Linskey, Membership; Helen Marcus Editor, Newsforum; and Peter Pickering, Minutes Secretary. All are willing to continue as Trustees

David Lewis and Bill Tyler are co-opted. The Chairman suggested that the trustees nominated should be elected en bloc. This was agreed nem con, proposed by Dick Allard (Westcombe Society) seconded by Jan Morgan (Highgate Society).

An appeal to Societies

The Chairman made an appeal that all Societies looked to see if any of their members would be willing to participate in the activities of London Forum as a Trustee. More Trustees are needed and it is of concern that there were no nominations of trustees from member societies. (Trustees can be co-opted at any time and do not have to wait for the AGM to come forward)

In conclusion he thanked all the members for their support, and those in the London Forum HQ team and committees for their work and commitment.