

MINUTES

of
12th GENERAL MEETING

Date of meeting: Monday 3 July 2017
Start time: 6:30pm
Venue: Baden Powell Suite, YMCA, Whetstone Lane

Members present: Tom Allport; Philip Barton (Honorary Chair) **[PB]**; Jim Cadwallader **[JC]**; Cllr Pat Cleary **[PC]**; Richard Fassam (Honorary Treasurer) **[RF]**; Margaret Grundy **[MG]**; James Kay; David Liggins **[DL]**; Maureen More **[MM]**; Greg Vogiatzis (Honorary Secretary) **[GV]**

Non-members present: John Farrell (*The University of Liverpool*)

Apologies: Jayne Clough; Terence Ezra; Bob McGhie

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
1	Welcome and apologies	PB opened the meeting at 6:32pm and confirmed that it was quorate. The number of people eligible to vote was 10 .	Item discharged	
2	Minutes of 11 th general meeting (accuracy)	It was agreed unanimously that the minutes are an accurate record of the meeting.	Item discharged	
3	Matters arising (not already on the agenda)	None notified to the chair.	Item discharged	
4	Membership update	PB stated that there had been one resignation due to someone no longer working in the area. UPDATE – 10 July 2017 One new member has joined. The total number of members is 46 . 30 hold an enhanced membership and 16 a standard membership.	Item discharged	

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
5	Financial update	<p>RF provided the following summary:</p> <p><u>Expenditure since 27 March 2017:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £3.90 for postage • £30.00 for room hire • £1050.00 for community consultation responses analysis • £25.00 for Tranmere Show pitch <p><u>Income:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1250.00 NPG-03279 • £300.00 personal donation <p><u>Balance as of 28 June 2017:</u></p> <p>£1687.78</p> <p>PB stated that he had donated £300.00 to the Forum, which was compensation received from the Council. PC moved that the Forum's thanks should be recorded, which was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>Donations to the Forum may be made by electronic bank transfer to:</p> <p>Name of Bank: <i>Yorkshire Bank</i> Account number: 44233053 Sort Code: 05-02-45</p>	Item discharged	
6	History & Heritage Workgroup update (workgroup 1)	<p><u>6.1 Heritage and Character Assessment</u></p> <p>PB announced the publication of this report, which had been delayed following a change of personnel at AECOM. A hard copy has been printed and was passed around for members to look at. PC thanked PB, commenting that it was difficult to read the document online. PB confirmed that other copies will need to be printed for future formal consultation rounds but that funds are not currently available for this. An electronic copy of the report is available at batnpgf.org/documents.</p>		

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6	History & Heritage Workgroup update (workgroup 1) <i>[continued]</i>	<p><i>6.2 Tranmere Tunnels Volunteers Limited</i> (TTVL) JC and DL updated members. It appears that the Council bought the tunnels from an antecedent of the <i>Department for Communities and Local Government</i> (DCLG) on 25 March 1980 for £3,500.00 but that the paperwork was never fully completed. So, the Council is now applying for substantive registration of the tunnels. Title for the tunnels is evidently held by DCLG. Once ownership is resolved, TTVL aims to negotiate a lease with the Council to access and develop the tunnels.</p>	JC, DL	Ongoing
7	Planning Applications Workgroup update (workgroup 2)	<p>PB informed members that workgroup 2 had submitted 2 new consultation responses:</p> <p><i>7.1 LBC/17/00345</i> <i>Refurbish existing flats including slight alterations to some internal layouts. Repair/replace existing timber sash windows and external doors. Replace upvc windows with timber sliding sash. Replace upvc rainwater goods (retrospective).</i></p> <p>53-55 The Woodlands</p> <p>The Forum SUPPORTED the proposal.</p> <p>Listed Building Consent was GRANTED.</p> <p>MG and MM expressed concern about the current use of the building and whether this conforms with its planning status.</p> <p>PB stated that unless there had been a material change of use, it is unlikely that planning permission or listed building consent would be needed for any further internal works because the building is only</p>	PC	

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7	Planning Applications Workgroup update (workgroup 2) <i>[continued]</i>	<p>Grade 2 listed. Any remaining concerns would best be dealt with by PC, as one of our elected representatives.</p> <p><u>7.2 APP/17/00422</u> <i>Proposed installation of external wall insulation to sides and rear of property.</i> 18 Elm Road, Tranmere. CH42 0LX</p> <p>The Forum OBJECTED to the proposal.</p> <p>Planning permission was GRANTED.</p> <p>Other applications decided since the last meeting were:</p> <p><u>7.3 APP/17/00126</u> <i>Conversion of dwelling into four self-contained flats and construction of rear dormer window.</i> 50a The Woodlands, Tranmere. CH41 2SJ</p> <p>The Forum OBJECTED to the proposal.</p> <p>Planning permission was REFUSED.</p> <p><u>7.4 APP/16/01476</u> <i>Conversion of a former Presbyterian church and attached church hall (D1) into 11 no. residential apartments (C3) and gymnasium.</i> Hillside Christian Fellowship Church, 61 Willmer Road, Tranmere. CH42 OJB</p> <p>The Forum OBJECTED to the proposal.</p> <p>A decision was due by 9 March 2017.</p> <p>No decision has yet been made</p>	<p>Item discharged</p> <p>Item discharged</p> <p>PB</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
8	Community Issues Workgroup update (workgroup 3) <i>[continued]</i>	unanimously that PB should write to the <i>Local Government Ombudsman</i> again in an attempt to force the Council to deal with the stage 2 complaint as quickly as possible.		
9	Hamilton Square Conservation Area	<p>PB informed members that, as part of its proposed £1B investment strategy for Wirral, the Council has published a concept drawing for a 7-storey hotel to be sited at the junction of Argyle Street with Cleveland Street (the site of the current Treasury Building).</p> <p>Although this is not a formal proposal, it gives a strong steer to potential developers about what the Council would be minded to approve in this location.</p> <p>PB sought public comments using <i>Facebook</i> at https://www.facebook.com/groups/wirral/permalink/10155167948102012/. The vast majority of contributors opposed the idea.</p> <p><i>Conservation Areas Wirral</i> is attempting to convene a seminar to discuss the future of Hamilton Square. Council officers appear to be increasingly supportive of this.</p> <p>No further work appears to have been done by the Council on the Heritage Action Zone funding proposal but this remains a very important part of improving the condition and increasing sustainable use of the conservation area</p> <p>There are increasingly positive signs that Council policy is becoming better focused in these respects.</p>	PB, JC, RF	Ongoing

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
10	Community consultation update	<p>Our consultant, Carol Latham, has completed her report. A copy has been printed and was passed around for members to look at. An electronic copy is available at: batnpf.org/documents.</p> <p>PB informed members that the management committee will use this report to decide how our topic-based consultations should be structured. However, we don't want to overload people with consultation and it may be best to wait until the current schedule of events around community-led housing have been completed before starting to consult on another topic. This may mean returning some of the money awarded under NPG-03279 and reapplying for it in October 2017.</p> <p>Our next topic-based events will probably be about open spaces.</p>	PB ; Management Committee	
11	Any other business	<p>PC informed members that, following the Grenfell Tower tragedy in London, the Council has surveyed buildings across the borough that might be affected.</p> <p>8 or 9 of the buildings that need to be checked are owned by <i>Magenta Housing</i>. These have now been checked and have been found to meet all relevant building regulations.</p> <p>Another 8 or 9 are privately owned and their fire safety status is unknown.</p> <p>NHS Trust buildings are also being checked. The cladding to <i>St Catherine's Medical Centre</i> has been assessed and is safe.</p>		

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
12	Date of next meeting	<p>The 13th General Meeting of the <i>Birkenhead & Tranmere Neighbourhood Planning Forum</i> will take place in the Baden Powell Suite, YMCA, Whetstone Lane from 6:30pm on Monday 25 September 2017.</p> <p>Proceedings were closed at 8:40pm</p>	All members	25 Sep 2017

END