

LANSDOWN CRESCENT ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of Committee Meeting Wed 11th February 2015 at 7:15 pm, venue MMcN
(*Items in italics are discharged from the Minutes and will not be called unless requested*)

Present: Robin Kerr (Chair), Marian McNeir, Judith Liddell, James Whatmore,
Corinne Taylor (Treasurer), Nick L. Bishop, Delia Jay (Secretary)

1. Apologies: Mandy Shaw, Simon Brand, Anthony Pearson

2. *Minutes of Committee Meeting 10th December 2014 approved without alterations.*

3. **Matters arising** (where not covered by agenda items).

(i) **Finials**. Three out of the four trusts which RK undertook to approach have responded that they only give to charities, which means no money likely to be forthcoming from these sources.

(ii) **Lighting in Mews**. DJ reported that Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones responded to DJ's request to look into this matter, and she was pleased to hear from RK, who had recently walked in the Mews at night that the light in this area was much improved. DJ will confirm whether this is acceptable to the resident concerned. **ACTION DJ**

RK recorded thanks from residents in the Mews for DJ's work on this.

(iii) **Wooden Stairs**. Planning Dept. reported there had been a breach of regulations; breach is being looked into; and Council will report to RK in due course. It was noted that the wood of the stairs is weathering and its appearance might be further improved if it were to be painted black. RK will remain involved. **ACTION RK**

(iv) **Increased traffic in Crescent**. Committee discussed possible traffic calming measures. Lansdown Beat Bobbies have suggested to DJ that residents monitor car speed with hand-held radar guns. JL said this would be cumbersome to arrange as a rota system would be needed. MMcN said this type of monitoring had been effective in other areas, but only for a while. NLB thought pressure-strip monitoring to obtain evidence may be more successful, and table-topped bumps would be less damaging to cars than round bumps. RK to take all this up with Councillor Anketell-Jones, and to raise the matter with LCA members at the coming AGM. **ACTION RK**

(v) **Fly tipping on Lansdown Crescent**. Still going on, after brief lull. JL said she had discussed with Council rubbish collectors, who advised a photo of the offender carrying a rubbish bag would be necessary to catch the culprit. Concerns noted that broken bottles have been left in the Council bin, which could be injurious to the Council collectors.

4. **Treasurer's Report.**

(i) **Indemnity for Trustees**. LCA Trustee Judith Pepler doesn't think the present insurance arrangements will cover Trustees liabilities. **ACTION CT (&JP?)** looking into this.

(ii) **Membership**. Helpful report circulated by CT showing that Association has gained 10 further new members during the period to 31st January, adding to the 8 new members reported at last meeting to bring the total of new members to 18. Against this, a number of residents have not renewed their membership by end Jan. However, thanks to CT personally contacting members on this subject, the total membership now stands at 100(?)

(iii) The cash flow sheet of receipts and expenses paid shows a healthy cash balance of £9396.

However, the current spreadsheet functionality seems excessively complicated, as considered by CT and several other experts, so a simpler form, and a fresh start are being considered. **ACTION CT**

(iv) **Treasurer's resignation**. Due to family responsibilities, CT is unable to commit to the full Treasurer role at the moment, but is willing to stay on as a committee member; to act as Membership Secretary if requested; and will remain in the Treasurer post until the AGM. Possibilities to fill the Treasurer post were considered by committee and will be explored more thoroughly by RK. **ACTION RK**

5. Social Events.

(i) Christmas party feedback. JL reported that the party made a small profit of £30, not including the four unopened bottles of wine, three red and one white (est. total value £30-40), which have been stored by JW to be used at the AGM.

RK congratulated JL on organising of the Christmas party, and DJ noted that everyone on the committee had contributed to making the party a great success. The carol singing at the end was a nice touch too. Grateful thanks were again expressed for our hosts Cat and Simon Heale making their magnificent home available to the LCA.

(ii) Carol Singing.

(a) Made £275 for Julian House inclusive of Gift Aid on the sum conveyed by cheque drawn on RK personal account. MS queried by email "if it was actually ok for us to Gift Aid this, given that individual donors haven't formally indicated that they want this put in place?" RK noted MS's concern. DJ asked if an acknowledgement for the cheque to JH had been received. RK said not.

(b) NLB asked whether we should consider other charities as recipients for the carol-singing collection, e.g. Dorothy House. Committee thought that Julian House was the most suitable recipient at this time of year when our thoughts & sympathies should turn to people sleeping rough on the cold streets of Bath. Julian House to remain LCA's preferred beneficiary for this event.

(iii) Visit to Highgrove. MMcN reported that 30 people to date had expressed an interest in the visit. Booking not open until 23rd Feb. when costs and date of the tour will be firmed up. As we won't have to pay immediately, there will be time to collect money. Full amount to be collected to avoid having to go round again. Looking to have two groups of 26, as coach will seat 52. If numbers below this total, other options to fill the coach will be explored. **ACTION MMcN**

6. AGM (DJ) arranged for Thur. March 26th 2015, 7.30 pm at St. Stephen's Church Centre.

(i) DJ rehearsed programme for the meeting, including:

Payment to be made week before AGM, which CT has noted. **ACTION CT**

Overhead projector available and may be required by speaker & MS. St. Stephen's Office to be informed if OHP required and donation to be paid if used. **ACTION MS/MMcN**

Light Refreshments after meeting. **ACTION JL/DJ**

(ii) Amend Constitution to include Somerset Place. This was agreed by all, and RK asked that it be placed on the AGM Agenda for discussion/voting at the meeting. **ACTION DJ**

(iii) Committee resignations from & call for nominations to the 2015/15 Committee.

DJ gave notice that she and JL would be resigning; and JW also commented that he thought it was his turn. RK made a plea that not everyone should seek to resign at the same time, and particularly before there was some certainty of replacements, as experience was also an asset, which was echoed by CT. DJ and JL said there were a number of LCA members who were interested in applying. DJ felt it was desirable to have new blood and younger members to prevent stagnation. Draft of Calling Notice read to committee by DJ, and text agreed, which DJ will pass on to CT for circulation shortly and to MS for posting on website. Notice of AGM must be sent by **5th March** (21 days before AGM) in accordance with LCA Constitution. **ACTION DJ/CT/MS**

7. LCA Website.

(i) MS communicated by email her "disappointment in number of Local Events being posted, e.g. Judith Pepler's talk re her trip to Beijing" and asked "how can we ensure that the grapevine reaches the website?"

(ii) Newsletter. RK to request MS to generate the AGM newsletter, as she did last year, using website material. Calling notice and AGM should be included in newsletter. **ACTION RK/MS**

8. Neighbourhood Watch

(i) DJ reminded committee to look at the LCA website for update of last year's NHW activities.

(ii) Unfortunately, police are reorganising again this year and the 2015 dates for the Beat Bobby meetings are as yet unknown. DJ will inform the watching team when new dates are known, and will post the dates on the LCA website. **ACTION DJ**

(iii) Stolen pennant stones from All Saints Road. Despite chasing Highways about this, latest info is that they are still awaiting a 'resource' (meaning a fitter, and funds to pay for him/her) to carry out the work of replacing the stones. The new stones are in council storage, having been obtained from North Wales quarry before Christmas. DJ was promised the stone would be fitted this year! Follow up **ACTION DJ**.

9. The Field.

(i) Sheep have munched down all the grass. Mr. Creed will be coming shortly to sign annual contract with JW acting on behalf of LCA. **ACTION JW**

(ii) Lambs (& mothers?) will be coming when spring grass is suitable. Three rams expected also. RK asked if fencing or field clearance work needed. JW thought not. If lambs escape, best to leave them to find their own way back in, which happens naturally by mother sheep calling them. The worry is they may go on the road and cause RT accident, and injury to themselves. RK suggested work party for field, which JW thought would be helpful. JW to arrange. **ACTION JW**

10. **Correspondence.** Email received from LCA member Michael Oppenheimer requesting clarification of subscription charges. See Complaints and Communication below.

DJ shared with committee a communication from Reading University re research project on Bath Heritage City Status.

11. Complaints and Communication.

(i) CT explained the background to Mr. Oppenheimer's email regarding subscription charges, which he wished to be placed before the committee. The committee duly considered Mr. Oppenheimer's concerns, and RK undertook to write to Mr. Oppenheimer on this matter. **ACTION RK**

(ii) It was noted that Trustee JP had suggested raising subscription charges, but this was thought unnecessary, given the healthy balance of the LCA funds.

(iii) Minutes to be circulated? Committee agreed with suggestion by NLB that we should be open and transparent in our activities and posting committee minutes on website would highlight the hard work freely done by committee members. **ACTION MS**

12. Planning.

(i) Hope House development work predicted to start late spring. Lower site still disputed.

RK has complained to developer Markham Hanson about insensitive sign displayed near Hope House requesting more land, and has received a response, apologising, and stating matter would be looked into.

(ii) Designation of Green Spaces. Council wants all 'green spaces' to be recorded, even parks and allotments. AP has been asked by RK to investigate the securing of the Crescent Field and Hope House parkland under the scheme. **ACTION AP**

(iii) Rights of Way. Council is identifying these, including dingle footpath, so AP is ensuring that those in the LCA area are properly recorded **ACTION AP**.

DJ said she was still awaiting outcome of RoW across Somerset Place.

13. **Litter-Picking ROTA**

(i) LC,LPW,LPE, Mews, D. Gardens: Feb **MMcN**; March **SB**; April **MS**; May **CT**

(ii) Continuous: Field **JW**; SL,ASR,CH footpath **DJ**.

(iii) Clearing of leaves from CH footpath. DJ asked that it be recorded that Mr. Cox regularly does this, keeping the pennant stones and tarmacked strip near the handrail free from leaves, whereas Council do their one and only sweep in early winter. The path is currently clear of leaves, making access safer for all. Grateful thanks expressed to Mr. Cox for this work.

14. **FoBRA News (RK)**. Councillor T. Warren, Leader of Conservative Grouping, had spoken at the January meeting. Priority issues of FoBRA were going under 2-yearly review. Mention was made of the Council's consultation on the issue of amplified busking; and on elected mayor for B&NES, Placemaking & many more. FoBRA Winter Reception was held successfully on 20th Jan and its AGM will be held 12th May 2015. For details see FoBRA website www.bathresidents.org.uk

15. **Future Meetings & Venues**. TBA (Committee likely to meet in May)

16. **Other Business**.

(i) *Dog theft in park helpfully brought to our attention by LCA member, but not considered necessary for Committee to circulate.*

(ii) Beckford Gateway. CT reported that residents in Dixon Gardens were disappointed that proposal to build house on land in front of Beckford Gateway has only been withdrawn, i.e. planning permission has not been formally refused. MM and RK explained that the Council had no power to change this. RK to contact Caroline Kay, CE of BPT to discuss further. **ACTION RK**

Meeting finished about 9.10 pm, and grateful thanks were given by the Committee for Marian's kind and generous hosting.