



MINUTES OF THE 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Thursday 26 March 2015 at 7.30pm
in St. Stephen's Church Centre, Bath.

1. **Chairman's Welcome:** The Chairman, Robin Kerr, welcomed approximately 40 members of the Association to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** were received from Mike and Corinne Tomkins, Peter Ford, Charlotte Pinder, Patricia Taylor, Bill Haxworth, Judith Pepler, Laretta Sanders, Michael Oppenheimer, Sir Bruce and Lady Martin, George and Valerie Scott, Susie Holmes, Marianna Clark, Carol Peden, Helen Davis, Jean Hansell, Sue Branfoot, Yvonne Camden-Clarke, John Herod.
3. **Minutes of the 31st Annual Meeting:** These had been previously circulated. They were proposed by Sarah Kerr, seconded by Rob Coleman, and accepted with no alterations.
4. **Matters Arising:** None.
5. **Chairman's Report:** Robin Kerr delivered the Chairman's Report, drawing attention to some topics in the recently published Newsletter. This is attached in full. Topics covered included thanks to Committee Members for their efforts, and to those standing down, and to Anthony Pearson who continues as our co-opted advisor on planning matters. Robin said that Committee Member Simon Brand would be taking over from Delia Jay as secretary, and Christopher Shaw has been co-opted temporarily to take on the Treasurer responsibilities, as Corinne Taylor is stepping down from this role, due to family needs. It was hoped to recruit a new Treasurer later in the year. Robin also mentioned Nick Bishop's role in leading and researching traffic calming measures for the Crescent, to be discussed (see below).
6. **Secretary's Report and Election of Officers.**
Delia Jay firstly thanked all the LCA Neighbourhood Watch 'Watchers' for their help in keeping our area safe, and recalled that we circulated warnings against visits by homeless 'odd job men', and against door-to-door selling by the so-called Nottingham Knockers; and in Somerset Lane, just after Christmas, we believe an attempted burglary was prevented thanks to the quick action of an LCA Watcher. Congratulations were offered to everyone who participated in the re-vamped Neighbour Watch Scheme, and all were urged to look at the LCA website for full details of what happened last year, and in particular to note the dates of this year's Beat-Bobby/Police Saturday morning meetings at St. Stephen's church, where members can discuss crime concerns with local police community support officers, Paul King and David Holmes, and ask local councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones for help with planning and other council matters. If Members could attend on one of the listed Saturdays between 10am and 12 noon, this is a valuable resource, which we would not want to lose for lack of interest.

Delia then named those Committee Members offering themselves for re-election to the 2015/16 committee, Robin Kerr, James Whatmore, Marian McNeir, Mandy Shaw, Nick Bishop, Corinne Taylor, and Simon Brand. These were proposed by Tony Jay and seconded

by Stella Morris. This was followed by the election of new Committee Members, which was uncontested in view of only nine candidates standing for the ten Committee places. Delia and Judith Liddell are standing down after "four glorious years", and two very able LCA members were nominated: Rachael Hushon of Lansdown Place West, proposed by Delia and seconded by Nicola James, and Sue Branfoot of Upper Lansdown Mews (unfortunately unable to be present at this meeting), proposed by Robin Kerr and seconded by Stella Morris (in the absence of original seconder Susie Holmes due to illness).

All were welcomed to the 2015/16 Committee, which thus includes the necessary five ordinary Committee Members living in Lansdown Crescent, Lansdown Place East, or Lansdown Place West, as required by our Constitution. During the year the Committee will try to recruit one more member to bring the Committee up to its full strength of ten.

- 7. Treasurer's Report:** Corinne Taylor presented the LCA accounts for the period to 31st December 2014, copies of which were provided to the meeting. The main points were: membership numbers 124, up from last year's 102; surplus of £182 made on the Winter and Christmas parties; one-off payment of £203 for plaque to commemorate the handrail on pathway between All Saints Road and Park Street; overall surplus of £21; and closing cash balance of £8912.

Adoption of the accounts was agreed by acclamation.

8. Amendment of the LCA Constitution.

An amendment of the Constitution to add Somerset Place to the list of streets in Item 3 had been proposed as required in advance of the meeting for the purpose of allowing residents of Somerset Place to become members of the Association in future, should they so wish. This proposal easily achieved the required approval by not less than two thirds of fully paid up members present at the AGM, with no votes against.

A question from the floor later queried whether, in view of the increase in the streets and the inclusion of LCA members in Hermitage Road (not yet formally listed), the Committee numbers should be increased, perhaps to 12. The Chairman responded that this would be considered at the next Committee meeting, and brought forward at the next AGM, if deemed desirable.

9. Traffic calming measures in Lansdown Crescent.

Committee Member Nick Bishop reported his consultation with Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones on this subject and explained Council's requirement that evidence of traffic volumes and speeds must be collected before consideration of the need for calming measures. Nick would ask Highways Dept. to install sensor strips on the road surface to gather this data over a suitable period, and discussion of the results with Members would follow.

Response from the floor was mixed. Some Members were keen to press ahead with the proposed research, while others expressed anxiety that the Council would "run away" with the issues and install a scheme that would spoil the ambience of the Crescent. The comments were duly noted and the Committee would come back to members when the traffic survey results were received. All residents (including non-members) of the three streets affected, the Crescent, LPE and LPW, would be consulted, firstly by the Committee and then by Council, before any decision on the need for and form of any traffic calming measures.

10. LCA Website: www.lansdown-crescent.org.uk

Mandy Shaw reminded members to sign-up if they would like to receive email alerts when new information is posted on the LCA website. This sign-up facility also gives an opportunity to say what news/information members would like to be informed of, and will

not result in 'bombardment' with emails. Mandy asked members for feedback regarding use of the website, and, by a show of hands, it seemed the website was considered a useful tool. More news of local events would be welcomed by Mandy for posting on the website.

11. Other Business.

(i) The Chairman's expenses of £124 for printing, post and stationery were questioned as being excessive for this small Residents Association in the present "paperless" digital age. The Chairman replied that printing ink was very expensive and that he was not willing to do his work as Chairman at his own expense when the Association could well afford it, adding that, having looked at his most recent expenses list, these costs should be considerably lower in the current year.

A member commented from the floor that circulating printed newsletters was a good way of keeping members in touch, as often emailed newsletters were not opened. Getting them printed professionally might reduce costs.

(ii) An LCA member asked about the stolen "pennant" stones (natural paving stones) in All Saints Road. Robin said that replacement stones are now in Council stock and awaiting a specialist fitter to ensure that they are laid as securely as possible to resist further thefts. Delia added that she had been involved in chasing this up and there was more information on the LCA website.

(iii) Marion McNeir informed the meeting that the trip she is organising to Highgrove in May is now fully subscribed.

The business part of the meeting closed at approximately 8.10 pm.

12. Guest Speaker.

The Chairman introduced Cathy Adcock from Julian House, and mentioned the donation of £275 including Gift Aid made to Julian House from our usual Carol Singing collection organised by Judith Liddell in December 2014.

Cathy gave a very interesting talk about the work of JH, and updated us on the progressive development of specialised shelters and services for the homeless in our society.

Questions from a very interested audience included how donations and other offers of help could be made, and the speaker was enthusiastically applauded by all.

This was followed by delicious refreshments prepared by Judith Liddell, to whom the Committee and Members gave grateful thanks. The event ended at 9.45 pm, allowing Members to clear away and lock the hall by 10.00.

Delia Jay, LCA Hon. Secretary April 2013 - April 2015.