

# MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013, 8.00 p.m Brentham Club

**Members in attendance:** 31 members, plus Committee

**Committee Members present:** Richard Costello (Chair), Alan Henderson, David Ballard, Martin Mortimore, Clive Evans, Ann Wolf

**Apologies:** Heather Moore, Dave Hobbs, Tony Miller

**Also present:** Councillor Nigel Sumner

## **1. Minutes of the 2012 AGM and Matters Arising.**

The minutes had been distributed to those present. There were no matters arising and their acceptance as a true record of the meeting was duly agreed by a show of hands.

## **2. Committee Reports**

### **(a) Chair – Richard Costella**

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Adel Golding for her work as Committee secretary and welcomed Ann Wolf as new secretary. He said it had been a year of interesting challenges and thanked his colleagues for all their support.

Main events for the previous year were:

20 mph zone – one year on traffic survey in Brunswick Road showed that 8% of traffic was overweight trucks. A width gate at Lynwood Road has been requested to deal with this, but there are objections from local residents.

Club liaison – regular meetings had been held with the Club and PCA to co-ordinate work.

Website – The Society was hoping to update the website. RC thanked the present webmaster, Wendy Sender, who was bowing out in December after a number of years. As yet no successor had been found.

Street signs – several new signs were in place, and a programme was in place for more. This work was part-funded by the Society.

St. Gregory's School – the new school building is an eyesore for residents in Winscombe and Woodfield. Brian Fallon is leading a campaign to try and get more subdued colours for the paintwork. Not much headway has been made yet, but a meeting has been planned for 5<sup>th</sup> November.

First World War commemoration – Margaret Hargrave is collecting information about for a new plaque on war memorial.

Planning – the Planning guide for building alterations/additions was not yet on the Council website. Some hedges were being removed as people did not realise that these were included in the conservation regulations. It is a good idea for anyone wishing to do any work on their property to contact the Conservation Panel (Pat Baxendale, James Rowlands and Heather Moore) before hand for advice. This means that planning applications can go through more quickly as there are no unexpected surprises.

Brentham events which are a regular feature in our calendar enjoyed another successful year. Strawberry Tea hosted by Barbara Murray; Open House Day led by Clive Evans for the first time, good co-operation with Brentham Club; Open Gardens Day co-ordinated by Sheila Fowler and the Garden Competition which had been rescued, thanks to Maggie Marmion and the other judges.

Membership numbers stood at 52%. There was a vacancy for membership secretary and anyone able to take on this role should contact the Committee.

Subscription has been held at £2 for at least 10 years. Average donation received averaged £5. However, sadly this was not enough to cover major projects such as work on the archive. There were plans to digitise and make archive more accessible.

Brentham News – once again thanks should go to Michael McCarthy for his work on producing the Brentham News.

Vacant posts which we are in need of volunteers for are Membership Secretary and Website Manager.

Richard finally thanked the Committee for their help throughout the year.

### **(b) Treasurer – David Ballard**

The Treasurer thanked the auditor, Ann Duke, for giving the accounts a clean bill of health.

The subscriptions and donations are up considerably. However, £1,000 of that was a donation from ITV Breathless. The donation will be passed on to the Tower Restoration fund, so our actual subscriptions are down slightly (£45) on last year.

The biggest single item to note is the £3,000 which we paid to Ealing Council as our share of the cost of making and installing the new road signs.

The newsletter continues to be subsidised by Grimshaw, but only for two pages. Increasingly we are sending out three pages, so we have to pay for the extra page ourselves.

Our funds still include the sum of £1,326 raised by the Society to fund the replacement of the Club's main door. Agreement on a suitable design is awaited.

Chris Snodin asked whether it would be possible to print the Brentham Newsletter on cheaper paper in order to reduce the cost. RC thought this was worth considering. Paul Fodio wondered if the newsletter could be done by e-mail. Unfortunately this would mean that many people on the estate would not receive it. Paul Fodio suggested people could be asked if they wanted an e-mail version. This would mean that the number of hard copies printed could be reduced.

### **(c) Tower Restoration Project – Clive Evans**

Clive Evans summarised the arrangement between the Brentham Club and the Society, whereby the Society will assist the Club to raise the funds for restoring the Tower, and the Club will give the Society the use of the top floor for storing the archive. He outlined the work to be done and the next steps in the Planning process. He expected the work to cost around £40,000 which sounded a lot, but when split among the 700 houses on the estate was only £60 each. He also pointed out that if every household on the estate joined the Brentham Club as a social member, the Club would have enough revenue to mend the Tower for itself.

### **3. Election of Brentham Society Committee 2013-14**

The Constitution allows for between four and nine members and up to four co-opted members. Dave Hobbs declined to stand again. Ann Wolf had been co-opted during the year and was standing for the first time. The following members of the previous Committee were willing to stand again:

1. Richard Costella (Chairman)	64 Brentham Way
2. David Ballard (Treasurer)	10 Brentham Way
3. Alan Henderson	47 Meadvale Road
4. Tony Miller	6 Winscombe Crescent
5. Heather Moore	127 Fowlers Walk
6. Martin Mortimore	54 Fowlers Walk
7. Clive Evans	50 Denison Road
8. Ann Wolf	10 Neville Road

No other nominations for new members had been received. The Chair proposed that unless there were any objections, an en bloc vote should be taken. All were duly elected.

### **3. Members Questions**

Chris Snodin wondered what the position was on the Club's proposal to build a house on a plot of land next to the car park of the Brentham Club. CE was not sure what the formal status of this was. The original idea was to fund the repair of the Brentham Club from the profit made from selling the house. However, CE thought that if we repair the tower then won't have to build a house. Margaret Hargrave, Club Secretary, said that an application to build the house was with the Council. As Clive Evans understood it this application had not been refused.

A member asked whether it was possible to get money from the Millennium Fund for the Tower. CE said that all venues would be explored.

Vicky Snodin wondered whether it would be a good idea to raise the cost of being a member from £2. RC said this was a possibility but that the matter would need to be put before a Committee meeting for

approval. Maybe £10 would be a more realistic price. The funds would be used for more projects such as digitising the archive. Paul Fodrio wondered if we would get enough members if the subscription was raised. A price increase would probably mean that you would not get 52% of the Estate. RC said fewer people, but raise more money probably, but we need to have more than 50% to have influence with Council. Chris Snodin suggested that the subscription could be raised to £5 and give people more. For example, access to digitised photographs should only be possible for members of the Brentham Society

RC asked for a show of hands as to how many people would be agreeable to pay more for membership. Many people were happy to do so.

Louise Hanon thought that the Brentham Society blurred the line between a residents' society and a heritage society. RC agreed that it was a little blurred but that the Brentham Society was a heritage society. LH asked if it was possible to have both. RC said that is not part of the constitution of the Brentham Society.

Mr. Cattermole was concerned about two matters and wondered if the Society could do anything to help him. The first was an increase in the number of pigeons in his garden. He was also concerned about a gigantic oak tree outside his house. It was producing so many acorns that the guttering and drains were getting blocked. The Council had been unable to give him any advice or assistance. RC said that he had not come across these problems before but that, unfortunately, the Society was not in a position to do anything about them.

Mrs Roberts wondered why the Club had not repaired the Tower before they built the extension. CE said they wanted to increase the Club's revenue with a café. Mr. Snodin asked whether the Brentham Society was giving money to a viable institution. CE said that one way to ensure it was viable was for everyone to join the Club.

A member asked whether, when property changed hands, the Society targeted the new owners. RC said a Welcome Pack was given to new owners by Street Reps.

Mrs. Margaret Jones said that she had noticed that some residents' hedges were encroaching on to the pavement. She had had difficulty getting by with a pushchair. Was it possible for the Society to do

anything about this? RC said we could only try and cajole people into trimming hedges, as a society we had no authority. An item could be included in the next Brentham News to encourage people to keep hedges in order. Nigel Sumner (Ealing Councillor) said this would come under the category of an environment crime and could be dealt with by the Council if he was given relevant details.

## **5. Front Garden Awards**

Vicky Snodin said that she and the other judges (Rosanna Henderson and Maggi Marmion) had decided not to choose runners-up this year as there were so many attractive gardens. Photographs for the AGM of all the gardens the judges had enjoyed had been taken by Maggi Marmion.

Spring Gardens.:

1 Ruskin Gardens  
38 Fowlers Walk  
2 Ruskin Gardens  
57 Meadvale Road  
67 Meadvale Road

The winner for this category was Mr. Ted Neye of 42 Holyoake Walk. The judges were impressed by the attractively laid out paved front garden full of colourful wallflowers and a selection of pretty pots. The house was covered red with a bronze-leaved pale yellow rose just coming into flower, a wisteria and a beautiful large blue-flowered clematis. A very welcoming sight after the long winter.

Summer Gardens:

10 Ludlow Road  
46 Meadvale Road  
115 Fowlers Walk  
1 Ruskin Gardens  
33 Ludlow Road  
57 Meadvale Road.

The winner for this category was Mrs. I Cattermole of 58 Holyoake Walk. The judges enjoyed the abundant display of colour in this summer garden, brimming with all sorts of bedding plants, including orange and yellow marigolds, begonias and geraniums. They

appreciated all the hard work and effort which had gone into producing such a cheerful front garden.

#### Autumn Gardens:

20 Brentham Way  
20 Meadvale Road  
26 Ludlow Road  
111 Fowlers Walk  
39 Brentham Way  
208 Pitshanger Lane

The winner in this category was Mrs Dorothy Fox of 9 Denison Road. The judges felt that this garden was very well-maintained and colourful with a neatly trimmed cotoneaster, a dark pink fuchsia, pink sedum and bright yellow heleniums. It was lovely to see the warm colours as autumn draws on.

#### **Rose Bowl Award**

This award went to Mrs. Eva Gasper (9 Brentham Way). The judges had been very impressed by this front garden throughout the seasons, The overall design was very pleasing with a wide range of shrubs providing year-round interest., The garden is well cared for and very much in keeping with the Brentham style of cottage gardening.

Congratulations to all the winners.

The meeting was closed at 9.00.