



Fox Lane and District Residents' Association London N13 & N14

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

By ZOOM 24th March 2021 19.45 - 21.30

Present: 148 Members were registered online by the event team and in attendance at the event on the night. 2 registered guests/observers were invited.

The meeting was able to begin at 20.15. The Chair was taken by Lia Dover, Vice Chair and Acting Chair. In opening remarks, Lia apologised for the time taken to log everyone into the meeting. The Chair thanked those who had worked hard to prepare for this Zoom event, including Julia Mountain and Laraine Feldman (membership) and Paul Dick for technical work.

1. Chair's Report

A printed copy of the Chair's Report was circulated in advance of the meeting. Introducing it, the Acting Chair focused on the Year of the Pandemic and its impact on our community, as well as the activities the committee was able to initiate and carry through on behalf of the Association. These included a campaign to support local businesses, particularly restaurants and cafes which had perforce moved to become takeaways to survive; and the collections of essential toiletries requested by a local foodbank for distribution to vulnerable local people, many badly affected by illness, disability and unemployment.

The Chair said she was saddened by the tense and at times acrimonious environment in which the Committee had worked recently. She had received offensive messages, as had her predecessor, who had resigned. She regretted that the AGM appeared to have become a contest between community groups with different views on the Council's Lower Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme. She said that the Association's job is to unite the community, and she believes that it should not take sides on such a divisive issue.

The Chair opened the floor to questions about the Annual Report. Former Chair Richard Mapleston raised the issue of four extra members recently co-opted into the Committee. He said that at a meeting in February 2021, the strongly Pro-LTN majority on the committee forced through the unprecedented approval of 4 new members, three of whom with strong links to pro-LTN campaigning groups. With no other activity underway other than the organisation of the AMG, it could be construed that the purpose was to effect overall control of the committee, prevent any pretence to taking a balanced position regarding LTNs, and finally control the conduct of this AGM and the elections. He said many of those present wanted control of the Association to be restored to the membership. The Chair replied that the Committee operates on the basis of a quorum of 5 and approval by a simple majority. The decision had been controversial. A narrow majority of those present at the meeting in February had voted in favour of the co-options.

Mr Mapleston moved that the Annual Report "be amended to list the new members".

He also moved "to recognise the sterling work of Lia Dover, acting Chair, to ensure that a fair AGM took place".

No votes were taken.

2. Treasurer's Report and Accounts 2020

Treasurer John McCrory presented the 2020 Accounts. Year end showed a sum of £3698 at the bank (2019: £3704). Membership income had fallen by 29% while costs had also fallen due to the absence of meetings during pandemic lockdowns. The fall in membership numbers had been from 1561 to a low point of 1108 members, but had now in the new financial year increased again to more like 1700.

VOTE: a vote was held to Agree the Treasurer's Report, in part as the Chair explained a 'voting practice' for the electronic voting system to be used in the elections. Voting was IN FAVOUR 125 AGAINST 1.

3. Motions

The Chair then tabled the first motion of the day, as follows:

MOTION OF DECLARATION

I MOVE that each candidate for election be asked to declare their views on the LTN issue. Reason : in order to fully inform the Membership on this most topical of issues
Proposer : Liz Partridge
Seconder : Charles Keer

The Proposer introduced Motion 1 and an immediate vote was held, in which 75 people voted in favour and 42 voted against.

At this point, with the time moving towards the agreed close of the meeting at 21.30, a discussion began on how to proceed. The Chair had been unable to access the Zoom management tools that she had expected, and the electronic voting system was also presenting some problems in that some members appeared not to have received the voting links. These difficulties were not seen by the Chair as resolvable at this time. She offered to use the remaining time to hear candidate presentations or to discuss the draft constitution. After some discussion, the Chair decided to adjourn the AGM and to reconvene at a later date to take the remaining items.

The meeting was adjourned to continue at a later date at 9.30 pm to be reconvened at a date to be set.

Items outstanding:

4. Elections of Officers and Committee members for 2021-2022

Nominations :

Name	Post	Proposer	Seconder
Philip Sheffield	Chair/member	Keith Weller	Richard Mapleston
Ibrar Dar	Chair/member	Bipin Kapadia	Kim Appleby
Ron Tabor	ViceChair/member	Philip Sheffield	Graham Sioevers
John Phillips	Vice Chair/member	Don Arthur	Jeni Barker
Christian Ignatiou	Secretary/member	Ron Tabor	Liz Partridge
Paul Dick	Secretary/member	Graham Curtis	Richard Thompson
John McCrory	Treasurer/member	Lia Dover	Simon Fuller
Cat Findlater	Treasurer/member	Chris Scarpari	Maire Harris
Peter Warford	Member	Eleanor Grey-Parsons	Charles Keer
David Wales	Member	Ibrar Dar	John Philips
Richard Thompson	Member	Ibrar Dar	Laraine Feldman
Irene Sallas	Member	Simon Fuller	Karen Conlon
Liz Partridge	Member	Richard Mapleston	Ron Tabor

Sabrina O'Reilly	Member	John Phillips	Lia Dover
Emma Maloney	Member	Roxy Simms	Karl Brown
Adrian Day	Member	Paul Dick	Ibrar Dar

Officers would be elected using the First Past the Post counting system. The 8 remaining Committee places were agreed by the Committee to be decided by a Transferable Vote system, eliminating one candidate per cycle until eight remained.

5. New Constitution Proposal

Proposed changes to the Constitution had been posted on the website alongside the current 2012 Constitution and circulated in hard copy to members. For voting:

Section A: Vision

Section B: Management arrangements

Section C: Finances

Section D: Miscellaneous

6. Priorities for 2021

A general discussion to be held concerning priorities for the Association in the coming year, to guide the work of the Committee.

Minutes taken by Richard Thompson