

MARCHMONT

ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the MA Committee meeting – 10.1.17

1. **Present:** Ricci, Gareth, Nicky S., Bob, Eileen, Len, Nicky C., Richard and Nigel. Apologies were received from: Andrew C., Tom, Andrew S., Liz and Marc. Absent: Clive.
2. **Minutes of the 6.12.16 Committee meeting:** These were agreed as a true record.
3. **Treasurer's report:** Nicky S. reported that there was a balance at bank of £1,274.16 on the last statement to be received in 2016. Noted that there had been several items of income and expenditure since then, and that these will be included in her report to our next meeting. It was suggested by Nicky S. that we should ask Lumen Church to give us a discount on the fee for hiring their space on 19.9.16 because they did not set up the room as agreed, nor did they provide the promised AV equipment.
4. **Chair's Report - the report was noted with the following action points:**
 - **Generator Hostel:** Richard updated us on developments, confirming that he had received a written undertaking from a director of the Generator that they will be withdrawing their permission for the proposed mobile phone antennae to be installed on the roof of their building. Richard was commended for his efforts and he in return thanked the Chair and BRAG for their support. This was acknowledged as a good example of effective partnership working for the benefit of the community.
 - **Air B'n'B:** Bob reported on Air B'n'B type key 'safes' being attached to the railings of Judd Street Open Space where they can be accessed by holiday let clients. Gareth gave another example in relation to the Medway Court garden railings opposite. Agreed that Bob would report this issue to Camden on behalf of MA and cc the Chair into his communication. Also agreed to ask Andrew S. for an update on the current state of Air B'n'B type activity in the area.
 - **Rough Sleepers:** Noted that there has been a noticeable rise in the number of rough sleepers in the wider area. Agreed that Gareth would invite Cllr Jonathan Simpson to write a blog on the subject for MV.
 - **Shop Front Awards 2016:** Noted that judges will bring their recommendations to our next meeting.
 - **Changes to Balfour Restaurant shop front:** Noted that Camden's Planning and Conservation Officers were taking a close interest in this development and that we had been asked to supply historical photographic evidence to assist them in their deliberations.

- **Late news re: 59 Marchmont Street:** Noted that a new tenant known as 'Meat the Art' had been lined up to take over the restaurant space on the ground floor of this building and that the historical shop front features were being restored.
 - **Cartwright Gardens:** Noted that TfL had applied to angle their cycle stands to the kerb to enable the highway to be widened to make space for a new footway running along the east side of the gardens. A raised road surface will also be installed between the new hostel entrance and the east entrance of the gardens to further improve pedestrian access and safety. No changes are currently proposed to traffic priorities in Cartwright Gardens. This was welcomed by all.
 - **History Project:** Agreed not to proceed with the proposed dedication ceremony for the Sir Rowland Hill plaque, unless we discover a surviving relative. Also agreed that the Chair should speak to the proprietors of 4 Woburn Walk about improving the appearance of their shop front prior to proceeding with the plaque to George Jacob Holyoake.
 - **Woburn Walk lighting:** Nigel reported that two of the three 'heritage' street lamps were not bright enough, causing the street to feel quite threatening at night. Agreed to report this to Camden Highways.
 - **Marchmont Voice:** Agreed to mail MA Supporters to remind them about signing up to MV.
 - **Marchmont Community Garden:** Agreed that MCGP should be asked to follow up with the proposers of the living wall.
 - **Bloomsbury and King's Cross SNPs:** Both reps reported that the biggest issues confronting local Police are rough sleepers and drug dealing, with King's Cross SNT only experiencing a rise in prostitution.
 - **Marchmont Street Party:** Noted that our application to Big Lottery Fund was not successful, despite having been invited to apply. It was reaffirmed that the Chair should issue a sponsorship invitation to MA Business Members in January 2017.
5. **AOB:** None.
6. **Date of next meeting:** 21st February 2017, 7pm, Holiday Inn Hotel. Nicky S. tendered her apologies in advance.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.