

Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held online via Zoom at 7.00pm,
28th October 2020

The AGM, originally planned for 25th April at St. Paul's in St. Stephen's Road, had been postponed due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Present

Forum committee members: Sarah Allan, Janita Han, Alex Holmes – Chair, Lee Sargent – Secretary, Mike Mitchell – Treasurer, Marco Zed

Other local attendees: Tamira Barklem, Margaret McGinley, Rosie Vincent, John White, Colleen Bowen, Christopher Rawlins, Valarie Emblen, Gail Stevens, Victoria O'Sullivan, Margaret Mitchell, Janita Cresswell, Paul Casey, Miriam Longcham, Timothy Bienias, Joan Griffiths, Alicia Miller, Patricia Hernandez, Eddie Blake, John Flahive, Daniel Pitt, Stefanie Fahrion, Irene De Lorenzis, Toby Barklem, Mary Meek, Jude Dutnall, Laura Polazzi, Anne Marks-Maran

Queen Mary College representative: Ubah Abdulle

Apologies: Cllr. Rachel Blake, Cllr.Val Whitehead

The Chair, Alex Holmes, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the first part of the meeting would be taken up with formal business. This would be followed by committee members sharing headlines from each section of the draft neighbourhood plan, and feedback from those attending.

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 27th April 2019

The minutes had been posted on the Forum website, and were displayed on a shared screen for those attending.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of business conducted at the 2019 AGM.

2. Matters Arising. None

3. Chair's report on activities during the past year

Alex said the committee had continued to gather evidence for the plan, building on the main themes and evidence that had been built up previously. Major pieces of research had included a grant-funded Housing Needs Assessment completed in March, and a survey of local businesses into planning use classes carried out Nov.-Dec in 2019 in partnership with the QConsult project of Queen Mary College and Roman Road Trust.

The Forum had benefited during the year from the help of a consultant, Chris Bowden of Navigus, who had kept us honest about the scope of policies and actions that a neighbourhood plan can deal with.

A lot of work had gone into writing the draft plan that had recently been shared on the Forum's updated website, and Alex said the Forum looked forward to receiving feedback on the draft from as many people as possible.

4 Treasurer's Finance Report for April 2019 – March 2020

The finance report for the year had been posted on the Forum's website and was viewed on a shared screen at this point. Mike Mitchell explained that the Forum's sole income for the year had been a grant through Locality from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government of £7,866. The main items of expenditure were for the Housing Needs Assessment (Arc 4) of £6,420, consultancy (Navigus) £1,134. A small grant under-spend of £167 had been returned.

The small budget for 2020-21 was presented, showing income of a government grant of £2,200 and expenditure mainly on producing the neighbourhood plan and developing the Forum website.

5. Election of Forum Committee officers and members (via 'show reaction' button on Zoom replacing the usual show of hands)

Alex expressed his warm thanks to Sarah Allan, Janita Han, and Sarah Bland, all of whom had given valuable service to the Forum, especially in the area of housing and the structure of the plan. Sarah Allan would keep in touch and give support where possible, and Sarah Bland, Chair of the newly formed Roman Road Community Land Trust, had agreed to being co-opted at a future meeting, to help specifically with drafting housing policy.

The following were then elected unopposed by those present:

Chair – Alex Holmes

Secretary – Marco Zed

Treasurer – Mike Mitchell

Media Officer – Lee Sargent

General members: Eddie Blake, Patricia Hernández

Alex encouraged anyone else interested in serving on the committee to get in contact, as the Forum constitution allowed up to 3 co-opted members.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business, and so the Chair called the Annual General Meeting to a close. It was followed a summary presentation of the draft neighbourhood plan and feedback on the draft from attendees.