

Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting of Westway Trust (a company limited by guarantee) held at St. Helen's Church, St. Helen's Gardens, London W10 6LP on Monday 23 November 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Alan Brown (Chair), Karen Bendell, Anne Cyron, James Caplin, Cynthia Dize, Joanna Farquharson, Mike Jones, Pat Mason, Malcolm Spalding and Chris Williamson.

In attendance (Executive Team): Angela McConville, Estelle Burns, Phil Dibsdale, Mark Lockhart and Stephen Wren. Alex Russell (incoming Director of Communications as observer), Fiona Ramsay (incoming trustee as observer).

Representatives of Member Organisations:

Jan Halliday - Age UK

Tom Fitch - Community Accountancy Self Help and Swinbrook Estate Residents Association

Nicolas Holliman - Corner Nine Arts Project

Eddie Adams - Echoes of Spain 1936-39

Maggie Tyler - Gloucester Court Reminiscence Group

Dee Dainton - Lancaster West Children's Community Network

Ruth Morrison - Pepper Pot Day Centre

Steve Divall - St Helen's Church

Henry Peterson - St. Helen's Residents' Association

Roger Roberts - The Golborne Forum

Naami Padi - Venture Community Association

Ruth Hillary - West London Bowling Club

Andrew Kelly - Westway Community Transport.

1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the Rev. Steve Divall, the Vicar of St Helen's for allowing the meeting to be held in the Church. He requested that the meeting should respect the fact that the meeting was being held in a church. The meeting was being filmed, and anyone who did not wish to be filmed was asked to sit at the side.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Chris Ward and the following member organisations: Abundance Arts.

3. JOIN US: INSPIRING STORIES FROM UNDER THE WESTWAY

Val Patterson, the Trust's Head of Learning and Skills introduced several performers and panelists who highlighted various aspects of the Trust's work.

4. MINUTES OF THE 7TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2014

Eddie Adams said that the minute covering item 6 relating to the new Articles of Association appeared to be incorrect as he expected the proposal would need to have been formally proposed and seconded. Other speakers said that these changes were important and some of them diluted the original intention of the Trust such as extending the area of benefit.

The Company Secretary advised the meeting that this resolution had been proposed as a Special Resolution. The wording together with information about it had been sent to the Members with proper notice (more than 14 days) in advance of last year's meeting and had set out the wording of the resolution. There was no specific requirement in the Trust's Articles that a motion should have a proposer and seconder.

The Chief Executive explained that the change to the area of benefit had first been made in respect of sports activities on 2001 in order to satisfy the requirements of the Sport England Lottery Fund; the area of benefit had been simplified last year to cover the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and adjoining boroughs; it remained the policy of the Trust that community grants were awarded to organisations active in RBKC.

Tom Fitch said he had expressed concern about the amendments to the length of the term for which trustees could serve and he thought he had voted against the proposal rather than abstained as was reflected in the minutes. He also felt that the minute on item 10 had been watered down. What had been referred to was specifically the need for an arts space that reflected the culture, diversity and heritage of the area. He had raised the question of air pollution, but this had not been minuted clearly. The point he had been making was that he thought that the Trust should be eligible to receive financial assistance from the GLA because of the high level of pollutants in the vicinity of the motorway which are above the London average. He also questioned whether the auditors should have proposed that the funds derived from the assets given to the Trust by the Council of RBKC should be set-aside as restricted funds in the accounts of the Trust.

It was proposed by Eddie Adams, seconded by Maggie Tyler, that the minutes be referred back for further consideration. The Chair said that it was clearly not going to be possible to agree the queries on the minutes and he withdrew them for consideration at a later time.

Niles Hailstones, Chair of Westway 23 and not a Member of the Trust interjected; he said that a large number of people were in attendance at the meeting as there was dissatisfaction in the community on the way the Trust was governed and managed and on a number of key issues such as proposals for development around the Portobello area of the estate.

The Chair said that in order that these points could be considered the approval of the minutes and all the rest of the formal business on the agenda would not be considered. The business of the AGM was therefore put to one side. The Members would be notified of any rescheduling of the meeting.

Many Members and other members of the community raised a number of points. Limited opportunity was given for the Chair to invite a response from other trustees or the Executive. A summary of the matters raised from the floor is given below.

1. Niles Hailstones said that an underlying theme to the concerns of Westway 23 was that, throughout its existence, the Trust had been perceived as being institutionally racist.
2. The current Board is not representative of the local community, particularly in terms of ethnic diversity.
3. A speaker read from minutes of the Cabinet of the Borough Council that stated that the Trust would carry out consultation with the wider public over the changes to its constitution. As far as she was aware no consultation had been undertaken prior to last year's AGM.
4. The Trust should have honoured its intention to attend a recent Westway 23 meeting at the Tabernacle.

5. Concerns were raised that insufficient benefit was being directed to the communities that were disadvantaged by the building of the motorway. The Afro-Caribbean community was well established in the area before the flyover was built. Questions were raised as to what the Trust had done, or what it was planning, to provide facilities for that community. There were also concerns that insufficient facilities were being provided to the Carnival community.
6. Speakers had been given no explanation as to why community facilities that were housed on Trust land at Maxilla had been taken away.
7. Concerns were raised over the closure of Westway Stables. Speakers wanted to know why the tenant had been given notice to leave at the end of January 2016 although she was not in arrears at the time. At the time she had been seeking advice on how the business could be made more viable.
8. Flyover Café. Speakers wanted to know why the Flyover operator's lease had not been renewed and why their proposal to operate the space in the future had not been accepted.
9. The community wants to be more involved in plans for the redevelopment of the area around the Westway.
10. Questions were raised on the services the Trust provides in the areas of education and sport, especially those for young people.
11. One speaker had heard there are plans to demolish the flyover and build a road tunnel instead.

Alan Brown invited Fiona Ramsay to introduce herself. She briefly addressed the group and said she was looking forward to working with the community as a member of the Trust's board.

Rev Steve Divall offered to facilitate a meeting between Westway 23 and Westway Trust.

The Chair said that the Trust was keen to have a dialogue with Westway 23. He was open to ideas for the venue for the meeting and would be happy for Westway 23 to suggest a facilitator. He suggested that Westway 23 provide the Trust with an agenda setting out the matters to be discussed.

The proceedings ended at 10.05 p.m.