

LADBROKE ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting
held on Wednesday 18th July 2018
at St Peter's Church Kensington Park Road

Present Sophia Lambert
 Paul Bastick
 Peter Mishcon
 Anne Chorley
 Malcolm Pawley
 David Marshall
 Kay Broadbent
 Tony Temple
 Peggy Post
 Peter Chapman
 David Campion
 Tom Croft
 William and Karen Clark
 Geoffrey Roome
 Jo Simmonds
 Michael Becket
 Nick Simmons
 Jill Scholes
 Robina Rose
 Jennifer Barlow
 Paul Krebs
 Fiona Fleming Brown

Apologies Sandra Kamen
 Catherine Faulks
 David Lindsay
 Jack de Gruiter
 Graham Child
 Jane Martineau

1. **The Minutes** of the last meeting were approved.

2. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Robina Rose requested an extra passage at the end of the first paragraph of Any Other Business, as follows: “She also expressed concern about the fact that so many trees had been removed from Rosmead Garden. The Chairman pointed out that it was for the Council to refuse the felling of trees”. This amendment was agreed.

3. **Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman reported that the main business of the Association’s committee continued to be the checking of planning applications. Every month the Committee met and looked at all the planning applications that had come in to see if there were any to which we felt we should object. The number of planning applications had reduced sharply over the past year, no doubt because of the economic situation, and there were very few applications for basements. The sort of issues that came up included:

- Tables and chairs on the pavement in front of bars and restaurants. Generally, the Association supported such applications unless the pavement was particularly narrow.
- Changes to rear façades, especially where these looked onto communal gardens. We were concerned about ugly and intrusive extensions and also unsympathetic new windows. We were particularly concerned about large areas of plate glass, which could cause light pollution.
- Porches and porticoes. Some applicants wanted to replace porches that had disappeared during the bad years on the estate, and that was welcome. However, there had been applications for porches that clashed with the architecture, particularly when semi-detached houses or terrace of houses had the same pattern of porch. Acoustic problems, for instance when an applicant wanted to put air condensers etc. on their roofs or elsewhere to service air condition. It was important that these should not be overly visible or raise noise levels for the neighbours.

The Association had also been concerned about what was happening to some pubs in the area. The former Colville or First Floor in Portobello Road had been taken over by the Ginstitute. They had put a magnificent new façade onto the building, but they had completely destroyed the lovely Victorian first floor dining-room with all its original moldings. This had been a real act of cultural vandalism, for no good purpose, which, even if we had known their plans, we could not have prevented as the building was not listed.

Another Portobello pub, the Portobello Gold, had been acquired a year ago by a developer who specialized in night-clubs and up-market dining establishments such as the Mahiki. This was likely to mean the loss of another traditional neighbourhood pub, which was sad. The Association was trying to ensure that the new establishment did not cause additional nuisance for neighbours.

Another matter that the Association was pressing for was better consultation arrangements for non-material amendments to approved planning applications and for the approval of such things as Construction Traffic management plans. The association was also concerned about the recent decision of the Council to remove names and addresses from objections to planning applications on the web and the complete removal of the texts of the objections once a decision on an application had been agreed.

Garden walk

As well as pursuing its objectives of promoting the beauty, history, amenity and character of the Ladbroke area, the Association has always tried to arrange events for its members, which needed to be paying to keep within the terms of its charitable status. This year we had organized a walk through Stanley Gardens South and Ladbroke Square. We were fortunate to have a distinguished horticulturalist, Jim Buttress, to lead the walk and also to have our President Thomas Pakenham with us, as he was able to add much specialist information on the trees in Ladbroke Square. The walk culminated in a very successful drinks party in Peggy Post's lovely garden adjoining Ladbroke Square Garden.

4. Adoption of the Annual Accounts

The Treasurer circulated the accounts to the meeting and presented a report on individual items of income and expenditure. It was noted that the sum for gift aid represented two years' worth of claims. Our reserves remained prudently substantial.

The subscription remained at £15 and we had attracted a number of new members. With some members dying or leaving the area, our numbers remain at about 370.

Nick Simmons expressed concern about the whole concept of gift aid which meant that the Government was paying large sums of money to charities in addition in many cases to direct grants. It would be better to leave individuals to decide what to donate to their favoured charities.

Sophia Lambert proposed the adoption of the accounts This was seconded by

Peggy Post and the accounts were adopted.

5. Election of Officers

In 2015 Sophia Lambert had been elected as Chairman for three years, so she was now due for re-election. This was proposed by Peter Chapman and seconded by Robina Rose and she was duly re-elected.

Other officers need to be re-elected on an annual basis. Paul Bastick and Anne Chorley had agreed to stand again as respectively Treasurer and Secretary. Their appointment was proposed by Robina Rose and seconded by Jennifer Barlow and they also were re-elected.

The Chairman pointed out that Paul Bastick would like to retire in the not too distant future and asked for suggestions as to someone who might be prepared to take on this job. Our accounts were very simple and did not need a trained accountant.

6. Election of Committee

Members of the committee are elected for three-year terms. Kay Broadbent was due for re-election as she was appointed in 2015 and had agreed to stand again. She was proposed by Anne Chorley and seconded by Peter Mishcon and duly re-elected.

Tony Temple had been coopted onto the committee in 2018 and his election was proposed by Anne Chorley and seconded by Peggy Post, and he was duly elected.

7. Any Other Business

Robina Rose reiterated her concern about the felling of so many mature trees in Rosmead Garden and the lack of replacements. The Chairman said that policy on trees in communal gardens was a matter for the individual Garden Committees and the Ladbroke Association could not intervene. However, she agreed on the importance of trees for environmental reasons and suggested that there should be an article on this in the next edition of Ladbroke News.

Fiona Fleming Brown raised the issue of graffiti. It was the responsibility of the Council to see that this is removed on public buildings, but on private ones it was the responsibility of the owner and she was concerned that they should be properly removed. The Chairman said that this was something the Ladbroke Committee would look at.

David Campion proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and there being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

