

## **BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held in the Great Hall of Berkhamsted Town Hall on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 8 pm.

1. The Chairman, Gordon Bluck, welcomed about 45 members and announced the programme for the evening: AGM business, a 20-minute break for refreshments, the Environment Award, a talk by architect Hugo Hardy, RIBA Architect, and ending with an Open Forum.

Apologies were received from: Garrick Stevens, Mary Anderson, Brenda and Dominic Miller, Adrienne Garner, Adrian Barham, Christine and Peter Manning, Teresa and Bill Dallender, Sue Severn, Jenny Jones, David and Lesley Brown.

2. The minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 had been circulated previously, were taken as read, and signed as a correct record. These were proposed by Paul Crosland and seconded by Simon Heywood.

### **3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman's report had been circulated. He also gave a brief summary of the year's activities and thanked the Officers and other members of the Committee for their work. The proposal by Bill Willett and seconded by Mary Casserley that the report be received was carried nem con.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby, presented the accounts for the year. On the proposal by Paul Crosland and seconded by Brian Johnson the accounts were adopted.

### **5. Election of Officers for 2024/25**

One nomination had been received for each office and the following were duly elected:

Chairman

Susan Johnson

Vice Chairman

Gordon Bluck

|                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Treasurer            | Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby  |
| Secretary            | Miranda Cummins              |
| Membership Secretary | Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby. |

This was approved by a show of hands.

On taking the Chair Susan said that there was an exciting year to come, with the Centenary of the Association and a General Election Hustings. She thanked Gordon for his work over the past year, especially on completing, along with fellow Committee members, work on the new Association website. She emphasised that this was the seventh time she had been elected Chairman, which was a source of pride, but also of concern. She hoped more candidates would come forward in future.

## **6. Election of Committee Members**

Committee members are elected to serve for two years. Paul Crosland, Jeanne Woodcraft and Simon Heywood have served for one year and so had another year to serve. Tony Statham has served for two years and was re-elected on to the Committee. Victoria Collins had resigned because of other commitments. This was agreed by the meeting. There were still several vacancies on the Committee and anyone wishing to join it was invited to contact the Secretary.

Susan explained that as well as the main Committee, we also have the Townscape Group, which would now be led by Gordon Bluck. Far more informal in its meetings, the other members of this group are Anna Barnard, Paul Crosland, Simon Heywood, Tony Statham, Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby; and Susan Johnson, and Miranda Cummins, ex officio. Once again, prospective members could come to visit before they considered joining.

## **7. Election of Independent Examiners**

On the motion of the Chairman, it was resolved that Colin Gray & Co. of Watford (formerly Berkhamsted) should continue as Independent Examiners of the accounts. This was approved by a show of hands. Thanks were expressed for the work that they do.

The meeting closed at 8.17 p.m.

## **Environment Award and presentations**

Susan introduced the members of Townscape in person and described their work, mostly concerned with planning. The Group is an official consultee by Dacorum Borough Council on planning matters. A list of past winners of the Environment Award (started in 1981) is available on our website. This year there were 13 contenders, all completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Simon Heywood described the selection criteria for the Award and gave an illustrated presentation of these contenders. It had been decided that none of these merited a plaque but it was decided to award four certificates of Commendation. These were:

The Old Cottage Barn extension, Bank Mill Lane, presented to Sean Stanley, architect; Montague Mews, High Street, Northchurch, to Anthony Keating of Queenswood Homes; Kinderzimmer, 205 High Street, Berkhamsted, presented to Kathryn Mansi and Sobia Mir; and 15 Shrublands Avenue, to Sash Renovate.

## **Talk by architect Hugo Hardy**

Hugo gave a talk about some local architects' projects and illustrated this with some recent and current projects, including: the Old Cottage Barn extension; Berkhamsted Raiders clubhouse; the former Rose and Crown pub in Gossoms End; an extension to a house in Ivy House Lane; and a garden room in Charles Street. His own projects included the Water Bailiff's cottage at Water End and the renovation of the Frogmore Paper Mill at Apsley.

## **Open Forum**

The only item was from the Mayor, Nigel Taylor, explaining that he was not wearing his mayoral chain as it was currently undergoing repairs.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

..... (Chairman)

..... (Date)