

MOUNT PLEASANT NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday March 15th 2016 upstairs at the Apple Tree pub, Mount Pleasant WC1

Present: Julie Riley, Claer Lloyd-Jones, Maisie Rowe, Ann Winchester, Oliver Bennett, Rosemary Sawyer, Ed Denison, Judy Dainton, P. Simmonds, R Hollis, Meg Howarth, Tony Randall, Ann Randall, Daniela Boon, Elena Henson, Cath Cinnamon, Randy McDonald, Lucy Shimidzu, Louise Gates, Francois Smit, Josephine Vos, Miles Hansard, Jamie Dicks.
(*And four others who either did not sign in or whose signatures were illegible.*)

Apologies: Graeme Weston, Helen Chatterjee, Margaret Williams, Cllr Sue Vincent

Absent without Apologies: Cllr Alice Donovan, Cllr Awale Olad, Bruce McDougall, Ian Stallard, Judit Izquiero, Cllr Julian Fulbrook, Julie Rumsey, Laura Walsh, Cllr Raphael Andrews, Richard Cobbing, Sean McDonagh, Sonny Tan, Sophie Scott.

1. Election of Officers and Executive Committee

Names of those proposed for election by Mount Pleasant Association were circulated with the meeting papers. No other names were proposed at the meeting. By an unanimous show of hands the following were duly elected.

Chair: Judy Dainton. **Secretary:** Miles Hansard. **Treasurer:** Claer Lloyd-Jones

Executive Committee: Ed Denison, Julie Riley, Oliver Bennett, Elena Henson.

2. Formal Business for inauguration of the Neighbourhood Forum

2.1 **The Constitution** was accepted.

2.2 **Bank Account.** The Treasurer agreed to open a bank account in the name of Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Forum. It was agreed that there would be two signatories required for any payments. The signatories would be the Treasurer and any one of the elected officers or executive (a pool of 6 people).

2.3 **Grant Funding.** Judy Dainton spoke to the note on the Agenda. She confirmed that the Forum was eligible for a grant of up to £9,000 from Locality (a government agency).

She explained that the grant had conditions, for instance that any money drawn had to be spent within 6 months, or by the end of the financial year (whichever date was sooner). She said she was receiving help on filling in the form from a Locality advisor. She and Graeme Weston were working through the form. Their initial thinking was that the Forum should apply in April for a small amount of money, to pay for meeting costs, display materials and publicity, and that the bulk of the money should be applied for later, to cover professional fees.

The meeting agreed to that proposal, and that further action should be left to the executive. Daniella Boon volunteered to help Judy and Graeme with the application and her offer was welcomed.

3. Adoption of Standing Orders.

3.1 The standing orders listed on the Agenda (items 5 a-f) were accepted

3.2 The standing orders relating to Relationship with Other Local Organisations (Agenda item 5 g) were discussed and accepted. All agreed on the importance of integrating all local groups into the Forum's work on the Neighbourhood Plan.

4. Wider horizons. A report from Ed Denison, representing Mount Pleasant Association Ltd (the business wing of MPA).

Ed explained progress of work on the Community Right to Build project, and spoke briefly about MPA Ltd project to purchase the Royal Mail Group development site. He notified the Forum that the CRTB project had been put out to six-week consultation on March 14th. There was lengthy discussion, and some initial confusion between the CRTBuild project and the wider community based alternative plan for the whole Royal Mail site. This confusion was resolved.

It was agreed that

4.1 The Forum would submit an application for a Community Right to Build Order, when MPA Ltd had completed the last stages of this work, presumably some-time in late April/early May.

4.2 The Forum would include, within its Neighbourhood Plan, a section showing the community's alternative plan for the Royal Mail Group development site.

5. Work on our Neighbourhood Plan

There was a free-form discussion, about publicity, links with other Forums, sources of information, alliances with other interest groups outside the area, whether the Forum would become involved in local on-going campaigns and planning objections, and other items, such as use of maps/visual aides and the projected time-table of work.

It was agreed that

5.1 Mount Pleasant Association would continue to deal with ongoing campaigns and current planning issues, whilst the Forum will focus on writing the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.2 The outline maximum time-scale would be 1 year to write the plan, 3 months for professional re-writing, and an expected submission of the Neighbourhood Plan in June/July 2017. There would then be a six-month period for official consultation, including a local referendum. The Plan could therefore become a legal planning document by December 2017/January 2018, just within the 2-year deadline.

However it would be desirable to submit the finished plan by March 2017 so the Plan could become a legal entity by September/October 2017. It was agreed to aim for this shorter time-table.

5.3 Work deadlines would be set for each 3-month period. Working groups would be formed.

5.3 The executive would send all members a reading list, so that by the next meeting they would be familiar with the local planning background, and have had a sight of other Neighbourhood Plans.

5.4 All members would think about what they wanted for our neighbourhood. The executive would send them a questionnaire, which would include a choice of subjects for them to work on.

5.5 It was important to back-up our opinions with relevant research and facts.

5.6 The executive would start compiling a data-base of local groups, interest groups, businesses etc within our Neighbourhood Area

5.7 Consultation with the wider community should take place every three months, through Agenda items, mailings and publicity. All acknowledged it was important to maintain local community involvement in our work.

6. Any Other Business. There was no other business

7. Date of Next Meeting to be in the third or fourth week in June. The meeting dates for the whole two-year period will be arranged and all members will receive these dates for their calendars. Venues will depend on availability, and members will be notified accordingly.

JD 16/03/2016