Beeston Neighbourhood Forum

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26 May 2016.

Attendance of Members: Christine Thornton, Arthur Kirby, Mark Parry, Robert Winfield, Ken Burton, John Cunningham, Peter Glossop, Jean Birch, Pauline Johnson, Steve Rushworth, Steve Francis, Jeremy Morton, Ken Hewson, Bill Birch, David Kenny, Stella Gawthorpe, Susan Obtroyel, S. Sturman, Gary Wainright, Colin Hendrick Ward, Brenda Draper.

Other Attendees: Edward Wills.

Apologies of Members: Rev. Lindsay Pearson, Cllr Angela Gabriel, John Peckham, Doris Brooke, Gohar Almass, Helen Windross.

Other Apologies: Anup Sharmer.

Introduction: The meeting started at 19:45 once the new members were ratified by a special committee meeting and the Forum was quorate.

Minutes: The following minutes were agreed as a correct record:

19 May 2015 Forum, 19 May 2015 Annual General Meeting, 1 September 2015 Forum, 1 December 2015 Forum, 25 February 2016 Forum.

Annual Report: A question was raised on the Committee Attendance Record. A vote in favour of adopting the Report was taken.

Financial Report: Bill explained the key points in the Accounts. A query was raised on the income and a lack of transparency as a donation was not identified separately. A discussion was held on the principle of receiving donations. The accounts were adopted by a majority vote in favour.

Committee Elections: It was decided to split the Secretary’s role into “Minute Secretary” and “Membership and Communications Secretary”. All the following were voted in separately.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Post | Elected | Nominated by | Seconded by |
| Chair | Robert Winfield | Arthur Kirby & Bill Birch | Mark Parry |
| Vice Chair | Arthur Kirby | Robert Winfield | Bill Birch |
| Treasurer | Bill Birch | Robert Winfield | Arthur Kirby |
| Minute Secretary | Steve Francis | Mark Parry | Arthur Kirby |
| Membership & Communications Secretary | Ken Hewson | Mark Parry | ? |
| Committee Member | Christine Thornton | Mark Parry | Robert Winfield |

Colin Hendrick Ward was elected as the Auditor.

Constitutional Amendments: The following changes were adopted by a two thirds majority, a vote being taken for each of the three sections.

6.4 New section: *Decision making will be by a majority vote of members either at meetings (see section 8) or by email and letter.*

8.1b Current wording: Decision making - All voting will be determined by a show of hands or, if agreed by one third of those present, a secret ballot. The Chairman will have the casting vote in the event of a tie.

New wording: Decision making - will be by a majority vote of those members present. If agreed by one third of those present, voting can be by secret ballot. The Chairman will have the casting vote in the event of a tie.

This leaves the method of voting to the discretion of the meeting.

8.1d Current wording: Quorum - the number of people who need to be present at Forum meetings is the lesser of 25% of the membership or 20 members in order to carry out a vote.

To be replaced by:

Quorum - At least 10 members need to be present at a Forum for a vote to be taken.

Data Presentation: Mark had highlighted some key points from the data sent by Leeds City Council. It included statistics on age, gender, ethnicity, religion, first languages, health and transport. The data covered an area slightly beyond our designated boundaries and is from the last 5 years.

Future of the Forum: Robert summarised his conversation with Ian MacKay of Leeds City Council, about our options to continue. It had been suggested that we could either merge with the Community Forum or suspend activities for a year in order to re-group. Ian was keen the momentum should be maintained. It was suggested that more guest speakers might attract more members. Robert will be visiting the Hyde Park Forum with Arthur to observe how their meetings are run.

Vote of Thanks: A vote of thanks was given to Mark for his work as Secretary as he will not be in the Committee for this next year.

***Action: Mark to organise a handover to Ken.***

Date of next Forum: will be our meeting on Friday 2 September 2016, at 19:30 hours in the Beeston Community Centre.