ST PHILIP & ST JAMES (LECKHAMPTON) AREA RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

## Draft Minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting of the Association,

**held on Monday 22nd May 2023 at Pip and Jim’s Church, Gratton Rd.**

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

The meeting was chaired by Maurice Gran (Vice Chairman), as the Chairman Clair Chilvers was sick.

About 30 members attended the meeting,

The Vice Chairman remembered with great gratitude both

*Michael Dower: 15 November 1933 - 7 November 2022*

He was the founder of SPJARA, its first chair and the moving spirit behind the Norwood Triangle scheme, and

*Jonathan Moffit: 28 June 1958 – 3 March 2023*

Jonathan was an SPJARA Committee member from 2008 to 2022; Membership Secretary 2010 to 2022; Treasurer from 2013 to 2022; and amongst many other contributions organised help to vulnerable residents during the COVID pandemic.

The proposed Agenda for the meeting was approved.

**2. Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting**

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2021 in the newly re-ordered Pip&Jim’s had been circulated and were available on the SPJARA website. It was agreed by the meeting that the Minutes should be approved as a true and correct record.

**3. Chair’s report**

**Extension of SPJARA’s area**

The addition of Gt Norwood Street to the SPJARA area was proposed and agreed *nem.com.* (Some new members from Gt Norwood St then joined the meeting).

**Review of past events (Nov. 2021 – May 2023)**

* Open Gardens, May 2022: 16 gardens open - 226 visitors - raised £1456 for Ukrainian refugees. *With thanks to Diana Pollock especially.*
* Tree planting: 10 new trees planted at Mellersh House; all our young trees watered through the summer drought. *Special thanks to John Paterson.*
* Planters: Two planters were moved from the Bath Road (outside the Co-op) to the Norwood Triangle; two new planters were acquired and placed in the Bath Road. *Thanks to Diana and Ken Pollock for keeping the plants going and GH for a grant.*
* Decorated utility boxes in Bath Road: By May 2023 we have decorated a total of 25 boxes along the Bath Road. We painted two recently outside the Norwood Arms with financial help from the Bath Road traders. We have applied to CBC for the funds to decorate two others. *With thanks to our artist, Rhys Cowe.*
* Street cleaning: SPJARA arranges for UBICO to sweep pavements and streets annually during December; notifies residents of the timetable; and reminds owners of parked cars to park elsewhere prior to the sweep. *Thanks to Roy Arnold.*
* Planning: we look at all planning applications in the area and comment as necessary. Good news example: we strongly supported the recently completed restoration of a damaged pillar outside Hillgay Lodge in Tudor Lodge Road. *With thanks to Adrian Phillips*.
* Parking and traffic: we continue to urge Glos Highways to undertake a survey with a view to extending the current parking control zone; we continue to lobby CBC to adopt a 20 MPH scheme for residential roads as is now implemented elsewhere in Cheltenham; and we are working with CBC on the introduction of charging points for e-vehicles. *With thanks to Hugh Curran and others.*
* Social events: We organised well attended neighbours’ early evening drinks parties on the Norwood Triangle to celebrate the late Queen’s Jubilee last June – and the rain held off; and for the Coronation a few weeks ago – when again the rain held off! We held our evening Christmas lights and party events on the Norwood Triangle in 2021 and 2022. We organised two quiz nights and two wine tastings and took a stall at the Midsummer Fiesta where we sold our popular SPJARA tea towels. *Thanks to Hugh Curran, Cassandra Phillips, Maurice Gran, Heidi Awege and others.*
* Upcoming social events: CEILIDH (jointly with Pip & Jim’s) – 24 June; visit to Javelin Park waste recycling - 14 August; and wine tasting - 15 November 2023.
* Membership and communications: we have 179 members, up from 148 at the last AGM. – and counting. We communicate with them - and the wider public – via the web site, a WhatsApp group, emails, the notice board and the newsletter. *Thanks to all committee members.*
* Ukraine refugees’ initiative: we’ve raised £5.550 and spent £3,000 to date. 46 local residents pledged an average £100 last year and we raised more money by events. We planned to rent a flat for a family, but problems arose with Universal Credit + Housing Benefits. So, we focused on helping Ukrainian families to become independent of their host families. £3,000 has been committed so far, to help two families in our area with initial living costs. Due diligence was applied, and some applicants were rejected. *Thanks to everyone who pledged money and hosted families, and a special thanks to Hugh Curran.*

**4. Treasurer’s report 2022-23**

Heidi Awege, Treasurer, presented the accounts as shown attached to these Minutes.

* Treasurer’s report 2022-23  
  - Income
* Treasurer’s report 2022-23  
  - Expenditure

**5. Election of Honorary Officers and Committee Members**

The Vice Chair reported that, as previously announced, both Clair Chilvers (SPJARA Chair since 2012) and Cassandra Phillips (Hon Secretary since 2010) were retiring from these positions and from the Committee. So far no new candidates for these positions had come forward.

Clair Chilvers and Cassandra Phillips were warmly thanked by Maurice Gran for their years as Chair and Secretary.

It was hoped that there would soon be new candidates for the Committee, including people to be considered for the Chair and Secretary positions, and in the meantime the two Vice Chairs Maurice Gran and Vanessa Angelo-Thomson would take on their duties.

The Vice Chairman sought the meeting’s agreement to election *en bloc* of the following officers and Committee members, which was agreed *nem con*.

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| **Name** | **Position** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Maurice Gran  Vanessa Angelo-Thomson | Vice Chairman (joint)  Vice Chairman (joint) |  |  |
| Heidi Awege  Roy Arnold  Hugh Arthur  Hugh Curran  John Paterson  Adrian Phillips  Diana Pollock  Tim Harman  Jackie Chelin | Treasurer Membership Secretary  Committee Member  Committee Member  Committee Member  Committee Member  Committee Member  Committee Member (GCC and CBC, Ex officio)  Committee Member  (CBC, Ex officio) |  |  |
| **6. Discussion Time** |  |  |  |
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During the discussion time, members raised issues about the roads including potholes and bumpy pavements. Tim Harman (GCC Councillor) listed the roads in the SPJARA area that were scheduled to be resurfaced later in 2023.

Rev Nick Davies, vicar of Pip & Jim’s church, thanked SPJARA for all the various ways SPJARA members contributed to the community.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked all present for their support.

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After the conclusion of the formal AGM,

**Karen Watson, Environmental Partnerships Manager for CBC and Ubico,** spoke on new developments in waste processing and recycling in Cheltenham.