**Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Westbury Park Community Association, held on Wednesday 30th October 2019 at the St Albans Church Hall, Bayswater Avenue,**

**Present:**  Kevin Chidgey (Chair), Fran Bragg, Janet Brewer, David Bruce, Rebecca Challapah, Jenny Collingridge, Sue Cooper, Yve Cowell, Ray Gallery, Lionel Hart, Ann Kennard, Tony Kennard, Mildred Miller, Steven Noreiko, Abigail Shepherd, Judith Sluglett, Barry Williamson , Sylvia Williamson and Jane Wills.

**Apologies:** Jeff Bishop, Marion Liebmann, Mo Phillips, Dave Jones, Roger Wilson- Tucker

1. **Introduction**

Kevin Chidgey welcomed attendees to the meeting and proceeded to outline the challenges facing the Association, particularly the position regarding the Committee with two members resigning and his wish to step down as Chair. Following the formal AGM business the meeting is asked to consider a number of options that had been notified to members in a review paper circulated in early October.

Kevin thanked the retiring Committee members for their efforts over the years.

1. **Report from the Chair**

Kevin circulated his report of the activities of the past eighteen months. He highlighted a number of activities including a successful 2019 Festival, the regular circulation of information on local events and key issues to members, and supporting the residents in Belvedere Road on a planning issue. He noted that the Festival committee was an independent group and would continue to be so.

Jane Wills expressed some doubts about the future of the Festival Group, but Abigail Shepherd said that the Church could continue to host some Festival activities should the Festival Group fold.

There were no questions.

1. **Treasurers Report**

The circulated accounts for the period June 2018 – September 2019 showed a balance of £690 at 30th September 2019 – up £130 from the position at 1st June 2018 thanks to a June 2018 concert that raised almost £330 for the Association. Public liability insurance accounted for more than half of total spend (£229) over the eighteen month period.

1. **Committee Elections**

Nominations for the Committee had been requested, but none received. One member had volunteered to help with activities.

Janet Brewer agreed to stay on as Secretary and Kevin Chidgey as Acting Treasurer.

**5 Options for the Future**

Four options for the future were presented to the meeting: Revitalisation, “Ticking over”, Suspension or Closure. These had been set out in a previously circulated paper which had also listed the challenges facing the Community Association.

Kevin voiced the view that revitalisation was not a practical option in the absence of offers to join the Committee. He felt that “ticking over” (circulating information on local events and key issues) or suspending the group were the most realistic options.

David Bruce asked about the role of Neighbourhood Plans. Kevin responded by saying that these were mainly relevant in neighbourhoods where there was major new development planned or where physical regeneration was needed.

In response to a question about resident parking Kevin explained the history of the extension of the Redland RPS to Manor Park. He believed it was working well – parking on pavements was a feature but this was generally done sensibly, with drivers leaving sufficient space on pavements for pushchairs and wheel chairs.

Discussion followed on the history, purpose and activities of the Community Association. It was noted that the current Association had come into being in 2011, shortly after the now defunct Neighbourhood Partnerships had been created. This had created opportunities for local groups to access grants and exert more influence concerning City Council policies and proposals.

The meeting was not in favour of suspending or winding up the Community Association and discussion focussed on how these outcomes might be avoided. Sue Cooper, David Bruce, Jane Wills and Ann Kennard proposed a fifth possible option, which was termed “Transition”. This would involve consulting with the community (up to 2,000 households) about what they would like and expect from an Association, and whether and how they could support it. This met with the general assent and it was proposed that a group be established to take forward this idea. Sue Cooper, Fran Bragg, Yve Cowell, Rebecca Challapah and David Bruce agreed to form and serve on the group.

It was formally agreed that there would be a transition period to October 2020 during which time a group would develop ideas for the revitalisation of the Association.

In the next year Kevin Chidgey and Janet Brewer will continue to keep members informed about social events and key issues affecting our area. The capacity to take on other activities (eg organising social events, lobbying, bidding for funds, upgrading the Association’s website, improving communications through use of social media) will be much reduced. There were no volunteers to assist with enhancing the WPCA presence on social media.

Rebecca Challapah agreed to assist Janet with producing the monthly “What’s On”.

**6 Conclusion of the Meeting**

Sylvia Williamson proposed a vote of thanks to Kevin and Janet for their work over the years.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.