

LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting
held in November-December 2020 via the Ladbroke Association website on account of the
pandemic.

1. **The Minutes** of the last meeting were approved.

2. There were no **matters arising** from the minutes.

3. **Chairman's Report**

This has been a funny old year for us all. Since February, we have not been able to hold live committee meetings and have conducted most business by email. The Council officers with whom we deal have been working from home, and it has been pretty easy to contact them by phone or email – indeed probably easier than before the pandemic, as they are spending less time in meetings. But it has not always been possible for them to make site visits. Planning committees have continued to meet, but by video-link, with any member of the public being able to join the link (although only those who have registered can speak). It is however far from perfect: only the person speaking is shown on screen and it is difficult to get clues from body-language. But it has meant that the planning system has continued to operate, albeit rather slowly at times.

Architects seem to have continued working throughout, and after an initial dip at the beginning of the February lockdown there has been a steady stream of planning applications coming in. Each week, the applications are circulated to all committee members. One of the three architects on our committee has an in-depth look at them and advises on whether we should support, object or make no comment. So we have not been inactive.

This last year we had also circulated a number of email alerts to members about various Council initiatives on a variety of subjects from how the Council should spend the Community Infrastructure Levy to cycleways. We are always grateful for the comments that we get from members and pass them on to the Council where we think that would be useful. We were also heavily involved in the “Save Our Streets” group of local associations fighting the proposal for a segregated cycleway along Holland Park Avenue and Notting Hill Gate, in abeyance for the moment.

4. **Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts.**

The Treasurer expressed satisfaction at the fact that there had been a surplus for the year, resulting in a healthy bank balance. Subscription income had reduced this year as membership has fallen from 375 to 350 members. An unusual number of

members who pay by standing order had ceased to do so without notice and we suspected that this might have been due to a problem with either our or their bank. We were therefore contacting them to check that they really meant to end their subscriptions. We did however gain 11 new members in the financial year.

On the expenditure side, our costs were reduced this year as we were able to send notices about the AGM and the winter party with newsletters. We also cut expenditure on secretarial services as our committee member Kay Broadbent is kindly assisting the Treasurer with gift aid applications and maintaining comprehensive membership lists.

We had actively looked at expenditure that could be usefully employed within the rules of our constitution. To this end, we had made a donation of £2,500 to repair St. Peter's Church clock. This would be reflected in next year's accounts.

The treasurer believed that it was important for the Association to keep up a healthy balance. For instance, we might need costly professional advice if any particularly troublesome planning application were submitted that generated controversy and required greater knowledge of the regulations than our committee can muster.

He was not recommending any increase in the subscription rates as he considered that current expenditure for the next few years could be accommodated within the projected income and reserves.

The accounts were adopted.

5. Election of Officers

The Chairman was elected in 2019 for a three-year term. But the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary must be re-elected every year. Paul Bastick had offered to continue as Treasurer and Anne Chorley as Secretary. Both were re-elected.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business