

19692

THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING

THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, 8TH JULY, 1969 AT 8 PM AT THE KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA CLUB LANEDOWNE ROAD W.11. AND WAS ATTENDED BY 320 PEOPLE.

Mr. Angus Stirling, who as acting -chairman of the Association, was in the Chair, opened the meeting by thanking Mr. Windsor, secretary of the Knights of St. Columba Club, for the use of the Hall on this occasion; all those people who had helped to circulate every household in the neighbourhood with the information about the new Association; and also all those present who had responded to the idea and ensured by their presence a wonderfully encouraging inauguration for the new society. He described the background of events during the past six years which had led a group of residents to form an amenity society for the protection and enhancement of the area known as the Ladbroke Estate. The acting chairman felt that those present would agree that there was room for an association which would be concerned with the environment of an urban area of outstanding quality and hoped they would support it by becoming members. He explained that the Ladbroke Estate had been designated a 'Conservation Area' by the Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council and defined the tasks of the new Association as being related to BUILDINGS, OPEN SPACES - Garden Squares, TRAFFIC AND PARKING and NOISE.

- 1 The acting Chairman read the DRAFT CONSTITUTION, which had been circulated in advance. This draft closely followed the form recommended by the Civic Trust for amenity Societies, and the Chairman asked the meeting to approve the adoption of this constitution which would ensure that the Association could be quickly registered with the Charity Commissioners; it was

realised that certain amendments might eventually be desirable to suit the particular structure of the association as it developed. There followed discussion of the draft constitution, especially the clauses relating to Membership and Election of the Officers and Committee. The following suggestions were made:-

- (a) Membership should be available only to those resident within the Conservation area.
- (b) Membership should be open to anyone interested, irrespective of where they lived.
- (c) There should be a distinction between voting and non-voting members, the former being limited to those living in the conservation area.

The Cairman undertook that these points would be borne in mind when the Committee came to reconsider the Constitution and recommend any changes to be approved by the members. It was noted that a majority of the meeting favoured the last-mentioned suggestion, although it was agreed not to submit these proposals to a formal vote.

- 2 The present acting OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE were introduced and the meeting was invited to elect them for the forthcoming year, giving them power to co-opt up to a maximum of ten members in accordance with the draft constitution, the entire committee would retire at the end of twelve months and submit themselves together with any new candidates, for election at the first annual general meeting. After discussion this proposal was agreed by a show of hands. Mrs. Balfour said that it would be desirable that the Committee of the Association should be representative of the whole area, including the Garden Committees.

- 3 Mr. Stirling then introduced Mr. TIM ROCK, assistant-editor of the Architectural Review and Vice-Chairman of the West London Architectural Society, who had much experience of the formation

and whole conception of amenity societies.

Mr. Rock referred to the Civic Amenity Act as being the first statement of intent by the Government on the problem of Urban Environment; but it was no more than a signpost to show that basic policy in certain scheduled areas should be 'conservationist'. He pointed out that the only chance of preventing badly conceived development in the area was by the efforts of this Association. He gave the Meeting three desirable objectives to consider. They were that the Association should:-

- (a) Take action to prevent through traffic in residential streets, thereby creating an environment impossible under present conditions.
- (b) Consider buildings and their relationship with the environment and not be strictly preservationist in outlook, accepting the necessity of certain changes if well conceived and to look critically and constructively outside and well as within the area.
- (c) In an area of outstanding natural and man-made charm and elegance such as this the role of an amenity society should be as Vigilante, over planning applications; Campaigner for traffic control, good new building, care of trees etc. and to be against all bad development; Promoters of ideas to put before the Local Authority.

Mr. Stirling thanked Mr. Rock for his interesting and challenging talk. He invited prospective members to give their names to Mr. Quintin Bridge before leaving.

Councillor Michael Cocks said that the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea were improving and enlarging their Town Planning Department and favoured the creation of Civic Associations and Amenity Groups. He would always be willing to be of assistance to the Ladbroke Association.

Mr. Robert Meadows thanked the members of the new Committee for their work in creating the new Association.

The Meeting ended at 10.10 pm.

AB Stirling