

THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Association held on July 11th 1977 at the Knights of St. Columba Club, 11 Lansdowne Rd. W. 11

Mr. B. Thompson-McCausland told members of the much regretted loss of the Association's Chairman, Professor Carus-Wilson, who died in February 1977. Professor Carus-Wilson had been Chairman since 1973, and had done much valuable work for the Association. Mr. Ian Grant had been Acting Chairman since February.

1) Minutes of the last A.G.M. which had been circulated, were approved and signed.

2) Hon. Treasurer's Report.

The Hon. Treasurer stated that the balance at 31st March 1977 was £ 747 as compared to £ 576 at 31st March 1976. Expenditure for the year amounted to £ 478 as against £ 380 in 1976. The fact that outgoings were covered by income was due to a number of members contributing more than the minimum £ 1 annual subscription and also because some 70 members have seven year covenants thus allowing the Association to collect 54 pence approximately for each covenanted subscription.

Thanks were expressed to Mr. E. V. Notcutt the Hon. Auditor.

3) The Hon. Treasurer's Accounts were adopted by the meeting.

4) Election of Officers and Committee.

Mr. Ian Grant, Acting Chairman, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Association.

Miss Muriel Cosh and Mrs. Hilda Edwards were elected Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively.

Five members were due to retire from the Committee. Two did not wish to stand for re-election and there was a vacancy following Mr. Grant's election as Chairman. Mrs. Kinmonth and Mme. Pilsudski were re-elected to the Committee and Mr. Peter Chapman, Mr. Thomas Pakenham and Mr. Richmond Postgate were the new members elected.

5) Chairman's Report.

Apart from the routine business involved in examining and commenting on Planning Applications, which had taken place throughout the year, the members of the committee had been concerned with various other new matters.

Two questions had arisen concerning cases outside the Ladbroke area, and although it seems that some members of the Association feel that concern should be confined to Ladbroke Conservation Area matters, the committee felt that each of these questions was a special case and impinged closely on the Ladbroke area. The first matter concerns the yet undefined proposals to demolish numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7 Kensington Palace Gardens and to use these sites, together with the already demolished numbers 1, 2, and 3 for the construction of part of the proposed new Soviet Embassy.

The Association feels that this would be undesirable environmentally, especially as it would involve the loss of four important Victorian mansions and the destruction of their gardens through intensified use. The Association has joined in the protests of the Linden Gardens Residents Association and the Pembridge Association. The whole situation (though apparently dormant) is being kept under review.

The second case was that of Sion Convent, where a refusal by the Kensington and Chelsea Council to allow the conversion of the present buildings to be used as a "Science Centre" went to Public Enquiry.

The committee felt that such a conversion must introduce an "alien use" to the locality, in much the same manner as, in the past, the proposals for the Ballet Rambert and Kensington Temple sites would have done. In view of the proximity of the Convent to the edge of the Ladbroke area, the Association supported the protest of the Pembridge Association at the Public Enquiry. It is much to be regretted that the appeal was subsequently allowed by the Secretary of State.

As regards more immediately local matters, the committee has put in hand the compilation of a photographic dossier of correct mouldings and enrichments for the whole Ladbroke area, aided by the invaluable help of the Greater London Council's photographic department. It is also hoped to assemble a library of moulds for stucco and iron-work, which the Council has undertaken to store. It should be emphasised, however, that these schemes must be long-term projects and it may be some considerable time before the committee's efforts bear fruit.

A sub-committee has been in touch with the Kensington Borough Engineer on the question of substituting more appropriate and traditional street lamps for the present pattern, in some of the less busy streets in the Conservation Area. Another sub-committee is actively working on the promotion of "Town Schemes", which may involve the restoration and uniform painting of one specific terrace of houses.

The matter of the new railings round St. John's Church to replace the existing wire fencing, has again been raised with the Association by some of the parishioners but it is understood that the Parish Church Council considers it has too many financial responsibilities at present to consider any further commitments. It goes without saying that the Association is not able to undertake the sponsoring of or proposals for any scheme without the full cooperation of the Parish Church Council, and that any financing would be beyond the Association's resources. However, a small sub-committee has been appointed, in order that the Association may keep in touch with the Parish Council.

6) A.O.B.

After a short discussion the meeting adjourned.

After the formal business of the meeting members and their guests enjoyed a wine and cheese party. There were candle lit tables in the adjoining Gardens. Permission for the use of the Gardens was kindly given by the Gardens Committee.