**NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP**

**Minutes of the A.G.M. held on Thursday 9th May 2019 at the Nether Edge Bowling Club.**

42 members were in attendance.

Apologies were received from Mazhar Hussain

Minutes of the last AGM: these were accepted as an accurate record. Proposer: Howard Fry. Seconder: Laura Fitzgerald.

Matters Arising: none.

Chairman’s Report:

David Pierce welcomed everyone to the meeting and read a letter of support from a member who was not able to be present but who appreciated the work of NENG. David said that it had been a busy and difficult year from his perspective within NENG but that it looked very different when he viewed it as an outsider might.

He spoke of the difficulties in replacing the treasurer but was pleased to report that David O’Connell has agreed to be acting treasurer and Howard Fry, along with Elaine Bird, a former treasurer, had worked extremely hard to sort matters.

He said that the newsletter ‘EDGE’ is the most visible aspect of NENG and is very time consuming. An editorial board has now been established to oversee ‘EDGE’. It is always difficult to find editors and it would not be possible to distribute the newsletter without a very dedicated group of volunteers. Great thanks go to them.

A Vision Group has also been established and its job is to think about what NENG could/should be doing in the future.

David said that he wants people to know that NENG is responsible for the Farmers’ Market (est.2008), which has raised £75,000 for 70 different charities and has brought thousands of people to Nether Edge. He spoke to of the excellent entertainers who support the markets.

The History Group is very active and has recently published two books, which have sold well.

The Nether Edge Festival was established initially to celebrate the fact that the markets had raised £50,000. It has now been running for four years. Two of the major events during the festival are the parties in Chelsea Park and at Common Ground. David said that he would like to encourage even more people to attend the festival events.

Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood. This group may not be very visible but does great work in tidying and planting in the wood.

Friends of Chelsea Park. Howard Fry is trying to revive this group which has, in the past done a lot of work in the park including planting a meadow and also looking after the pocket park at Sharrow Head.

Open Gardens. Marion Rout has coordinated this event for eight years. David commented that it is a wonderful opportunity to have a peek at some lovely gardens.

In addition to all this, there is much informal work going on. For example, people pick up litter. Jack Massey has tried to get reduce graffiti at the Wostenholm Road shops. NENG has provided planters at the Nether Edge crossroads, which David and Gina have been watering. David appealed for others to help with this.

David expressed great thanks to all the volunteers who contribute to NENG. He said that he has recently seen a transformation in Nether Edge with trees turning green. Three years ago NENG decided to support the tree campaign, which saved many trees. The battle seems to have been won - for the moment!

David is ending his term of office and thanked all who have supported him.

Treasurer’s Report:

Howard Fry gave the report and said that it had been a challenging year but with David O’Connell now acting treasurer and Elaine Bird helping, things are now in order. Magdi Adam has now been appointed as NENG’s bookkeeper.

NENG showed a small loss of about £1000 last year but this was because money was spent on a new notice board, planters, a projector and screen, as agreed. NENG plans to spend more money on the community. Overall, NENG is financially sound and has reserves.

The accounts were accepted. Proposer: Helen Willows. Seconder: Ruth Bernard.

Friends of Chelsea Park: Howard spoke of the poor state of the swings in the park and appealed for people to help raise funds to refurbish the playground. He suggested that this be done by applying to trusts, rather than through small local events.

Group Reports:

All these were published in the April edition of ‘EDGE’.

Election of Trustees

Trustees: David Pierce, Mazhar Hussain, Howard Fry.

Nicky Erlan, Ken Lambert, Richard Taylor all offered to stand as trustees.

All these were approved unanimously.

Laura Fitzgerald resigned as a trustee.

Election of Officers:

Ken Lambert was elected unanimously as chair of NENG. Proposer: Howard Fry. Seconder: David Pierce.

Other officers are Mazhar Hussain, Howard Fry, David O’Connell and Pat Rogers. All were approved.

Incoming Chairman : Ken Lambert

Ken said that David had played a major role in all the activities mentioned in his report and both he and his wife, Gina, have put in an enormous amount of work on behalf of NENG, much of it unseen. Ken proposed an enormous vote of thanks to David for his work as Chair of NENG. He also proposed thanks to Laura Fitzgerald for her eight years on the committee and for running the NENG website.

Ken spoke about his arrival in Nether Edge two years ago and his impressions of it being a green, multicultural, friendly thriving neighbourhood. He joined the committee last year and has been membership secretary. As such, he thanked all the distributors for their hard work. Ken said that he hope to emulate David and looks forward to working with NENG. He feels the Vision Sub-committee will point out new opportunities and he reiterated that NENG belongs to all.