

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTY FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE HAMPTON WICK ASSOCIATION
HELD AT BULLEN HALL, HAMPTON WICK
on Wednesday 22 March 2017 at 7.30pm**

Present:

CHAIRMAN	Mark Merrington
TREASURER	Carol Dukes
SECRETARY	Fraser Wilson

and other Members, including Committee Members, totalling 44.

Apologies: Edward and Sue Norton

Prior to the start of the meeting Bill Reed of Richmond Council gave an update on the Village Plan. He said that the response to the request for comments from Hampton Wick had been greater than elsewhere in the borough. The supplementary document will be published in May and there will be a move to Phase 3 of the plan which will look at issues of people, including promoting neighbourliness and preventing isolation.

There then followed a very enjoyable talk by Jenny Bourne on "A year in the life of the Royal Park Allotments".

The Chairman then opened the formal meeting by welcoming everyone.

Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting

The minutes of last year's AGM were proposed for acceptance by Nick Baylis and seconded by Chris Drayson. They were later signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman began by thanking Bill Reed from the Council for what he had said about Village Planning which the Chairman would not repeat, save to note that the Association had supported the process throughout the year and would continue to do so.

The Chairman said that, before the evening started, the Association had only 64 subscriptions. This compared to 111 subscriptions at the AGM last year. The most likely explanation was the absence of a newsletter, to which the Chairman would return later. Almost all subscriptions were full members, i.e. people who live or work in the Wick, with a negligible number of associate members from outside the Wick. The Chairman welcomed as a new member Export and General Insurance Services, based in Wickham House, who had made a small gift available to members this evening of a collapsible portable drinking glass.

In terms of events in 2016/17, the Chairman began with the very first Friends of the Library event – a very successful exhibition and talk by Dr Chris French on the history of the Cricket Club. This was the first of a number of Friends' events which the Chairman would mention in his report.

This had been followed as usual by Chestnut Sunday. The Association had its customary display of old photographs of the Wick. New members had been recruited

and Ray Elmitt's and Paul Barnfield's history books had been on sale. Chestnut Sunday will be on 14 May this year. Shortly after Chestnut Sunday, the Fish and Chips Quiz Night had been held in the Cricket Club and had been another successful event.

June had seen more activity by the Friends of the Library – the unveiling of the restored Queen Victoria memorial outside the Library – achieved through the Association working in partnership with the Council and Richmond Housing Partnership. The ceremony had coincided with a display of wildlife photographs by Caz Buckingham. The Friends had also turned their attention to other areas around the Library and had started to hold garden working parties on Sunday mornings at the end of the month. The next would be on 26 March 2017.

The Chairman referred to what he had said last year about the absence of funding for the Hampton Wick Festival event which the Association had run three times. In its absence, the Association had worked with St John's Church and the Friends of the Kings Field to hold a Big Picnic on 12 June 2016 to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. Although the weather had started off damp, there had been live music, pony rides, and an amazing mural provided by our friends at Visual Impact. Pistachios in the Park had run a barbecue and sold their delicious ice cream. Particular thanks were given to Mario Marczuk of Pistachios and Helen Leighton of St John's. It was hoped that, in the continued absence of funding for the Festival, a similar event could be repeated this year.

Moving into the Autumn, September had seen the Association organise one of Ray Elmitt's famous history walks. This had been followed by the Remembrance Sunday Service and its parade, organised by St John's, with the support of, amongst others, Tom Furber at The Foresters. It was, as always, very well attended and a moving experience. Particular thanks were given to Chris Drayson who did a lot throughout the year to maintain the War Memorial Gardens and who this year had been instrumental in getting new railings installed.

In December, the Association had got some Christmas trees up in the High Street again. This was no mean achievement given the very small budget the Association had to work with and the Committee continued to think about what to do in this regard. The Christmas carols evening had run very smoothly. We had had fine weather, and, once again, members of the Fulham Brass Band had provided the accompaniment. Andy Courtney had again provided some magical transport for Father Christmas in the form of his magnificent 1926 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost and thanks were due also to Sion Tudor Owen who was intimately acquainted with Santa. Chris Drayson had been Santa's little helper and organised presents for the children. Thanks were given to all of them and to everyone else who had helped on the night: Nick Baylis, Jenny Bourne, Mark Buckley, Carol Dukes, David Harnden, Mehi Nabe, Bob Patton, David Rees, Catherine van den Broek and Fraser Wilson.

The Association had supported a Christmas craft fair held by St John's and organised by Deborah Miller. The Association had had a book stand which showcased local authors, including David Lindsley, a long-standing member present in the audience tonight.

2017 had got off to a quiet start but there promised to be an excellent talk on 5 April on the life of R C Sherriff by Roland Wales, who had written a newly published biography. Another Fish and Chip Quiz was also in planning.

The Chairman moved onto campaigns. He had already mentioned the restoration of the Queen Victoria memorial and the new railing for the War Memorial Gardens. The Association had also been campaigning to improve Christmas Square/St John's Place. It had succeeded in having some badly positioned cycle hoops moved but the target remained the unloved BT phone box in the centre of what is the nearest thing we have to a village square.

There had also been a brief campaign to establish a direct bus to Richmond following the 65 bus being diverted in the summer of 2016. Unfortunately, this had met with opposition from the other side of the river and Transport for London had made it clear that it was a non-starter.

Things on the planning front had been quiet but the Association continued to monitor developments, including those planned on the Kingston side of the river.

The Chairman mentioned that Hampton Wick had entered this year's Village in Bloom competition. Chris Drayson was leading on that and we hoped that it would at least encourage more blooms in the Wick.

Finally, the Chairman mentioned communications. The Association's excellent website (and many other excellent websites including Hampton Wick Remembers) and the e-mail news service were down to Carol Dukes and Mark Buckley. Thanks were given to them.

Following last year's meeting, no paper newsletters had been produced, although the Association continued to maintain its three notice boards. The idea of a Yearbook – mentioned at last year's meeting – remained an ambition but involved a lot of work. Given that membership levels were low, the Chairman said that we might well revert to producing some paper newsletters later in the year – but help in producing these would be welcome.

Treasurer's Report

Carol Dukes introduced the accounts. She said that both income and expenditure were lower in the past year as we had not organised a festival. There was again a deficit but it was lower than in the previous year. Because of the way invoices were presented we had to pay for two lots of Christmas lights, one for 2016 and one for 2015. We had funds of just over £6,000 with around £1,860 in the current account and almost £4,000 in the savings account, which was again untouched during the financial year. The Town Centre Opportunities Fund was very helpful in paying for various aspects of the running of the association but we needed more members. The insurance payment looks high but this is mainly for public liability which was essential for events. The fact that we had public liability also enabled us to partner others as lead organisers. We were looking at what to do about the Christmas lights as these were a constant problem.

Ring-fenced within the accounts are the funds for the Friends of Hampton Wick Library. At present there is a balance of just over £325 on these funds.

Account details are:

	Lloyds	NS&I	PayPal
Opening balances	£3,323.38	£3,922.48	£ 80.12
Income during the year	£4,522.95	£ 23.57	£112.46

Expenditure during the year	<u>£5,979.35</u>		
Closing balances	£1,866.98	£3,946.05	£192.58
Total cash position	<u>£6,005.61</u>		
Deficit for the year (exclusive of # below)	£ 1,320.37		
Friends of HW Library funds#	£ 116.25 (brought forward)		
Income taken in 2016	£ 919.08		
Expenditure in 2016	£ 709.28		
Balance	£ 326.05		

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Annie Stephens, seconded by Chris Drayson, and approved by the meeting.

Report and Adoption of independent examiner

David Harnden reported his satisfaction with the accounts. He agreed to be proposed as independent examiner for the accounts for the forthcoming year and this was proposed by Jem Negus, seconded by Jenny Bourne, and approved by the meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Resignations:

David Rees had already stood down from the committee. All other members were presenting themselves for re-election.

Elections:

Jenny Bourne proposed and Chris Drayson seconded Mark Merrington to continue as Chair. He was elected by a unanimous show of hands.

David Harnden nominated Carol Dukes as Treasurer and Catherine van den Broek seconded. Fraser Wilson was nominated as Secretary by Mark Buckley and seconded by Chris Drayson. They too were elected unanimously by the meeting.

The other Committee members offering to continue (Nick Baylis, Jenny Bourne, Catherine van den Broek, Mark Buckley, Mahi Nabe, and Bob Patten) were nominated by Annie Stephens, seconded by Jem Negus and also elected unanimously.

The Chairman said that he was happy to continue for the present but, now after five years, would be happy to hand over the post in due course. He also said that there were vacancies on the committee and volunteers to fill these would be welcome.

Any Other Business

David Lindsley noted the Chairman's comments on communication and suggested that "Next door" might be a useful website on which to publicise the work of the

Association and also for people to network locally. It was pointed out by others, however, that “next door” is a commercial website and that it might be prudent to be careful with the type of information to be given to it.

Iain Burgess said that he had represented the Association on FANG and HACAN (a lobbying group for those affected by aircraft overflights). He had tried to find out whether he should still represent the Association at meetings or should speak as an individual. The Chairman asked him to speak as an individual as the Association had no policy on Heathrow Airport. The Committee had different views on it.

Tony Arbour thanked the Chairman and the committee for their work. He said that without the Association Hampton Wick might have been subsumed into Teddington or Kingston. He was regularly contacted by the Committee on issues of interest to Hampton Wick and fortunately many of these were easy to resolve. There was applause from the meeting.

Vicky Elmitt said that a “guerrilla gardener” had planted flowers at the foot of the steps down from Kingston Bridge and these now put on a beautiful show. She suggested that a photograph of them might be included in the newsletter.

Jeroen van den Broek asked whether there was anything new on Crossrail 2. The Chairman said that the Committee were not aware of anything but they would be keeping an eye out for any new information.

The Chairman asked members to contact him with any good ideas for the Association and drew the meeting to a close at 9.20pm with thanks to all for attending.

Signed **Date**