

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTY SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE HAMPTON WICK ASSOCIATION  
HELD AT BULLEN HALL, HAMPTON WICK  
on Thursday 4 April 2019 at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

CHAIRMAN	Mark Merrington
TREASURER	Carol Dukes
SECRETARY	Fraser Wilson

and other members, including committee members, totalling 30.

Apologies: Chris Drayson, Jenny Bourne, Catherine van den Broek, Mehi Nabe, Elizabeth Foster, Irmeli Selim, David and Jane Harnden.

The start of the meeting was delayed by just over half an hour because the keyholder did not turn up to open the hall. When access was achieved, the Chairman opened the formal meeting by welcoming everyone.

**Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 56<sup>th</sup> AGM were proposed for acceptance by Iain Burgess and seconded by Nick Baylis before being approved by the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

Carol Dukes reported on the accounts. She said that the report showed that the Association had made a surplus of £1,609.13, however, because of late invoicing, this did not include the cost of £1,500 for the Christmas lights. The actual result therefore was just slightly ahead of breakeven. The 2017 income and expenditure figures were artificially increased by £2,000, which was two contributions from the Gosling Foundation to Richmond in Bloom. They mistakenly paid this into the HWA account for onward payment. This did not happen in 2018 but occurred again in 2019 and will therefore appear in the 2019 accounts. The Treasurer has been in touch with the Foundation again to try to stop this happening in the future.

The main sources of funding were Grants from LBRuT (totalling £3,500) and HWA memberships and donations (£794.82).

The main items of expenditure were on Christmas lights and the carols event (£153 but £1,500 will fall in the 2019 accounts), the printed newsletter and delivery (£587.25), insurance (£486.85) and the email news and alerts system (£195.38).

Account details are:

	Lloyds	NS&I	PayPal
Opening balances	£3,120.46	£3,964.65	£381.91
Income during the year	£4,715.91	£ 28.75	£176.36
Expenditure during the year	<u>£3,311.89</u>		
Closing balances	£4,524.48	£3,993.40	£558.27
Surplus for the year	£ 1,609.13		

Total closing cash position £9,076.15

The above figure includes £862.62 held on behalf of the Friends of Hampton Wick Library, a sub-group of the HWA.

Friends of HW Library funds	£ 450.82 (brought forward)
Income taken in 2018	£ 411.80 (memberships, donations, events)
HWA contribution from LBRuT grant	<u>£ 742.78</u>
Expenses during 2018	<u>£ 742.78</u>
Balance	£ 862.62

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Steve Collins, seconded by Tom Merrington, and approved by the meeting.

### **Report and Adoption of independent examiner**

David Harnden was thanked, in his absence, for his work as independent examiner for the accounts and was proposed for this task again for the coming year by Carol Dukes. This was seconded by Alison Merrington and approved by the meeting.

### **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman said that he would cover the work of the Association for the past year in the form of a description of a meeting of the Committee. These are quite informal and take place in a pub, at present the Lion, but the normal procedures of agenda, minutes etc are followed.

The first new item is usually on businesses in Hampton Wick. And, on this, the committee are launching a campaign in the coming week on "Shop Local". The existing Hampton Wick Business Directory will be refreshed. This includes not just the businesses on the High Street but also the "hidden" ones with businesses and offices elsewhere. This is usually followed by a report by the Treasurer on the accounts and then by the Chairman on membership. This stands at 101 subscriptions at present representing around 200 people. In the previous year subscriptions went up to about 160 and it is expected to rise this year when a paper newsletter issues as this usually reminds people to renew their membership.

After this there is a discussion on local information, for example a report on the health of the "Christmas" yew tree. When appropriate issues arise the committee often involve our local councillors. There are now 3 new councillors and their useful input so far was greatly welcomed. Thanks were also due to Tony Arbour who, over many years, provided great support to the Association.

Then planning issues are discussed and Nick Baylis is the committee member responsible for this. In the past year the redevelopment of The Firs and of Orione House have been issues for the committee. Also Udney Park Gardens, although, given its location, the Teddington Society have taken the lead on that. Members quite often approach the committee about proposed developments and these are then considered as to whether it is something a position needs to be taken on.

The HWA's marketing, website, and communications are then looked at. There is usually one paper newsletter a year and lots of email news as well as the website being kept up to date.

The activities of the Friends of the Library are considered. In the past year there was a garden party, Christmas story telling for children, and talks on Normansfield, on the First World War in 1918 by Alison Merrington, and by Peter Morpurgo, the former producer of the BBC's Sky at Night. There were also exhibitions on Spring, Normansfield, and Space. And, thanks to some keen volunteers, gardening around the library. The Friends have put forward a plan for Bullen Hall to make it more useful and convenient. This is dependent on Council financing from a fund created from payments for community projects from developers of commercial projects. Talks have been held with the Council and have progressed well with bidding for the funding to be around the end of May.

Among the events discussed in the year were Chestnut Sunday, to be held on 12 May this year, the Hampton Wick Big Picnic, 23 June this year, Remembrance Sunday, the Christmas lights and tree and the carols event, and the AGM. There had been a plan for the fish and chips/quiz in the Autumn but not enough committee members were available at the time. It is hoped that it might take place in the coming Autumn.

A wide range of other issues are then usually discussed, for example campaigns. This included the renovation of street signs and an attempt to get more trees planted by the Council.

That covered much the work of the committee in the past year.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

All committee members were presenting themselves for re-election.

### **Elections:**

Carol Dukes proposed and Iain Burgess seconded Mark Merrington to continue as Chair. He was elected unanimously.

Nick Baylis nominated Carol Dukes as Treasurer and Fraser Wilson seconded. Steve Collins nominated Fraser Wilson as Secretary and this was seconded by Jeroen Vonk. 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 and Mehi Nabe) were nominated by Jeroen Vonk, seconded by Alison Merrington, and also elected unanimously.

### **Associate Membership**

This was raised at the previous year's AGM. There is only a small number of Associate Members (people who do not live or work in Hampton Wick) and a change to the constitution to remove the difference between these and full members was considered. It was thought however that the reason for creating this status may recur and that it was right that only those who lived or worked in Hampton Wick should have a say in issues that would impact upon them. This was agreed by the majority at the meeting without a formal vote.

### **Any Other Business**

The poor state of the “Christmas” yew tree was raised. The Chairman said that the Association and the Council were in touch over this, with it having been examined by the Council’s tree officer. It looked likely to need to be replaced. Action will be taken as soon as possible.

Dark street furniture was raised as a problem particularly to those with poor eyesight. Better illumination may be helpful. A recent walk around by a Council officer responsible for visual impairment issues had shown quite a few hazards. The committee will organise an audit of street furniture with a view to raising this with the Council and, perhaps, private owners of objects on or adjacent to the pavement.

The under-use of the library garden was raised. Library users are now being encouraged to make greater use of it in good weather.

There was a complaint about the railway station again becoming a bit scruffy. Councillor Robin Brown said that a Friends group had succeeded in getting some improvements, including better drainage, and panels on the tunnel walls. A good number of people have signed up to the petition for lifts to be installed and it was now on the radar for getting funding for this.

With no further issues to be discussed, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

**Signed .....**      **Date .....**