

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTY NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE HAMPTON WICK ASSOCIATION
HELD AT BULLEN HALL, HAMPTON WICK
on Tuesday 22 March 2022 at 7.30pm**

Present:

CHAIRMAN	Mark Merrington
TREASURER	Carol Dukes
SECRETARY	Fraser Wilson

and other members, including committee members, totalling 36.

Apologies: Chris Drayson, Catherine van den Broek, John Previte, Councillor Robin Brown, Councillor Petra Fleming, and Councillor Jim Millard.

The Chairman welcomed those attending and pointed out that this year was the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Association. To mark this a logo had been produced for the year and he thanked Jem Negus for designing this.

Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 58th AGM were proposed for acceptance by Alison Merrington and seconded by Nick Baylis before being approved unanimously by the meeting.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman read his report as follows:

Given the circumstances, I am keeping this report short but I'd like to start by thanking Fraser, our Secretary, for everything he does, not least keeping this meeting on track.

In terms of membership, the Association is in a healthy state. As at this moment, there are around 170 memberships that will be current as at 31 March. Each membership is for a household and so can comprise a number of individuals.

In terms of Association activity, it goes without saying that many of the events that would usually feature in Hampton Wick's calendar didn't happen in 2021/22. We held the bare bones of the Association AGM on line. Chestnut Sunday was cancelled. The Christmas carols evening was cancelled at the eleventh hour (although we did get the Christmas lights up). The Committee have continued to meet on a monthly basis by Zoom and, more recently in person. And one or two events did happen, all of which we supported: the businesses organised a Village Fair in the summer; the Remembrance Sunday event took place pretty much as normal and St Johns had their Christmas Fair before the onset of Omicron.

In terms of future events, whilst Chestnut Sunday was again cancelled, there would be activity around the Queen's Jubilee weekend. The Hampton Wick Big Picnic would

take place on the Kings Field on 5 June 2022. It was hoped also that the High Street traders would organise a Village Fete on 4 June 2022 outside the Foresters Arms.

In terms of campaigns, we did see Shaws Path finally resurfaced by the Council and improvements to the lighting – though the installation of new lighting columns happened after the resurfacing. The works to put that right remain outstanding.

Our biggest project continued to be the refurbishment of the Bullen Hall. Unsurprisingly, the pandemic delayed the scheduled works, but these did begin last year. Unfortunately, they are still not finally completed which is a cause of frustration to all of us and we hope that this will be remedied very soon now. I want to thank, Mark, Carol and Nick for all their efforts though in making this happen.

Planning has also raised more than a few issue this year, ably handle by Nick in the main. The redevelopment of The Firs in Church Grove has caused much concern. Whilst many of us were never keen on the proposed development, changes have been introduced as the development has gone along which seemed to be being waved through. That these changes are properly considered – and developers and the planning authority held to account – is particularly important in the context of our second issue – the proposed redevelopment of Kingston Bridge House. No one doubts that KBH is a site for redevelopment – but it must be done “right”. And all this matters because of the continuous threat of new developments on the other side of the river in Kingston, much of it so tall that it can be seen from Bushy Park.

One thing that really has kept us going through the pandemic is our communications. Through our websites, e-mail news, targeted e-mails and Twitter account. As well as electronic communication, we have made use of our three noticeboards and have produced two paper newsletters/magazines this year. These are always well received and we hope to produce another of these in the near future. All the comms stuff is down to Mark and Carol, with thanks also to all who supply articles for the magazine, particularly Jenny Bourne for her wildlife features.

It remains only for me to thank all of you for coming tonight, members of the associations for continuing to support the Association, all the members of committee for their help and contribution throughout this difficult year and our ward Councillors for their help.

Treasurer’s Report

Carol Dukes reported on the accounts. They are in a healthy position with a surplus of £605.59. The main sources of funding were Grants from LBRuT for Christmas lights and for community work (mainly used for communications) under the Town Centre Opportunity Grant (totalling £3,500) and HWA memberships and donations (£1,820). The main items of expenditure were on Christmas lights and the carols event (£2,332 of which £670 will fall in the 2022 accounts), also £520 from the 2020 supply of lights. Unfortunately the carols event had to be cancelled at the very last minute for Covid reasons and some costs were non-refundable. The net deficit to the HWA, after £1,500 funding, for Christmas 2021 was £833. Other items were the printed newsletters and delivery (£1,312), insurance (£574) and a new public address system and microphone (£644). The Friends of HW Library expenditure was £288.

Account details are:

	Lloyds	PayPal	NS&I
Opening balances	£4,529.63	£ 192.09	£4,054.33
Income during the year	£4,110.00	£1,785.50	£ 0.41
Transfers PayPal to Lloyds	<u>£1,300.00</u>	<u>- £1,300.00</u>	<u>£ 0</u>
	£5,410.00	£ 485.50	£ 0.41
Total income during the year	£5,895.91		
Expenditure during the year	<u>£5,290.32</u>		
Total surplus/deficit	£ 605.59 surplus		
Closing balances	£4,649.31	£ 677.59	£4,054.74
<u>Total cash position</u>	<u>£9381.64</u>		

The above figure includes £1,109.62 held on behalf of the Friends of Hampton Wick Library, a sub-group of the HWA.

Friends of HW Library funds	£ 1,094.62 (brought forward)
Income taken in 2021 events)	£ 15.00 (memberships, donations,
HWA contribution from LBRuT grant	<u>£ 287.80</u>
Expenses during 2021	<u>£ 287.80</u>
Balance	£ 1,109.62

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Iain Burgess, seconded by Jane Harnden, and approved unanimously by the meeting.

Report and Adoption of independent examiner

David Harnden was thanked for his work as independent examiner for the accounts and was proposed for this task again for the coming year by Fraser Wilson. This was seconded by Jenny Bourne and approved unanimously by the meeting.

Election of Officers

As all committee members were presenting themselves for re-election and no-one else had been proposed there was, under the terms of the Constitution, no need for an election.

The Committee is therefore made up by:

Mark Merrington, Chairman
Carol Dukes, Treasurer
Fraser Wilson, Secretary
Nick Baylis
Jenny Bourne,
Catherine van den Broek
Mark Buckley

Any Other Business

The tarmac laying on Shaw's Path was welcomed but it was noted that the fence panels had not been replaced after being taken down. This appears to be the responsibility of Richmond Housing Partnership. Mark Merrington undertook to find out when this work will be done.

The loss of the dancing studio was regretted. Planning permission has now been given for it to be turned into 4 flats.

The extent to which the Council will promote the use of Bullen Hall was raised. Carol Dukes thought that the decrease in the hiring cost and the new booking system will make hiring it out easier. The Association will try to inform people about it.

The HWA was thanked for the good that it does for the community.

Traffic noise on the High Street and Sandy Lane, particularly from motor bikes, was raised. It seems that a noise camera is being tested in some London boroughs and it might be worthwhile trying to get this in Hampton Wick.

A Library Book Club is held at 5 to 6pm on the last Wednesday of each month and new members were welcome.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed **Date**