

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE HAMPTON WICK ASSOCIATION
HELD AT BULLEN HALL, HAMPTON WICK
on Tuesday 22 March 2023 at 7.30pm**

Present:

CHAIRMAN	Mark Merrington
TREASURER	Carol Dukes
SECRETARY	Fraser Wilson

and other members, including committee members, totalling 45.

Apologies: Councillor Robin Brown, David Harnden, Robin Henagulph, Karen Saywell, Pandi and Mike Stepan, and Annie Stephens.

The Chairman welcomed those attending and commented on the good turnout.

Minutes of the 59th Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 59th AGM were proposed for acceptance by Chris Drayson and seconded by Jenny Bourne and approved. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman read his report as follows:

I'm keeping this report relatively short but I'd like to start, as usual, by thanking Fraser, our Secretary, for everything he does, not least keeping this meeting on track.

In terms of membership, this remains steady. As at this moment, there are around 169 memberships that will be current at 31 March – almost exactly the same as last year. Each membership is for a household and so can comprise a number of individuals.

In terms of Association activity, we had a much better year as we came out of the pandemic:

- Our AGM took place, of course, and looked like this evening's – except with beer rather than cheese.
- Chestnut Sunday – an event with which the Association has strong historic links – continued to be cancelled, however and remains cancelled this year. The Royal Parks have promised that there will be an event in 2024 but probably different from pre-pandemic events. We will keep an eye on those plans.
- The Big Picnic in the King's Field went ahead last year and we hope that it will happen again this year on 11 June.

- We held two quizzes this year – one with the Councillors and Council officers to launch the reopening of the refurbished Bullen Hall. This of course was the culmination of what has been a big project for the Association largely driven by Mark Buckley, Carol Dukes and Nick Baylis who worked tirelessly with Councillors and Council officers to complete a project which was nearly derailed by the pandemic.
- Our second quiz in the Autumn was our usual one where teams competed to win the Hampton Wick milk bottle and sampled delicious food provided by Eleana's Bistro.
- The Remembrance Sunday procession and service went ahead as usual. HWA organised the road closures and organised marshalling – with particular thanks due to Carol, Fraser, Jem Negus and all those who volunteered (or were commandeered!) to marshal.
- The Christmas Carols evening went ahead in freezing weather and we got Christmas lights up once again. The lights were all due to the efforts of Mark Buckley and the task is not without challenges. For the Carols event, particular thanks are due to Fraser as our MC, to Jem Negus for helping Carol, Mark and I set up, to Carol again for organising the brass band and to Jenny Bourne and Catherine van den Broek for children's story telling at the Library.
- The Committee have continued to meet on a monthly basis and in person.
- We have welcomed Andrea Okos to our Committee meetings. Andrea, who runs Whole Health Harmony on the High Street, has stepped forward to lead the Business Network and it is very helpful for us to have a focal point for local businesses. The Business Network was also responsible for the successful Village Fete held in June last year outside the Foresters around the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The biggest development this year is the Council's project looking at improving the area around the Foresters and Sigma Sport – the closest thing we have to a village square. The Association was instrumental in kick starting this and you can read more about this in our new magazine. Thanks again to Mark and Carol for all their work on that. One immediate and positive development (too late for the magazine) is that the phone box is in the process of being removed, the necessary planning consent having now been granted.

Planning has continued to raise more than a few issues this year, always ably handled by Nick Baylis. I won't go into details as much is set out in the new magazine but the main thing that we continue to watch is Kingston Bridge House.

Speaking of the magazine, thanks must go to Mark and Carol who pull this together for us. We produced our last magazine just after the last AGM and have managed to sneak this one in just before this one – so I'm going to say that's two a year.

In addition to that we have maintained our websites, e-mail news, targeted e-mails and Twitter account. As well as electronic communication, we have made use of our three notice boards. All the Comms stuff is down to Mark and Carol, with thanks also to all who supply articles for the magazine, particularly Nick Baylis for his planning articles and 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 the year and our ward Councillors for their help.

A vote of thanks was proposed for Mark Merrington to applause from the meeting. His family too were thanked for their input.

Treasurer's Report

Carol Dukes reported on the account as follows.

“The Association is in reasonable health with the single biggest funding source being membership dues. There were also two grants from Richmond Council. The Christmas trees and lights are a major expense.

	Lloyds	PayPal	NS&I
Opening balances	£4,649.31	£ 677.59	£ 4,054.74
Incomings during the year	£4,375.34	£ 2,383.77	£ 3.77
Transfers from PayPal to Lloyds	£2,750.00	-£ 2,750.00	
	£7,125.34	- £ 366.23	£ 3.77
Total Income during the year			£ 6,762.88
Expenditure during the year	£6,085.89		£ 6,085.89
Total Surplus/Deficit			£ 676.99
Closing balances	£5,688.76	£ 311.36	£4,058.51
Total cash position			£10,058.63
Friends of HW Library funds held in above			£ 1,109.62
Significant sources of income			
LBRuT Grant for Christmas lights		£1,500	
LBRuT Town Centre Opportunity Grant		£2,000	
Membership subs and donations		£2,267	
Income from events		£ 967	
Sales of commemorative map posters		£ 375	
Significant items of expenditure			
Christmas lights 2021		£ 670	
Christmas lights and carols event 2022		£2,333 (of which £1,080 will show in 2023 accounts)	

Insurance	£ 609
Printed newsletters and delivery	£ 530 (print only, delivery was by volunteers this year)
Events	£1,283 (2 x quiz nights, Big Picnic)
60 th Anniversary commemorative map	£1,232 (distributed free to every home in Hampton Wick, includes £500 for map artwork design)
Friends of HW Library	£ 133 (garden expenses)

Christmas

As ever, some Christmas expenses fall across the year end and this year's accounts include £670 of costs for 2021 Christmas. The major cost was the provision of trees with lights up and down the High Street (£1,640 this year). This year our Christmas festivities included a Family Gathering and Story Time with refreshments at Bullen Hall in addition to the usual brass band/carol singing/Father Christmas event in the village. The net deficit for the HWA, after £1,500 of Council funding, for Christmas funding 2022 was £697.

Friends of Hampton Wick Library

Brought forward	£1,109.62
Income taken in 2021	£ 10.00 (memberships, donations, events takings)
HWA contribution from LBRuT TCO Grant	£ 173.46
Expenses during 2021	£ 183.46
Balance	£1,109.62

Thanks to David Harnden for checking the accounts.”

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Jenny Bourne, seconded by Howard Cook, and approved unanimously by the meeting.

Report and Adoption of independent examiner

David Harnden was proposed for this task again for the coming year by Edward Norton. This was approved, subject to his acceptance.

Election of Officers

As committee members were presenting themselves for re-election and only one additional person, Andrea Okos, 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
Andrea Okos

Any Other Business

Concern was expressed, particularly over parking, about the plans for Park Road and St John's Place. It would be important to ensure that the cycle path proposed for Park Road was properly planned and that there was real consultation for both schemes. Mark Merrington said that the HWA had not been aware of the potential loss of 2 parking bays and was opposed to this. There seemed to be no need for it. It was pointed out that moving them to the other side of the road would be detrimental to the purpose of the current layout which was designed to reduce speeding. As was mentioned, there was a need to take a holistic approach on Park Road given the forthcoming consultation on the Village Centre improvement plan. The Association was neutral over the two-way cycling plan but consultation was essential on this and other related issues. The Council has assured that there will be.

Traffic on Park Road has been bad with two recent accidents resulting in damage to cars. It was argued that the camera that had been in the road had been removed and should be replaced. Mark Merrington said that he encouraged people to talk to their Councillors about this. He would also feed back views to them.

The sorry state of the "Christmas tree" in St John's Place was deplored. The Association have had many discussions with Richmond Council about this and it is an issue that is being looked at.

There was encouragement to use the Library which provides excellent facilities. On Bullen Hall there was a complaint that trying to book it for an event was difficult as no-one seemed to answer the Council's contact 'phone for this. Carol Dukes said she would raise this with the appropriate officials.

The possible change of name of Cobbler's Walk in Bushy Park was raised. This seemed to be aimed at doing away with the memory of Timothy Bennett, the historical campaigning cobbler of Hampton Wick. The name change, however, seems to have been reversed.

The closure of the driving route through Bushy Park was raised, being seen by some as terrible. This has now been made permanent.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed **Date**