

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE HAMPTON WICK ASSOCIATION
HELD AT BULLEN HALL, HAMPTON WICK
on Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 7.30pm**

Present:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| CHAIRMAN | Mark Merrington |
| TREASURER | Carol Dukes |
| ACTING SECRETARY | Mark Buckley |

and other members, including committee members, totalling 36.

Apologies: Fraser Wilson (Secretary, Jane Harnden, Robin Henagulph

The Chairman welcomed those attending.

Minutes of the 60th (2023) Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 60th AGM were proposed for acceptance by Nick Baylis and seconded by Peter Holland and approved unanimously. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman read his report as follows:

The Chair began by welcoming members and recording apologies from Robin Henagulph, Jane Harnden and Fraser Wilson. The Chair thanked Mark Buckley, for acting as Secretary in Fraser's absence and took the opportunity to thank him and Carol Dukes for everything that they do for the Association.

In terms of membership numbers, these remain healthy, with around 190 memberships – higher than last year. Each membership is for a household and so can comprise a number of individuals.

In terms of Association events:

- The AGM had taken place in March 2023 but with a cheese rather than wine tasting.
- Chestnut Sunday – an event with which the Association has strong historic links – continued to be cancelled, despite the Royal Parks have promising that there would be an event in 2024. Friends of Bushy and Home Parks (FBHP) had indicated that they would be encouraging picnicking and the Association will keep an eye on those plans.

- The Big Picnic in the King's Field went ahead last year and had been a successful event. Current thinking was to rest the event this year but to have a different event in the Summer with details to be announced.
- The annual quiz had taken place in the Autumn: teams had 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. The Association had organised the road closures and organised marshalling – with particular thanks due to Carol Dukes, Fraser Wilson and all those who volunteered (or were commandeered!) to marshal.
- The Christmas Carols evening went ahead, with Christmas lights up once again on the High Street. The lights were all due to the efforts of Mark Buckley and the task is not without challenges. For the Carols event, particular thanks were due to Fraser Wilson as MC, to Jem Negus for helping Carol Dukes, Mark Buckley and the Chair 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, with mulled wine and mince pies dispensed by Margaret O'Connor.
- The Committee had continued to meet as usual on a monthly basis, in person and in Bullen Hall.

In terms of campaigns:

- In 2023, the Association had welcomed the setting up of the Hampton Wick Business Network with Andrea Okos of Whole Harmony on the High Street as its chair. For good reasons, Andrea had had to step down and, after a brief period where the former landlord of The Swan, Rupert Gibbons, was chair, the Network now had no chair. The Chair recognised the importance of Hampton Wick businesses having a voice and hoped for progress in this area.
- The proposed improvements to the area around The Foresters were now firmly in the hands of the Council and its consultants. With the local elections looming, consultation was likely to be in May when everyone would have an opportunity to have their say. If the plans were welcomed, the Council would still need to find funding.
- Planning has continued to raise more than a few issues this year, always ably handled by Nick Baylis to whom thanks were given. Much would be set out in the Association's next magazine but the main things had been Kingston Bridge House (which now has permission) and the various applications relating to Kelly's Dance Studios in Park Road and its conversion into residential accommodation.

In relation to the magazine, special thanks were given to Mark Buckley and Carol Dukes who pull this together. The last magazine had been in October and a new one was about to be issued – so around two a year. A key change was that the magazine now has adverts, limited to local businesses. These helped pay for the magazine and had also stimulated the interest of businesses in the Association, with more business members as a result.

In addition, the Association had maintained its websites, e-mail news, targeted e-mails and Twitter account. As well as electronic communications, the Association continued to make use of its three notice boards. Most of this was again down to Mark Buckley and Carol Dukes. Thanks were also due to all who supply articles for the magazine, particularly Nick Baylis for his planning pieces and Jenny Bourne for her wildlife features.

The Chair concluded by thanking everyone for attending, all members for continuing to support the Association, all committee members for their help and contributions throughout the year and the ward Councillors for their assistance.

Before the elections, the Chair outlined arrangements going forward, given that after more than 10 years, he had decided to stand down as Chair.

Fraser Wilson, the Association's Secretary, had agreed to be Chair on an acting basis. Mark Buckley would take over from Fraser as Secretary, again on an acting basis. The outgoing Chair had agreed to be Vice-Chair (an unfilled post for many years).

In addition, there some new people were standing as committee members: Margaret O'Connor (who had been very active in terms of practical help over the past year), Annie Murray (who would be known to many for her previous roles in relation to FBHP), Dave Rees (again well-known to many and a former member of the committee).

Treasurer's Report

Carol Dukes reported on the accounts as follows.

| | Lloyds | PayPal | NS&I | |
|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Opening balances | £ 5,688.76 | £ 311.36 | £ 4,058.51 | |
| Incomings during the year | £ 4,988.08 | £ 2,505.33 | £ 31.40 | |
| Transfers from PayPal to Lloyds | £ 2,050.00 | -£ 2,050.00 | | |
| | £ 7,038.08 | £ 455.33 | £ 31.40 | |
| Total Income during the year | | | | £ 7,524.81 |
| Expenditure during the year | £ 7,984.79 | | | |
| Expenditure pending payment (see note) | £ 820.00 | | | £ 8,804.79 |
| Total Surplus / deficit | | | | -£1,279.98 |
| Closing balances | £ 4,742.05 | £ 766.69 | £ 4,089.91 | £ 9,598.65 |
| Less pending payment | | | | -£ 820.00 |
| Total cash position | | | | £ 8,778.65 |
| Friends of HWJ Library funds held in above | | | | £ 966.94 |

Significant sources of income

LBRuT Grant for Xmas lights £ 1,500

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------|
| LBRuT Town Centre Opportunity Grant | £ | 2,000 |
| Membership subs and donations | £ | 2,147 |
| Income from HWA events | £ | 937 |
| Advertising in Magazine | £ | 600 |
| Sales of Commemorative map posters | £ | 435 |

Significant items of expenditure

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------|--|
| Christmas lights, & carols event 2023 | £ | 3,469 | (of which £1,410 will show in 2024 accounts) |
| Printed newsletters & delivery | £ | 1,564 | (2 x magazines, delivery by volunteers) |
| HWA Events | £ | 1,256 | (Quiz Night, AGM, Volunteer evening, Library exhibition preview) |
| Big Picnic expenses | £ | 672 | |
| Insurance | £ | 637 | |
| Friends of HW Library | £ | 143 | (garden & volunteer expenses) |

Christmas

As ever, some Xmas expenses fall across the year end and this year's accounts include £1,080 of costs for 2022 Xmas.

An invoice for £820 in respect of Xmas 2022 is still under review, so has not been paid but we have provisioned for it in 2023.

Xmas 2023 the major cost was the provision of trees with lights up and down the High Street (£2,300 this year). The lights are battery powered and require replacement batteries each year.

In addition, some lights had to be replaced and new ones purchased for the tree in the village centre.

The carol-singing booklets had to be renewed this year. We pay Richmond Brass Band £200 towards attendance costs.

Net deficit to the HWA, after £1500 of council funding, for Xmas 2023 was £1,968.97.

Friends of Hampton Wick Library

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|----------|-----------------|
| | £ | 1,109.62 | brought forward |
| Expenses during 2023 | £ | 142.68 | |
| | £ | 966.94 | balance |

With thanks to David Harnden for checking the accounts.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Catherine van den Broek, seconded by Karen Saywell, 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 Jenny Bourne and seconded by Carol Dukes. This was approved unanimously.

Election of Officers

Mark Merrington resigned as Chairman. Fraser Wilson had agreed to stand as Chair. He was proposed by David Harnden and seconded by Peter Holland. The meeting voted unanimously to elect him as Chairman.

Mark Merrington stood as Vice Chair. He was proposed by Maria McManus and seconded by Peter Holland. The meeting voted unanimously to elect him as Vice Chair.

In the absence of Fraser Wilson, Mark Merrington then re-took the chair for the meeting in his role as Vice Chair.

Carol Dukes stood for re-election as Treasurer. She was proposed by Jenny Bourne and seconded by Debbie Marfleet. The meeting voted unanimously to elect her as Treasurer.

Mark Buckley stood for election as Secretary. He was proposed by Jem Negus and seconded by Peter Holland. The meeting voted unanimously to elect him as Secretary.

Following a discussion, the meeting agreed to vote for the incoming committee en bloc. The following committee members were proposed by Jem Negus and seconded by Steve Collins:

Nick Baylis
Jenny Bourne
Catherine van den Broek
Annie Murray
Margaret O'Connor
Dave Rees
Liz Tapp

It was suggested that the Association publish on its website a list of those standing for the committee in advance of the next AGM.

Any Other Business

Maria McManus commented on the sorry state of the small Christmas tree outside The Foresters and Sigma Sport. Mark Merrington explained that any plans to improve the planting in that area, including the Christmas tree, were subject to the wider proposals for improvements to the village centre.

Steve Collins asked if the Association had links with the Teddington Society or other local amenity groups for the purpose of sharing information and ideas, for instance the Open Garden Day run by the Teddington Society. Mark Merrington confirmed that the Association maintained good links with the Society.

Jenny Bourne reported that there is now a Teddington Horticultural Society.

Councillor Petra Fleming reported that in Wimbledon there is an annual Window Wonderland competition for windows decorated for Christmas.

Councillor Jim Millard thanked Mark Merrington for his years of service as Chair and also thanked the Association in general for being such an active community group.

On behalf of the committee and members of the HWA, Carol Dukes thanked Mark Merrington for his eleven years of chairmanship. The contribution of the entire Merrington family was also noted. She presented Mark with a framed Black HWA Lifetime Membership card as a token of appreciation.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed **Date**