

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STRAWBERRY HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION , HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL 2016 AT STRAWBERRY HILL GOLF CLUB

PRESENT

Chairman	Bruce Duff
Secretary	Pam Crisp
Treasurer	Cathy Bird
Committee members	Teresa Read, Mike Allsop, Charles Owens, Lyndon Law, David Cornwell Gill Litherland
Ward Councillor	Clare Head, David Marlow
Residents	20+ present

APOLOGIES

Committee members	Peter Lamb (Vice-chair), Julia Fiehn, Claire Tomlins
Residents	Mike and Clare Phelps

Bruce Duff welcomed everyone to the 51st AGM of the association. Minutes of last year's AGM, 22 April 2015, were approved. This was proposed by Susan Duff, seconded by Charles Owens and residents voted in favour.

Chairman's report – Bruce Duff

Bruce announced that, after 12 years as a committee member with the last 10 years as chairman, he was now resigning from the committee.

He outlined a few highlights from his time as a committee member including:

- his first carol event in December 2004
- the celebration of 40 years of SHRA in 2005 with a £1,000 donation to the restoration of Strawberry Hill House
- SHRA awarded a Civic Pride grant in 2006 to landscape the garden at the station platform 2 entrance. Eugene Bacot steps down as Chair.
- In 2007 SHRA presented a £300 cheque to Kinnear House from the Christmas event donations
- SHRA helped to get a zebra crossing installed at the Waldegrave Road/Cross Deep junction in 2008
- In 2009 Young's Brewery proposed changing the name of the Pope's Grotto pub to the Alexander. SHRA helped to persuade them to make it the Alexander Pope hotel to continue the association with its former neighbour
- In 2011 Churchill Homes rebuilt Gifford Lodge and in 2013 Clare Phelps resigned after many years as Secretary. Strawberry Hill station celebrated 140 years in the village
- The Patels celebrated 30 years in the Post Office in 2014 and MKG embarked on redeveloping their premises
- Robert Youngs resigned from the committee in 2015. Robert and Eugene had been responsible for developing the Bulletin to its current form.
- Finally, in 2015 SHRA celebrated its Golden Anniversary with a Brass Band concert, pony rides and picnic in Radnor Gardens. A memorial sundial will soon mark the occasion.

Bruce concluded by thanking the many past members of the committee who have contributed to SHRA's success.

Cllr Head asked Bruce about the placement of the sundial. Bruce said there was a plan in place to locate the sundial in the position of the current planter near MKG. This area will be redeveloped by Stefan as part of the final phase of improvement to his premises. Stefan circulated plans of his proposed designs.

Treasurers Report – Cathy Bird

Cathy thanked John Naish for verifying the accounts. She said that SHRA remains in good financial health and noted that income and expenditure were similar to previous years though the final balance is less as money was spent on the Jubilee picnic. The income looks to have increased but we received £1,000 in grants from LBRuT including a £500 donation to the 50th anniversary celebration. Cathy thanked residents for continuing to pay subscriptions.

A resident asked a question about the legal fees reserve. Cathy said that this has been reduced as it has not been used for some time. The reserve dates back to the origin of the association which was formed to oppose a proposal to run a main road through the centre of the village.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Clare Head and seconded by Colm O'Keeffe. Residents voted in favour.

Election of SHRA committee

Election of David Cornwell as chairman, Peter Lamb as Vice Chairman, Pam Crisp as Secretary, Cathy Bird as Treasurer and Mike Allsop, Julia Fiehn, Lyndon Law, Gill Litherland, Charles Owens, Teresa Read and Claire Tomlins as committee members was proposed by June Collins and seconded by Vikram Bhatia. This was agreed by residents and David Cornwell then chaired the rest of the meeting.

Mike Allsop proposed a vote of thanks to Bruce for all his hard work on behalf of SHRA over the last 12 years and David presented him with a gift from the association.

Proposed amendments to the constitution

David outlined propose changes which update the constitution and bring it into line with current practice. Agreement was proposed by Bruce Duff and seconded by Charles Owens. All voted in favour.

Thanks to Bulletin distributors

David thanked all the distributors who had been specifically invited to the meeting. He said it would not be possible to continue with the distribution of the bulletin without their invaluable support.

Any other business

Clare Head (in her capacity as chair of the Friends of Radnor Gardens) drew residents' attention to the new café in Radnor Gardens.

June Collins described the parking difficulties residents in Tower Road are experiencing. She asked if it would be possible to change the times of the restrictions. Cllr Mearlow said that a change of times may not need full consultation. Vikram Bhatia commented about the danger of speeding cars particularly in Waldegrave Road.

Mike Allsop outline the role of SHRA in monitoring planning applications that involve demolitions, building on vacant plots or any other major development. SHRA have objected to three applications in the last three years. All these were refused permission.

Charles Owens who is the Safer Neighbourhoods co-chair is now the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. He said that there is overwhelming support for 20mph speed restrictions. Road safety is a priority for the area.

The meeting closed at 8:15 pm.