

MINUTES OF THE STRAWBERRY HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 5 MARCH 2025 at THE ALEXANDER POPE

PRESENT: Andrew Miller, Pam Crisp, June Collins, John Tjaardstra, Mary Hughes, Mike Allsop, Dany Mooney, Fiona Maxwell, Jonathan Bayliss, Cllr Bennett.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest: Apologies Peter Lamb, Louisa Carradine, Sam Kamleh. No declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: agreed and Andrew signed a copy.

3. Matters arising: There was no further news on the re-planting of a tree in the bed at the junction of Tower Road and Waldegrave Road (small tree now planted). June will raise the issue of the outcome of criminal proceedings following the stabbing at Strawberry Hill station at the next PLG meeting. John is continuing to approach businesses for sponsorship for the Anniversary picnic. St Mary's University have agreed to contribute £100. Pam has completed the nomination of Louisa as a Community Champion.

4. Councillor's update: Cllr Bennett outlined the budget challenges faced by the Council but said that grant funding had been applied for whenever possible and the budget was in surplus. Funding of adult social care is a particular issue and this pressure will increase as the population ages.

5. Chair's issues: Andrew said that he wanted to mark June Turner's death formally at the meeting. Fiona had planned to interview June prior to the Association's 60th anniversary as she had been a founder member and vice chair. Andrew will write an obituary for June which will be included in the next Bulletin. Pam attended a memorial tea at June's family home as June did not want a formal funeral. The lease for the café in Radnor Gardens has still not been signed but some progress has been made on preparation of the building. Lot 56 has been the subject of two attempted burglaries. The owners would like to install shutters and have asked SHRA if they would support a planning application for this. The committee agreed to support this but members hoped that, in return, Lot 56 would agree to improve the visual image of the property. The agreed date for the SHRA AGM is 1 May and it will be marketed again as a 'social evening with AGM attached'. June will finalise the arrangements with the Golf Club. Andrew will mark the Association's 60th anniversary with a review of the period. Andrew said he had met the Vice-Chancellor and his deputy at St Mary's University and been given a tour of the new E-Sports Arena which is dedicated to gaming and coding. They also discussed the School of Medicine which is due to open in September. This will be housed in a new building which will replace the old sports hall and will initially accommodate overseas students only.

6. Treasurer's report: June circulated the latest report and confirmed that a cheque has been sent for the charity donation from the collection at the Carols in the Village event.

Treasurer's Report, 5/03/2025 (Up to 12th January 2025)

Deposit Account:

Signed

Date

Balance at the time of the last meeting on 06/11/2024	£4,115.93
Current balance including interest:	
Current Account:	
Balance at the time of the last meeting on 15/01/2025	£4,572.41
 Add income:	
Subscriptions:	£120
Total Income:	£120
 Deduct Expenditure:	
London Forum	£19
CWCS rapid SSL digital certificate	£70.80
Total Expenditure:	£89.80
Net cash increase / (decrease)	£30.20
Balance today:	£4602.61

Subscriptions/Donations Breakdown

13/01/2025	10.00
16/01/2025	5.00
23/01/2025	10.00
27/01/2025	10.00
	10.00
	30.00
03/02/2025	25.00
10/02/2025	20.00

7. Bulletin 185: Andrew thanked those who had responded to the draft and asked for any other comments to be sent by Friday.

8. Strawberry Hill Summer Picnic: Andrew met with Zoe Colbeck the director of Strawberry Hill House to discuss arrangements for the picnic on 29 June. The picnic will be a joint venture to celebrate the Association's 60th anniversary and 15 years since the re-opening of the House to the public. The House will manage ticketing and promotion as part of their events programme and will receive money from ticket sales. Andrew has approached Jolly Julie and the Richmond Brass band. Andrew, Dany and Pam will liaise with the House over arrangements.

Signed

Date

9. Planning: Mike said that temporary tree preservation orders have been placed on the three trees in Strawberry Hill Road. The application for 265 Waldegrave Road has been rejected on the basis that the plans represented over-development and would result in overlooking of neighbouring properties. The application for the music block at St Catherine's is still pending. SMU's application for the School of Medicine has received only one objection. No decision has been made on the 16 Strawberry Hill Road application. Mike outlined some of the changes to national planning guidelines and noted that there is reference to development on Green Belt but not Metropolitan Open Land. He also mentioned that the new Infrastructure Bill once enacted would make it more difficult to resist applications for infrastructure such as phone masts.

10. SHRA website update: Andrew and Pam have met with a web developer (Paul Timmins) to discuss an upgrade of the website. He has submitted a proposal to upgrade the site using the existing software and platform for a cost of £500. For an additional annual fee of £95 he will manage software updates and provide analytics on website usage. The committee agreed that Andrew and Pam should proceed with this proposal.

11. Tower Road Plot: The small plot of land behind the SHRA planter on Tower Road was originally developed by SHRA. The committee agreed to a proposal to remove the existing large tree and redevelop the plot. Louisa has organised a site visit by a representative from Habitats & Heritage and Jonathan has agreed to project manage any proposal that emerges.

12. Any other business: Dany asked if would be possible to start committee meetings earlier. It was agreed that we would start the next meeting at 7pm.

Date of next meeting: 14 May 2025 – St Mary's University

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

Signed

Date