

MINUTES OF THE STRAWBERRY HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

MEETING, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2019

PRESENT: David Cornwell, Andrew Miller, Mike Allsop, Peter Lamb, Julia Fiehn, Teresa Read, Jeremy Thomas, Cllr Mike Butlin, Cllr Richard Bennett

1. Apologies for absence: Siobhan Oktay, Cathy Bird, Pam Crisp, June Collins

Remembrance: The Committee stood in one minute's silence in memory of the former Chairman, Bruce Duff.

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

3. Matters arising: The cheque for SPEAR has now been cashed. The St Katherine's School planning application has been refused and appealed.

4. SMU liaison group: Since the last meeting Mike had raised the issue of trees and David had sent a letter to the SMU Estates Director asking for tree reduction and trimming to be undertaken in winter months. This issue was also raised with the Council. As yet there was no response from SMU. Governing Body minutes are still not being posted on the SMU website despite publication being a requirement under model standards for universities. Mike's written request for the minutes was refused saying that the public would be given a summary in arrears. Mike wrote again quoting a clause under the Freedom of Information Act lodging an appeal with SMU. In an incident on Friday 13th September two students were seen breaking a bottle in Waldegrave Road and were confronted by a member of the Committee on SMU premises. After a telephone call SMU promised to investigate. It was agreed that a 'high level' message needed to be sent out from SMU to students, probably from the Vice Chancellor, about the University's responsibility to the community.

5. Councillors' update: Cllr Butlin noted that Rochester House has no refuse area which is why the bins are in Strawberry Hill footpath. He undertook to see officers at York House to see when a meeting with the landlords of Rochester House could be arranged to sort out the continuing problem of overflowing bins in the footpath. Teresa said that the officers (Street Scene section) had done excellent work in clearing eyesores in Pope's Avenue. The issue of the recycling site at Wellesley Parade/Pope's Avenue was also raised. David Cornwell asked if there was any reason why it could not be removed. Cllr Butlin said that he would investigate whether there were nearby apartments that relied on the recycling centre before any decisions were made about closure.

6. Christmas event 13 December: It was agreed that this was an appropriate date for the Christmas event. Cathy Bird has reported that the LBRuT Christmas grant of £500 has been received. The Treasurer needs to know the dates when the tree will be erected and removed in order to arrange the insurance. Julia reported that Liam from Joseph Owen hairdresser in the Village had requested that the location of the tree and the event be moved to near the SHRA planter. Liam has organised for the various retailers in the Village to display Christmas trees this year. The view of the Committee was that the location in front of Wellesley Parade was still the best place to hold the Christmas event. It was noted that a replacement would be needed to provide mulled wine and it was thought that Tony of Peggy's Pantry and Liam of Joseph Owen should be approached to see if they could step up. It was also thought that the

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Date

charge of £480 for the tree was too much and that a cheaper alternative supplier should be sought – Paul Cooper of King Street and Bruce Lyon of Crusader Travel were mentioned.

7. Planning: Mike Allsop reported that the Ajanta development at Pope's Avenue was still under assessment. He also reported that there was an application for a large extension at 29 Pope's Grove, a building of townscape merit. He said that he would monitor objections from residents before deciding on any response from SHRA.

8. Bulletin 171: Julia submitted a paper which outlined a new approach to the publication of the Bulletin which aims to save money.

By October 18th – all copy to be sent to Julia (suggested content was listed).

By November 5th – Julia and Andrew will attempt to lay out the copy using the Affinity Publisher programme (Robert Youngs has offered some training). However, we will probably need to continue to use the existing designer, Stuart, for this issue. By Spring 2020 we do hope to be able to take on the design and layout. That would also be the time to seek to reduce print costs.

By November 6th – at the Committee meeting on that date colleagues would see the laid out version and no major layout revisions will be possible (to reduce time and costs).

By November 12th – Bulletin will go to print to allow two weeks' delivery.

Between November 26th and December 3rd – Bulletins distributed.

Mike Allsop urged that good relations should be maintained with the existing printer as they were doing a good job and had shown reliability. It was agreed that the next Streetwise article would feature a piece by Peter Lamb on Waldegrave Road. Julia raised the issue of an obituary for Jennifer Malcolm of Waldegrave Gardens and David agreed to talk to Mike Phelps about any recollections of her role in SHRA. It was noted that Strawberry Hill House was hosting an art exhibition by Teddington artists on 28 September.

Mike raised the issue of the loss of two Bulletin lead distributors, Bruce Duff and Joe Brett. Jeremy Thomas agreed to take over Joe Brett's distribution – Mike to brief Jeremy. Mike will also contact Roger Woodhouse (an existing distributor) from 3 Pope's Grove about becoming a lead distributor.

9. Bulletin advertising: Julia anticipates the usual five advertisers plus Joseph Owen and possibly Peggy's Pantry.

11: Treasurer's report: 18 September 2019

(Statement 272, 12 September 2019)

Deposit Account:

Balance at the time of the last meeting on 6 March 2019	£4,569.75
Balance today	£4,572.05

Current Account:

Balance at the time of the last meeting on 6 March 2019	£1,389.68
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Add income:

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Subscriptions & donations	£263.00
Fortescue Park	£500.00
House history	£40.00
Book sales	£75.00
BRuT	£500.00
Total income	£1378.00
Deduct expenditure:	
Printing	£655.00
Donation to SPEAR	£100.00
Total expenditure	£755.00
Net cash increase / (decrease)	£623.00
Balance today	<u>£2,012.68</u>

Cathy reported that a comparison with last year shows that subscriptions are down about £500 from the same time last year. By last September SHRA had £1,857 in subs, this year only £1,353.

12. Group subscriptions and income generation: It was noted that there should be another 'push' for subscriptions in the next Bulletin. Teresa again suggested that a £1 per month standing order was a possible solution.

12. Any other business: Peter Lamb raised the issue of the late night moped drivers and some discussion ensued. Cllr Bennett noted that the 20mph limit had been introduced in Kew and Richmond and was being introduced in Hampton. It was noted that the new policy may be ineffective without an enforcement strategy. It was noted that the next Council 'Strawberry Hill Conversation' was being held at Waldegrave Girls School on 15th October. It was noted that SHRA had been asked to recommend a builder in the area – David made it clear that this was not the role of SHRA and that they should be referred to Next Door which had such recommendations. Jeremy Thomas raised the issue of damage to the gates of Strawberry Hill House and how this could be avoided – David agreed to discuss with Nick Dolan. Cllr Butlin asked the views of the Committee about Radnor Gardens Café as he had been getting some negative comments from residents. The Committee gave individual comments and it was noted that there was concern over unreliable opening times and that the hoped-for role of the café staff in fostering a local community spirit had not yet happened.

13. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6 November 2019 at 6:30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Signed

Date