



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STRAWBERRY HILL
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2022 AT 7.30pm
STRAWBERRY HILL GOLF CLUB**

PRESENT

Chairman	David Cornwell
Secretary	Pam Crisp
Treasurer	June Collins
Committee members	Mike Allsop Richard Hudspith Peter Lamb Sharon Willoughby Zoe Prindiville
Residents	35 present

APOLOGIES

Vice-chairman	Andrew Miller
Committee members	Louisa Carradine, Sam Kamleh

David Cornwell welcomed everyone to the AGM of SHRA and said he was delighted to see so many people in attendance.

Approval of the minutes of the last AGM, 29 September 2021 proposed by Richard Hudspith and seconded by Sue Youngs. The proposal was agreed.

Chairman's report – David Cornwell

David noted local events and outlined SHRA's activities since the last meeting.

- He said that the Christmas carol event organised by the Association in December 2021 had been a great success. It was good to see so many young families with children helping to decorate the tree. Once again musical accompaniment was provided by members of the Richmond Brass Band and David thanked them and the committee members who organised the event.
- The ongoing problems associated with the recycling centre on Pope's Avenue continue and committee members have met with council officers and elected representatives in an attempt to resolve the situation. The council had agreed to remove two of the can/bottle bins but just this week two additional ones have appeared. We will continue our efforts in an attempt to resolve this.
- The on-line version of the Bulletin is proving a success and David thanked Andrew Miller for his work on the content with the support of Peter Lamb.
- The Association plan to hold a plant/seed swap on Saturday 21 May at 80 Pope's Grove.

- Finally, David said that the committee would like to recruit new members and asked anyone who was interested to get in touch.

Comments on the chairman's report were invited.

A question was asked about the financial viability of the Association given the drop in income over the last couple of years. The treasurer said that we no longer receive a £500 donation from Fortescue Park which has impacted the subscription total but, despite this, the subscriptions had been maintained to a reasonable level in 2021. In the short term this was acceptable as we were no longer paying for the printing of a paper Bulletin, however we do need to increase the level of subscription income and will continue to work on this. A member asked if the Bulletin was available on the website and the secretary confirmed that it was.

Treasurer's Report

June Collins thanked John Naish for verifying the accounts. She also thanked residents who have subscribed to the Association and St Mary's University for the provision of a meeting room for the committee and for printing the paperwork for the AGM. She then went through the accounts explaining any variances between the financial years. Following the decision by HSBC to start charging charities for their bank accounts the SHRA account has now been moved to NatWest and members who have standing orders have been informed of the change. The accounts were agreed.

Election of SHRA committee

It was proposed that Mike Allsop, Louisa Carradine, June Collins, Pam Crisp, Richard Hudspith, Sam Kamleh, Peter Lamb, Andrew Miller, Zoe Prindiville, and Sharon Willoughby should be nominated to the committee. The following officers were appointed by the committee: Andrew Miller as chair, Pam Crisp as Secretary, June Collins as Treasurer. Retiring from the committee - David Cornwell. The proposal was agreed.

David read a statement from the new chair who was unable to attend due to Covid 19:

'Thank you to all you SHRA supporters for attending the AGM and to my fellow members of the Committee for giving me your support in taking over from David. This is a big act to follow and I am aware of a long list of distinguished people who have taken on this role since 1965. I propose to continue pursuing the objectives of SHRA, as set out in our Constitution, which was revised last year. As ever, we will do our utmost to maintain the character and amenities of Strawberry Hill. I hope we will be able to do more to further a new objective 'to promote community spirit in the area'. This will depend on resources, especially our capacity to recruit more enthusiastic volunteers to the Committee. In the summer we propose to launch an updated edition of Anthony Beccles Willson's *Strawberry Hill: A history of the neighbourhood* as part of our support for history and heritage. We will work closely with whichever Councillors are chosen by electors next week, on issues that affect the residents of Strawberry Hill. We will continue to develop our database to try to connect with as many Strawberry Hill households as possible with the three-times-a-year e-Bulletin – working with local residents' groups, and Street What's App & email groups. We will continue to work closely with important partners such as the University and Strawberry Hill House. We will implement plans across key areas of our community work including on improving the local environment. The SHRA Committee will continue to work as a committed team of local volunteers. I am pleased to be taking on the role but am aware that I still have a lot to learn.'

Any Other Business

Peter Lamb proposed a vote of thanks to David Cornwell on his retirement as Chairman of the Association.

A member asked if any street parties were planned for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Parties are planned for Radnor Road, Spencer Road and Clive Road.

A question was asked about SHRA's involvement with the old station building. The buildings are owned by Network Rail and we are not aware of any development plans. The Association has supported a village plan for Strawberry Hill but to date this has not been progressed.

The recycling site is seen as an on-going problem and we were urged to keep up the pressure. In response to comments about street cleaning and grass verge cutting schedules, these are available on the council web-site.

A member commented that is frustrating that the level crossing gates close three minutes before the train arrives which causes pollution and inconvenience to pedestrians. This will be followed up with the train operator along with the frustration caused by the eight coach trains stopping a long way down the platform.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.