

MINUTES OF THE STRAWBERRY HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2023

PRESENT: Andrew Miller, Pam Crisp, June Collins, Mary Hughes, Julia Fiehn, Louisa Carradine, Peter Lamb, Richard Hudspith, Sharon Willoughby, Cllr Bennett,

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest: Apologies: Mike Allsop, Robin Moran, Zoe Prindiville, Sam Kamleh, John Tjaardstra, Cathy Bird, Siobhan Oktay, Cllr Lee. No declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: agreed with an amendment to the wording in item 8.

3. Matters arising: None.

4. Local issues: Mary said she had written to the MP and ward councillors about the complete lack of trains from Strawberry Hill station between 19 December and 9 January. She is yet to receive a response. No prior warning was given and there has been no explanation for the lack of service. This has had a huge impact, particularly on businesses in the village. Cllr Bennett said that following the strikes only 40% of services were running because of an overtime ban. Some stations and the loop lines were closed completely. No information had been given to councillors by South Western Railway and there has been no customer care. Sharon commented that the level crossing gates are closed for too long and this is adding to pollution from idling cars. In response to a question from Andrew Cllr Bennett said he had not received any feedback from the traffic survey yet.

5. Chair's issues: SHRA boundary. Andrew circulated a paper and asked members to read it in advance of a discussion at the next meeting. The paper discusses the arguments for widening the boundary of Strawberry Hill to include the Golf Course grounds and two primary schools: St James's and Archdeacon Cambridge's School. Andrew said that although the Heathlands Industrial Estate was in Strawberry Hill, as far as he was aware, SHRA had not engaged with the businesses there in the past but should in the future. The AGM will be held on 26 April at the Golf Club. It was felt we should have an added element (in the absence of a burning issue to attract residents) such as music or an invited speaker e.g. the MP or someone from the Thames Landscape Strategy.

6. Treasurer's report: 18th January 2023 (Up to 12th January: Statements 22-26))

Deposit Account:

Balance at the time of the last meeting on 2 nd November, 2022	£4,003.70
Current balance including interest:	£4,008.63

Current Account:

Balance at the time of the last meeting on 2 nd November, 2022	£1271.03
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Add income:

Subscriptions	£258.00
Bulletin delivery	£6.00
Christmas sponsorship	£225.00
Donations Carol singing	£162.20

Signed

Date

Book sales	£335.50
Grants LBRuT	£620.00
Total income	£1606.70
Deduct Expenditure:	
EDP Lighting Christmas Tree(2021)	£62.51
Andrew Miller(Part Payment S.H. History book printing costs)	£147.25
Pam Crisp – postage and Carol singing refreshments	£102.50
J. Collins-purchase 2 flasks for wine and 2 for squash	£91.97
A. Sparks Electrical- testing of RCD of lamppost	£180.00
Thames Landscaping- Christmas tree	£660.00
Richmond Brass band attendance at carol singing	£40.00
Total expenditure	£1284.23
Net cash increase / (decrease)	£322.47
Balance today:	£1593.50

Subscriptions/Donations Breakdown

23/11/2022	60
05/12/2022	25
09/12/2022	10
16/12/2022	20
30/12/2022	10
03/01/2023	30
04/01/2023	5
06/01/2023	10
09/01/2023	5
10/01/2023	73
12/01/2023	10

Andrew thanked June for her work on the accounts. June said the balance has improved mainly because of John's work in gaining sponsorship for the Christmas event. Referring to the annual accounts she said we have one debtor – Open Book in Richmond. June will follow this up. The subscription level is lower than last year but we have more standing orders. The history book print cost was £647 and we have sold £668 worth to date. Christmas expenses were higher as we had to invest £92 in containers for mulled wine and pay for an electrical survey for the lights. The Public Liability insurance now covers us for all events.

7. Events: Julia referred to the evaluation of the Carol singing event in concluding that it was a success with 80 – 90 people and 5 musicians attending. Sponsorship covered most of the cost. Cathy had suggested we use the British Legion as a venue for a 'Fish and Chip supper' with a talk about local history by Peter and Andrew. It was confirmed that the Legion had approved this and Andrew agreed to make contact to sort out details. The Big Family Picnic will be held on 25 June. Ticket cost will need to be agreed and it is hoped we can attract some sponsorship. A paper was circulated setting out a provisional account for the event with estimated total costs of £620 and a sponsorship target dependent on the final price of tickets.

Signed

Date

It was agreed that we should aim for a full audience of 250 in 2023. A sponsorship target of £450 was proposed. Cathy and Julia will bring a proposal to the next meeting.

8. Big Litter Pick: Andrew circulated a paper on the arrangements for the Big Litter Pick on 1 April from 9-11am. An alternative name for the Big Litter Pick was the 'Strawberry Hill Spring Clean' which was favoured by the committee. He hoped committee members would 'lead' picking in their nearby roads. The attached table puts the names of committee members who have supported the Saturday litter picks against streets. Louisa and Andrew plan to recruit residents to support committee members so that there are 'teams' for each street. It was also proposed that a separate pick takes place for Radnor Gardens from 10-11am on the Sunday 2 April. Again, it was hoped that this will be supported by as many litter-picker committee members as possible.

9. Planning report: Mike (via email) said there was nothing new to report. He will contact the council re the property on Pope's Avenue to confirm their agreement to the planter arrangement.

10: Website revisions: Robin was unable to attend the meeting because of train delays. Andrew said that it would be helpful if the revisions could be completed by the time of the AGM in April.

11. Bulletin 179: Andrew circulated a list of draft contents. Sharon offered to write a piece on COP15 and Strawberry Hill. Peter offered to write a history piece for the 'History & Heritage' section. Andrew would still like to recruit someone else to work on editing the bulletin. The bulletin provided an opportunity to include some of the Heathlands Industrial Estate businesses within the Business Pages. June agreed to attend the Police Liaison Group meeting on 23 January, in order to write the 'crime report'

12. Any other business: Louisa raised the issue of flooding in Strawberry Hill Road caused by blocked gullies. A resident has asked her to raise this with SHRA as he has not been able to get any satisfactory action from the council. Cllr Bennett said there was only one gully-clearance machine in use across the whole council area. Sharon said she would contact Sue Youngs who is planning to map areas where grass verges have been replaced with tarmac which increases surface water run-off. This would also establish whether this contributed to flooding. Sharon also asked if a group could get together to weed the bed at the bottom of Tower Road, Saturday 1st April at 10am was agreed. Pam suggested SHRA should produce a note which could be put through the letter box of new residents moving into the area. Andrew agreed to work on this.

13. Date of next meeting 1 March 2023 – venue Royal British Legion.

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm

Signed

Date