

MINUTES OF THE STRAWBERRY HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2024

PRESENT: Andrew Miller, Pam Crisp, Mike Allsop, Julia Fiehn, Mary Hughes, Cathy Bird, John Tjaardstra, June Collins, Peter Lamb, Cllr Bennett.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest: Apologies: Louisa Carradine, Sam Kamleh, Siobhan Oktay, Cllr Lee. Richard Hudspith has resigned from the committee. No declarations of interest.

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

3. Matters arising: Mary will continue to try get information about the unfinished work on the fence at the station. Andrew said that proof reading of the updated (5th) version of the SHRA History book will be completed by the end of January. June will raise the issue of graffiti at the next PLG meeting. The recent PLG Zoom meeting was disrupted by hackers. Andrew said that he received a very good response to the thank-you email he sent to the Fortescue Park Residents' Association for their group subscription to SHRA. Richmond Brass Band members have thanked Andrew for the photos and videos he posted of the Remembrance service at Radnor Gardens.

4. Councillor's update: Cllr Bennett said that since he raised concern about the lack of response to the Strawberry Hill traffic survey that was completed in April 2023, a letter has now been sent to residents. He noted that SHRA was name-checked in the letter following the response sent by Andrew to the initial survey. The letter states that more research will be completed before any action is taken. Cllr Bennett said the lease on the café in Radnor Gardens will be taken away from Antipodea as the café has been unilaterally closed in December until late January against the terms of the lease with the Council. Continental Landscapes should be asked to open and close the toilets on the site (Andrew will check that this is happening). Cllr Bennett said the biggest issue the council are facing currently is homelessness. Some new affordable properties are being built in the area.

5. Chair's issues: Andrew referred to the recent tragic incident at Strawberry Hill station. He said not a lot of information had been circulated and that British Transport Police are dealing with it. He had posted a short message on our Facebook page in response to a posting from a resident. Andrew circulated an analysis he has completed on committee meeting attendance. In 2022, attendance was 68%/absence 32% with one of six meetings inquorate. In 2023, attendance was 57%/absence 43% with three meetings inquorate in March, May and September. It was proposed that the September meeting which is usually poorly attended should be moved to October and combined with the November meeting. This was agreed – Andrew/Pam to adjust the annual diary and re-circulate. Following Richard Hudspith's resignation from the committee Cllr Bennett offered to act as the link with the Friends of Twickenham Green. Andrew will contact Robin Moran about her non-attendance and ask if she wishes to continue as a Committee member. Julia Fiehn and Cathy Bird will be leaving the committee following the AGM in April. Andrew said that recent efforts to recruit new members have not been successful which means as things stand the Committee will fall to 9 in April. Andrew said that comments have been made about the poor state of Lot 51 and the disruption to the pavement outside Everyday's. Andrew John and June will visit to review the frontages and plan a course of action. Andrew raised the possibility of holding the AGM in the

Signed

Date

Waldegrave Suite at St Mary's University and making it more of a social event. This was because the Vice Chancellor had already offered himself as a keynote visiting speaker. It was noted that the Waldegrave Suite had been used by SHRA for AGMs in the past. Andrew said he would contact the University to explore this as a possibility.

6. Treasurer's report: June circulated copies of the draft final accounts which have not been audited. Cathy queried the cost of the Christmas tree and June confirmed the amount included lights and electrical testing. John asked if there were plans to spend any of the surplus income. Andrew said the book reprint will cost £500 and we could choose to hold other events, for example, the AGM could become an event as well as a formal meeting.

Treasurer's Report, 17th January, 2024

(Up to 12th January, 2024)

Deposit Account:

Balance at the time of the last meeting on 1 st November, 2023	£4,042.45
Current balance including interest:	£4,057.08

Current Account:

Balance at the time of the last meeting on 1 st November, 2023	£3,185.57
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Add income:

Subscriptions:	£216.00
Bulletin Delivery	£6.00
Donations (Carol singing)	£220.00
Book Sales:	£55.00
Sponsorship (Christmas)	£680.00
LBRuT Grants	£620.00

Total Income:	£1,797
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Deduct Expenditure:

A.Sparks Lamp post testing	£252.00
Refreshments Carol Singing	£93.00
Sponsors' banner Carol Singing	£110.00
Christmas Tree	£660.00
Starter Plan Website	£47.98

Total expenditure:	£1,162.98
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Net cash increase / (decrease)	£634.02
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Balance today:	£3,819.59
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Subscriptions/Donations Breakdown

05/12/2023	20
08/12/2023	50

Signed

Date

27/12/2023	8
29/12/2023	10
02/01/2024	10
03/01/2024	20
04/01/2024	5
08/01/2024	10
10/01/2024	73
12/01/2024	10

7. Carols in the Village: Cathy thanked everyone and said the event had gone very well. A cheque for £220 (thanks to June for topping up the amount to a round figure) will be sent to the mayor's charity from the donations collected on the night. Cathy said that she was still happy to help with the paperwork for Xmas 2024, despite resigning from the committee. Mary, Pam and John said they would help June with the organisation for this year. Andrew said he would undertake the marketing as this year. John was thanked for his work on raising sponsorship for the event.

8. Planning report: Mike said the Cusack Close property has now been clad and a part-green roof has been installed, in line with variations approved by the Council. There is still an issue with the lighting. St Catherine's School has submitted a revised application for a new Music Block. This is now two stories instead of three and addresses most of the issues raised by the Council over the previous application. However, the construction still means 430 lorries travelling down Grotto Road and then potentially exiting onto Pope's Grove. Residents of Cross Deep Gardens have submitted objections. Mike suggested SHRA should send a similar letter to the one sent previously highlighting the fragility of land above Stanhope's Cave and Pope's Grotto. Mike said an application has been submitted for a drainage scheme to address flooding near the bottom of Waldegrave Road and Cross Deep. The plan details the excavation of the bed at the bottom of Tower Road to install containers to hold excess water. Mike will draft a letter of response raising some critical questions.

9. Bulletin 182: Andrew suggested an article on the future of SHRA, a piece on the carol event and something from Strawberry Hill House. He will also write a piece about St James's School and the forthcoming AGM. The Business Pages could also include all/some of John Tjaardstra's business directory.

10. Any other business: John circulated a first draft of the Business Directory that he has been compiling. Members thought it was an excellent initiative. Cathy asked if the University could be approached to see if they had anyone who could help with updating the website. Andrew said that he had met the Director of Commercial & Community at the VC's Xmas community event and he had agreed to ask staff in the Computer Science Department whether they or a student might be interested in helping us to build a new website/update our current website.

Date of next meeting: 6 March 2024

The meeting closed at 9:05pm

Signed

Date