



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STRAWBERRY HILL
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2023 AT 7.30pm
STRAWBERRY HILL GOLF CLUB**

PRESENT

Chair	Andrew Miller
Secretary	Pam Crisp
Treasurer	June Collins
Committee members	Mike Allsop Julia Fiehn Richard Hudspith Peter Lamb Louisa Carradine Sam Kamleh Robin Moran John Tjaardstra
Residents	21 present

APOLOGIES

Committee members Cathy Bird, Mary Hughes, Sharon Willoughby, Zoe Prindiville
Residents David Cornwell

Andrew Miller welcomed everyone to the AGM of SHRA and said he was delighted to see so many people in attendance. He also welcomed guest speaker Laura Nee and Councillor Richard Bennett.

Approval of the minutes of the last AGM, 27 April 2022 proposed by Andrew Miller and seconded by Bob Litherland. The proposal was agreed.

Chair's report – Andrew Miller

Andrew highlighted local events and outlined SHRA's activities since the last meeting. He noted that we had a full complement of 15 committee members. Sadly, two are standing down this year – he thanked Zoe Prindiville who has contributed to the bulletin and Sharon Willoughby one of our Environment co-ordinators who maintains the planter in the Village. During his speech, he thanked all Committee members by name, linked to their contribution.

- **Communication:** Andrew outlined our communication strategy since we stopped producing a printed bulletin. This includes the use of individual and group emails and social media to communicate to residents.

- Amenities - litter picks: We now complete monthly litter picks with the support of residents and on 1 April held the first Big Litter Pick of all 42 streets in the area. Overall litter picking has led to 170 hours of volunteering during the year.
- Community spirit: In addition to the annual Carol Singing we held a family picnic in the grounds of Strawberry Hill House. Our first supper talk at the Royal British Legion was well supported and we plan two more of these in 2023.
- Planning: The only major item of concern has been the plan by St Catherine's School to demolish and rebuild their music block. SHRA sent a 'comment' highlighting the possibility of damage to Pope's Grotto and Stanhope's cave caused by numerous heavy vehicles. Planning permission was refused.
- History and Heritage: The updated *Strawberry Hill: a history of the neighbourhood* has proved popular with 220 sold, following a successful launch with Munira Wilson MP at Strawberry Hill House in July 2022. We continue to complete House Histories, street histories and histories of local buildings of interest.
- Business strategy: Our newly appointed Business Co-ordinator, John Tjaardstra, has worked with local organisations to raise awareness of the work of SHRA and we are very grateful for the sponsorship from them we have received for our events. Our strategy is to try to make events self-financing as far as possible.
- Traffic: Mary Hughes our Roads & Transport Co-ordinator has investigated potential station improvements and road problems including pot holes and blocked drains. We have responded to Council initiatives and have submitted an initial response to the recent review of traffic in the area. It is very important that residents respond to the future consultations as the repercussions of proposed changes will be long lasting. Residents were invited to view two posters showing traffic issues and possible interventions in Strawberry Hill.
- Boundaries: We have reviewed the SHRA boundary and propose that the Golf Club and St James and Archdeacon Cambridge's schools are included in the SHRA area. The reasons given for this proposal were set out in Andrew's address.
- Community liaison: We try to have regular contact with other organisations in the area, such as Friends of Radnor Gardens and are particularly grateful to St Mary's University for their continued support.

Comments on the Chair's report were invited.

A resident asked if the same item was always posted on the different forms of social media. The secretary replied that this was the principle behind our strategy but items must be amended to suit the different media, e.g., the limit on the number of characters on Twitter. Another resident asked if we used Next Door. The Chair said this had been used in the past but posts generated many unhelpful comments. We will investigate the possibility of making 'no comment' announcements on the site.

A full transcript of the Chair's report is available on our website [Chair-speech-SHRA-AGM-2023.pdf](#)

Treasurer's Report

June Collins thanked all residents who subscribe to SHRA and encouraged the use of standing orders. She noted that our financial situation is better than last year mainly due to sponsorship from local businesses. Our Christmas event costs have increased significantly and the council grant only covers a small proportion. Reprinting the history book was a major cost but this has now been covered by sales. June thanked John Naish who has verified our accounts again this year,

Election of SHRA committee

It was proposed that Mike Allsop, Louisa Carradine, June Collins, Pam Crisp, Richard Hudspith, Sam Kamleh, Peter Lamb, Andrew Miller, Cathy Bird, Julia Fiehn, Mary Hughes, John Tjaardstra and Robin Moran 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. Resigning from the committee – Zoe Prindiville and Sharon Willoughby. Proposed by Andrew Miller and seconded by Nigel Williams. All voted in favour.

Proposed change to the SHRA boundary

The chair said that he has reviewed the SHRA boundary and proposed that the whole of the Golf Club site and St James's School and Archdeacon Cambridge's School should be included. He has received positive responses from all the organisations and noted that the inclusion of the schools endorses our family-friendly approach, and aim that future events are targeted at families with children. Proposed by Sam Kamleh and seconded by Robin Moran. All voted in favour.

Any Other Business

A resident asked if the Friends of Radnor Gardens was still in existence. SHRA has had minimal contact with them and it was noted that their website has not been updated for some time. However, Habitats & Heritage are now involved with FoRG.

A resident pointed out that the parking spaces outside the Post Office are no longer free for half an hour and are now pay by phone. The parking app is difficult to use and there is no option for cash payment. Richmond cards which allow half an hour free parking can be linked to RingGo accounts.

Andrew declared the formal part of the meeting closed at 8.30 pm and invited Louisa Carradine to introduce Laura Nee, Outreach and Education Officer, Thames Landscape Strategy to talk to residents about the Rewilding Arcadia Project. Residents found Laura's talk very interesting, but somewhat alarming, as it described the potential impact of climate change on the level of the River Thames. It is encouraging that work is being done to try to mitigate the impact.