

MINUTES OF THE STRAWBERRY HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2024 at SMU

PRESENT: Andrew Miller, Pam Crisp, June Collins, Peter Lamb, Mary Hughes, Louisa Carradine, John Tjaardstra, Dany Mooney, Fiona Maxwell, Andrew welcomed Jonathan Bayliss who has expressed an interest in joining the committee and members introduced themselves.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest: Apologies, Mike Allsop, Sam Kamleh, Cllr Bennett. No declarations of interest.

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

3. Matters arising: Dany Mooney will arrange a meeting with her neighbour who may be able to help with the website to enable the Committee to make a cost/benefit decision about changes to the website. Peter is continuing the Stables house history. Cutting of verges is still a point for discussion which Andrew raised via Facebook and in an article in Bulletin 183. He said that the option remained for residents to get the more frequent urban cut by organising a street ballot.

4. Councillor's update: Cllr Bennett sent apologies as he was unable to attend owing to a family emergency.

5. Chair's issues: Andrew said the work on the Strawberry Vale Drainage Scheme at the bottom of Tower Road has been delayed because of the discovery of unexpected utilities underground. Andrew had received messages from nearby residents concerned about potential noise from metal covers but that problem has been avoided. Six bidders were shortlisted for the café in Radnor Gardens and a preferred supplier has been selected the final legal details are being sorted. Dany said the selection process was not been completed solely on commercials and that comments made by SHRA to Cllr. Neden-Watts about the nature of the provision in the café had been noted. Andrew has contacted St James Church and St Catherine's School to raise our concerns about the loss of community assets regarding the handing over of the Hall to the school. He has yet to receive a response. Graham Walker has offered to host a pre-Xmas social event for SHRA committee members and the SHRA Litter Pickers Group. This will be held at 43 Pope's Avenue after the carol event on 6 December. Peter Lamb agreed to update the SHRA What Apps group which could be used for RSVPs to the social as exact numbers are required.

6. Treasurer's report: June noted that we have received the council contribution for the Christmas event. She will circulate an account of expected costs for John's sponsorship work.

Treasurer's Report, 16/10/2024

(Up to 14th October, 2024)

Deposit Account:

Balance at the time of the last meeting on 3rd July, 2024

£4,081.96

Current balance including interest:

£4,101.78

Current Account:

Signed

Date

Balance at the time of the last meeting on 3 rd July, 2024	£2940.82
Add income:	
Subscriptions:	£170
Bulletin advertising	£225
LBRuT Grant for Christmas Event	£500
Total Income:	£895
Deduct Expenditure:	
Purchase of plants for planter	£69.98
Total Expenditure:	£69.98
Net cash increase /(decrease)	£825.02
Balance today:	£3765.84

Subscriptions/Donations Breakdown

02/07/2024	£10
08/07/2024	£10
10/07/2024	£10
15/07/2024	£10
15/07/2024	£5
22/07/2024	£10
23/07/2024	£10
23/07/2024	£10
23/07/2024	£10
23/07/2024	£10
02/08/2024	£10
13/08/2024	£15
27/08/2024	£10
30/08/2024	£10
02/09/2024	£10
16/09/2024	£10
27/09/2024	£10

7. Carols in the Village 6 December: June circulated the planning document and said that she has completed all the initial work. Andrew agreed to meet with John to plan the sponsorship strategy. Details will be finalised at the next meeting in November.

8. Twinning meeting and FoRG report: Dany said the Twinning re-affirmation event will be held on 6 – 8 June 2025. 500 visitors are expected. There could be an opportunity to link with Residents' Associations from the twinned towns. Dany said a monkey puzzle tree will be planted in Radnor Gardens following the removal of the diseased ancient willows. The

Signed

Date

Memorial Gates are being restored and an application has been made for grant funding for restoration of the Bath House.

9. SHRA 1965 – 2025 60th Anniversary events: Andrew said that, so far, the two main ideas to mark the occasion were the SHRA Picnic and a dinner & dance. Dany said that 22 June has been provisionally set for the picnic at Strawberry Hill House. Andrew will be meeting with the new Director, Zoe Colbeck, and Rebecca Leuw (marketing) to discuss collaboration on the event. An alternative event such as a dinner dance in the Waldegrave Suite was also discussed and Andrew promised costings at the next meeting.

10. Planning report: Mike (via email) The St Catherine's Music Rooms demolition and rebuild - the position remains the same as at our May meeting -- the report has been written but no decision has been taken. It seems likely it will go to the Planning Committee.

The application for the demolition of the bungalow at 11 Strawberry Vale (next to Mercury Motors) and the building of 2 x 2.5 story semi-detached houses has been refused. This sought to address the grounds for the rejection of the previous application last year but has failed on several grounds including, very surprisingly, failing to demonstrate that demolition of the existing bungalow was necessary and that sustainability could not be achieved by retaining and refurbishing it. The other main grounds for rejection were safety issues with the proposed vehicular access, the bulk and height of the proposed building being over dominant in the street scene, and the impact on flood management.

An application was submitted in September, validated in October, for the change of use of 16 Strawberry Hill Road (formerly owned by St Mary's University) from use as a student accommodation to a single-family dwelling. No exterior changes are proposed to the building, which is somewhat surprising given the unattractive 1960s extension added to the side of the Victorian villa. Considerable internal work was undertaken earlier this year on the building following its sale by St Mary's, but this ceased during late spring and has not been restarted, presumably awaiting planning approval for the change of use.

11. Bulletin 184: Andrew circulated a list of proposed content which includes a new Arts section. Fiona will interview a local resident who is a playwright and yoga teacher. John will continue to seek advertisers but not for this edition as it cuts across the sponsorship for Carols in the Village.

12. Any other business: Andrew said that Cllr Butlin has asked him to lay a wreath at the Remembrance Parade in Radnor Gardens. This could include interested members of the Committee.

Date of next meeting: 6 November 2024 – The Alexander Pope Hotel

The meeting closed at 9:10pm

Signed

Date