

Wimbledon Common West Residents' Association (WCWRA)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Hotel Du Vin

Monday June 6th 2022

Apologies for absence: Patty Robertson, David Jenkins, Dee & Barry Jones, Ann Peacock and Emma Pope.

Stephen Hammond MP apologised for being detained on parliamentary business.

Chairman's Report

Clive Hilton (CH) gave a review of activities and developments in the area. The newsletter initiated during the pandemic was continuing to be a useful and informative way of communicating with the membership and neighbourhood. The Farmers' Market is to be a permanent addition to the Village, despite having had an uncertain start, thanks to the support of Stephen Hammond and the Chairman.

CH expressed the frustration of the neighbourhood regarding litter and in particular the bin at the junction of The Causeway and West Place, which is continually overflowing with coffee cups. Efforts have been made to solve the problem by requesting more frequent collections and larger bins, but Merton has not yet responded.

Westside Footpath has now been repaired although it is not known how this came about. WCWRA had been making approaches to Merton without success but miraculously the work had been carried out.

AE LTC Proposed Development in Wimbledon Park:

CH encouraged everyone to continue supporting the objections to the proposed 8,000-seat stadium and 38 courts. One of the outcomes of the campaign has been the cooperation within the community and with the Wimbledon Society which has set up on their website a useful guide on how to object to planning applications.

CH concluded by thanking the committee, the management and staff at Hotel Du Vin for hosting the meeting and Robert Holmes and Company for their support. Thanks were extended to Hugh Rance for his time as Treasurer and anyone present who might be interested in taking over the rôle was invited to get in touch. It was agreed the signatories to the bank account would be Andrew Durant, Clive Hilton and Colin Price.

Re-election of the Committee: Consisting of Andrew Durant, Colin Price, Jenny Deane, Anna Hatchard, Carol Andrews, Bryan Barks and Robert Holmes. Proposer Alan Peddar, Secunder Siobhan Powell. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Colin Price reported that there had been a slight increase in net income from £370 the previous year to £377 as a result of increased subscriptions and not having an AGM in 2021 due to Covid. The total amount of funds held currently stands at £5,839.

Annual Subscription

The Chairman pointed out that the subscription, currently £5 per year, had never been increased and that in order to maintain the continued financial health of the Association it would be necessary to increase the subscription to £10.

Proposer Margaret Nuffield, Seconder Wendy Price. Motion carried.

Constitution:

The Committee had recently undertaken the task of reviewing the constitution in light of a number of changes in neighbourhood such as new developments not previously included within the area and the length of tenure of members of the committee. The proposed revisions will be presented at the next AGM.

Fox and Grapes Parklet

CH opened a discussion on the proposal to remove four parking spaces along Camp Road to allow for outside seating for the Fox and Grapes. A number of those attending expressed concerns about the wider problem of traffic coming into the area. CH proposed that there should be a three way meeting between the WCWRA, The Study School and Merton to resolve some of the growing issues on traffic and parking.

Broadband

Several neighbours have approached WCWRA to gauge interest in having high speed fibre optical broadband brought to the area. There was a show of hands to ascertain the level of interest with only a handful of people expressing the desire to pursue this initiative.

Guest Speaker Stephen Bound – CEO Wimbledon and Putney Commons.

Stephen Bound (SB) gave a review of the current situation regarding the running of the Commons. The Masterplan was going to be prioritised with natural habitat, access and signage being the three key initiatives. Stephen encouraged everyone to attend the Open Day on September 11. He said that there would be a consultation regarding the increase in the levy which would ultimately require an Act of Parliament to implement. The Conservators had explored other commercial opportunities and had concluded that a levy increase is only the option that would secure greater financial security. Fund-raising is the other under-exploited area and SB reported that a part-time fund raiser had been appointed.

SB talked through some of the other on-going issues, including litter, grass mowing and the use of deckchairs by the Crooked Billet.