

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STRAWBERRY HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION , HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 9 2014 AT STRAWBERRY HILL GOLF CLUB**

<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>	<b>Chairman</b>	Bruce Duff
	<b>Vice-chairman</b>	Peter Lamb
	<b>Secretary</b>	Pam Crisp
	<b>Treasurer</b>	Cathy Bird
	<b>Committee members</b>	Teresa Read, Eugene Bacot Mike Allsop, Charles Owens, Julia Fiehn, Jackie Rowley, Lyndon Law
	<b>Ward Councillors</b>	Clare Head, David Marlow
	<b>Residents</b>	30+ present

**APOLOGIES**

<b>Committee members</b>	Robert Youngs
<b>Ward Councillors</b>	David Porter

Bruce Duff welcomed everyone to the 49<sup>th</sup> AGM of the association.

Bruce presented a cheque for £200, proceeds of the collection at the SHRA Christmas event to Karen Singleton, Regional Manager, Choice Support and Charan Singh, Manager Roy Kinnear House.

Nicholas Smith, Property Director Strawberry Hill House was then invited to update the group on recent and future developments at the house. Bruce thanked Nick for his very informative presentation.

Minutes of last year's AGM, April 22 2013 were approved. This was proposed by Clare Phelps, seconded by Willie Turner.

**Chairman's report – Bruce Duff**

Bruce noted the positive result achieved by SHRA, following the 2013 AGM, on persuading the council to reverse their decision on the Strawberry Hill village boundary. We were then involved in the 'My Village' event organised by the council where local businesses, charities and residents were invited to meet one another. The SHRA Christmas event was well attended despite the weather and attendees were offered discounted tickets for the Ice Rink at York House. Bruce mentioned the MKG development which includes replacement of the shoe-menders and changes to the garden next to Robinson Design that was partly paid for by SHRA. It is hoped that some of the trees that will be removed will be re-planted on the Golf Course. Bruce then thanked Jackie Rowley who is resigning from the committee and Eugene Bacot who is retiring after 20 years. Bruce also thanked all the Committee members for their contribution during the year.

Bruce invited questions: Clare Phelps expressed concern about changes to the garden that was developed by SHRA. Bruce said that the person who owned the land originally was happy for the development to take place but MKG had now bought the land and it would be used to access the first floor flat that will be built as part of their re-development.

Cllr Marlow proposed thanks to the SHRA committee for the work that they do looking after the Strawberry Hill area.

**Planning:** Mike Allsop then updated members on planning. Mike said that most issues are minor but he will look in more detail at major items e.g. demolition of an existing property or a new build on an undeveloped site like a back garden. Objections from a number of residents may trigger an investigation and we would then make a decision on whether to support. There hasn't been very much activity in the last year. There were no questions for Mike.

Mike also commented on his liaison role with St. Mary's University in which he is supported by Peter Lamb. This involves formal meetings as well as ad hoc ones where issues need to be followed up. St Mary's, which was awarded formal University status earlier this year, is a

significant business in the area. It is intended that this should not impact adversely on residents. The University plans to put more focus on teacher training and post graduate studies which will bring in more mature students. The last year has been quieter in terms of student behaviour. Planting and seed sowing on the land adjoining Waldegrave Road is still an issue. The area has been re-planted and more work will be done this year. Mike is still trying to convince the University to remove some of the notice boards as this has a negative impact on views of the site. Residents have complained about groups of students running on the pavements. Mike will keep raising this as an issue.

### **Treasurers Report – Cathy Bird**

Cathy thanked John Naish for his contribution as SHRA Treasurer for a number of years. John has now moved out of the area.

Cathy said that SHRA is in good financial health as can be seen in the listed income and expenditure. Subscription and donations amounted to over £1,000 and Cathy thanked members. Advertising revenue continues to support printing of the bulletin. Printing is our largest cost but this can be justified as the Bulletin is well received. Donations from LBRuT appear lower as we received an additional grant last year to fund Jubilee celebrations.

Cathy proposed thanks to Carol Ruddock for her first class job in auditing the accounts and recommended her re-election for one more year. This was approved, proposed by Pam Crisp and seconded by Cathy Bird. Carol has indicated that she will be retiring soon and Cathy asked if anyone could let her know if they knew someone else who could perform the audit in future.

### **Election of SHRA committee**

Election of Bruce Duff as chairman, Peter Lamb as Vice Chairman, Pam Crisp as Secretary, Cathy Bird as Treasurer and Mike Allsop, Julia Fiehn, Lyndon Law, Charles Owens, Teresa Read and Robert Youngs as committee members was proposed by June Turner and seconded by June Collins.

### **Any other business**

Clare Phelps raised the issue of traffic and said she thought that some roads in the area were dangerous. Cllr Marlow agreed that some roads were being used as short cuts to avoid traffic delays. Cllr Head asked if Clare had contacted the cabinet member who may be able to help. Charles Owens, who chairs the Safer Neighbourhood Group, said that safety on roads and pavements was a priority for the Police and for the new Safer Neighbourhood Board which started today.

Clare Phelps mentioned TW magazine and asked why this hadn't been used to publicise the AGM. Pam Crisp said SHRA did use the TW Mag to promote the Christmas event but timing was wrong for the AGM.

Eugene Bacot said a few words about his 20 years on the committee. He said that the Bulletin had expanded significantly, carol concerts had started with the Strawberry Hill singers and the Music and Fun Day, now held at Strawberry Hill House had started in Radnor Gardens. The Association is approaching its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and was founded to oppose a plan to drive a major road through Strawberry Hill. The plan was defeated and the Residents' Association continues to protect the character of the village.

Cllr Head thanks Tony Beckles Wilson for his contribution to the window panels in Sainsbury on Twickenham Green.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm