

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STRAWBERRY HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION , HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2015 AT STRAWBERRY HILL GOLF CLUB**

**PRESENT**

<b>Chairman</b>	Bruce Duff
<b>Vice-chairman</b>	Peter Lamb
<b>Acting Secretary</b>	Julia Fiehn
<b>Treasurer</b>	Cathy Bird
<b>Committee members</b>	Teresa Read, Mike Allsop, Charles Owens, Lyndon Law, Robert Youngs, David Cornwell (prospective member)
<b>Ward Councillor</b>	Clare Head
<b>Residents</b>	30+ present

**APOLOGIES**

<b>Committee member</b>	Pam Crisp (Secretary)
<b>Ward Councillor</b>	David Marlow
<b>Residents</b>	Mike and Clare Phelps

Bruce Duff welcomed everyone to the 50<sup>th</sup> AGM of the association.

Bruce presented a cheque for £300, proceeds of the collection at the SHRA Christmas event, to Kevin Cook representing a local charity - the Strawberry Hill Overseas and Community Concern (SHOCC). Kevin thanked SHRA and explained that the charity, established in 1971, supports mostly educational projects in Africa and Guatemala. Recently it has also supported local community charities, and SHOCC would be donating SHRA's gift to Kinnear House.

Minutes of last year's AGM, 9 April 2014, were approved. This was proposed by Robert Youngs, seconded by June Collins.

**Chairman's report – Bruce Duff**

Bruce said that SHRA had been active on a number of fronts in the last year. The popular carol-singing and tree-decorating event attracted over 100 residents and raised £300 for SHOCC. SHRA has given its support to the trustees of Pope's Grotto in their application for lottery funding to clean and restore the site. We continue to keep a watchful eye on proposed developments in the Strawberry Hill area and supported MKG in their quest to replace the old cobbler's shop. We joined forces with friends in Teddington to oppose Heathrow Airport's re-routed take-offs, which increased aircraft noise in the area last September and October. We also got involved in negotiations over the controversial ice rink at Strawberry Hill House, which gained approval from Richmond Council. Bruce thanked the council for continued backing, especially through funding from the Civic Pride fund. The Bulletin continues to be well-received, and thanks are due to Robert Youngs, sadly retiring from the committee this year, for his work on the Golden Jubilee edition, which was also edited by Susan Duff. Although Robert is standing down, we will continue to dip into his encyclopaedic knowledge of Twickenham, and we thank him for his 10 years of involvement with SHRA. Bruce thanked the committee for their work and announced that SHRA would very much welcome new committee members, especially anyone with IT skills. He advertised the forthcoming free Golden Jubilee picnic, and urged residents to come along to Radnor Gardens on the afternoon of 17 May with their families.

**Planning:** Mike Allsop then updated members on planning. SHRA has been involved in four cases this year, in two of which we supported opposition by residents to developments. We were involved in negotiations about the ice rink at Strawberry Hill House, and eventually supported it, subject to noise monitoring by the council.

June Collins asked about the difficulties MKG had faced from the council over their development of the old cobbler's shop. Mike explained that he had spoken to Stefan from MKG, who had received the support of residents, but who may have to make minor changes to satisfy the council that the development is not overly 'residential'. Clare Head offered to speak on MKG's behalf at planning meetings.

Mike also commented on his liaison role with St. Mary's University in which he is supported by Peter Lamb. This involved three formal meetings in the past year. Previous issues had involved student behaviour, but the situation had much improved, due partly to the street patrols provided by the University, which help students recognise their responsibilities. The 'student control officer' had left her post, but was shortly to be replaced. The University has agreed to remove some of the notice boards from the site on Waldegrave Road, opening up views and reducing clutter.

Colum O'Keefe asked about parking facilities for staff and students. Mike agreed that parking is very restricted on the site, but that street parking from the college had reduced from what it was 5-6 years ago. He recommended visiting the Community section of the St Mary's University website, which gives prior notice of events (some open to the public), and therefore of potential increases in traffic. He also advised residents that Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) were the only solution to parking problems, especially those that cover periods from 10.30am – 2.30pm. Clare Head agreed to look into the use of Section 106 money to fund a survey of residents' views of CPZs in the area. Eva Miller mentioned pressure on parking due to the extension of Newland House School.

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

Cathy thanked John Naish for auditing the accounts. She said that SHRA is in good financial health as can be seen in the listed income and expenditure. She noted that income and expenditure were similar to previous years and that most money was spent on the Bulletin and the Christmas event. Cathy recommended that John Naish continue to act as auditor. This was approved, proposed by Charles Owens and seconded by Susan Youngs.

### **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 David Cornwell as committee members was proposed by June Turner and seconded by Jo Brett. David Cornwell briefly introduced himself as a new member and talked about his role as a trustee of Pope's Grotto, which is now on the Historic Buildings at Risk register. New fund-raising is required. He also advertised the forthcoming open days to the Grotto: 6, 13 and 20 June, 10.00am – 1.00pm.

### **Any other business**

Clare Head (in her capacity as chair of the Friends of Radnor Gardens) raised the issue of the two competing developments in Radnor Gardens – a bridge, which could cost £19million and a pontoon and ferry, which she supports, at cheaper cost, to run every day from 7.30am – 6.00pm. She asked people to get in touch with her to give their views.

David Cornwell asked about the café in Radnor Gardens. Clare said that it was now open every day from 9.00am until 6.00pm, being run by a team from Kneller Hall. She announced that when the café is open, the toilet will also be useable, renovated by a grant of £2000 from the Friends of Radnor Gardens.

Bill Reed from Richmond Council Community Links Team spoke about the Village Planning project, which is being introduced in stages. Strawberry Hill will not be involved for another 18 months, but the project will make a positive contribution to the area. It will support initiatives that residents want and protect the area.

Jeremy Thomas thanked the SHRA committee for efforts made on residents' behalf.  
The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.