



## THE WEST CHISWICK & GUNNERSBURY SOCIETY

[www.westchiswickgs.org.uk](http://www.westchiswickgs.org.uk)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Monday 20th February 2023**

*Held in the Age Concern Hall, Oxford Road North, W4*

*7.30pm*

### MINUTES

*(subject to formal adoption at AGM in 2024)*

<b>In Attendance:</b>	Marie Rabouhans	Chairman
	Adam O'Neill	Vice Chairman
	Kate Vicic	Secretary
	Charlotte Aldridge	Treasurer
	Robert Hare	Webmaster
	Paul Hayler	Management Committee
	Don Osborne	Management Committee
	Terry Thorn	Management Committee

together with 18 other Members and residents.

Also in attendance: Councillor Joanna Biddolph

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Marie Rabouhans from the Chair welcomed Members and Councillor to our 21<sup>st</sup> AGM. No apologies were received (possibly due to ongoing email problems).

#### **2. AGM Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous AGM on 21st February 2022 were accepted as a true record and adopted (with one spelling error under item 9 p3 to correct).

#### **3. Public Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the public meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were accepted as a true record and adopted.

#### **4. Matters Arising (not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda)**

None raised.

#### **5. Annual Report and Accounts**

The Chairman thanked the Secretary and the Treasurer for preparing the report. The Treasurer reported that the accounts checker had asked about the lack of items under 'Refreshments'. The Treasurer explained that as we had old stocks it hadn't been necessary to buy more for our public events this year. She also reported that as we now incur bank charges we are considering changing our bank. However, this will not take place for some time, if at all, so that Standing Orders won't be affected. We may integrate both bank accounts so as to only incur one set of charges. The charges are at business rates as we aren't treated as a charity. The bank we currently use also doesn't

make it easy for us to use internet banking, another reason to look elsewhere. The Treasurer thanked Chris Jenks and Richard Vinter for checking the accounts for us.

Veronica Hunt-Lewis proposed and Paul Hayler seconded and the Annual Report including the Accounts was duly adopted.

## **6. Matters Arising from the Annual Report 2022**

None raised.

## **7. Election of Officers and Committee**

All four honorary officers were willing to stand for re-election:

Chairman	Marie Rabouhans	(Silver Crescent)
Vice-Chairman	Adam O'Neill	(Cambridge Road North)
Treasurer	Charlotte Aldridge	(Thorney Hedge Road)
Secretary	Kate Vicic	(Grosvenor Road)

Their joint re-election was proposed by Stephanie Lang, seconded by Jeremy Cuss and they were duly re-elected.

All members of the Management Committee were willing to stand for re-election:

Webmaster	Robert Hare	(Grosvenor Road)
Management Committee	Paul Hayler	(Stile Hall Gardens)
Management Committee	Don Osborne	(Arlington Gardens)
Management Committee	Terry Thorn	(Thorney Hedge Road)

They were proposed by Vivien Yule, seconded by Margaret Vallance and they were duly re-elected.

The Chairman asked for members to consider joining the committee.

## **8. Development and Planning Policy**

- Robert Hare, the Webmaster, showed how the website works to see current planning issues in our area.
- The Chairman explained the concept of 'non-material amendment' and how it could be used to make changes to a development after it had been approved by the borough Planning Committee.
- The Chairman brought up the planning application for **Holly House**. The application went to the Planning Committee in January with a recommendation for approval. The Chairman and Councillor Joanna Biddolph spoke in objection but the application went through by 7 votes to 5. It is now at the GLA for the Mayor to consider it. He could (1) indicate that he is content for Hounslow to approve the application, (2) refuse it or (3) he could take it over. The Chairman is considering writing to the Mayor and also to the Secretary of State to object to the plan on the grounds of damage to the setting of local heritage sites and requesting that it is called in. The height is of concern as it will be highly visible above Strand on the Green. While 30 metres shorter than the Chiswick Curve, the building is 30 metres higher than specified in the site allocation and in the area master plan. There is also the issue of fire escapes – new fire regulations require there to be two staircases and it is not clear if two are incorporated into the design that was passed. Other issues of concern include the fact that some affordable units are to be placed at the low levels which are nearer to the major highways that run past the building. The communal gardens and trees that are much featured in the plans will be expensive

to maintain and all but the one on the 23<sup>rd</sup> floor will be subject to noise levels in excess of the British Standard.

- The application for a **car park for TfL staff** on a small area of land owned by TfL within the residential **Gunnorsbury Triangle estate** was discussed at the same Planning Committee meeting as Holly House. It was refused but there is a strong possibility that TfL will Appeal the decision.. Councillor Biddopph described the land as neglected although harbouring some wildlife. She and the Chairman were in contact with the local residents as to possible courses of action.
- The Chairman informed members of some changes in staff in the Hounslow Planning Department, including the appointment of Vincent Lacovara who had replaced Sarah Scannell as Director of Planning and Buildings.

## 9. Evolution of our Society

- The Chairman spoke of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year when we recalled where we had come from and suggested we should now discuss where we were going. She said that we needed new committee members. Some of the current committee have served almost since the beginning of the Society and that she herself had been Chairman for 10 years. We were also keen to find new members and the Chairman invited the floor to discuss the issue. Suggestions and comments from the floor included:

- Finding new members is a nationwide problem.
- Amalgamation with other local, like-minded societies is a possibility..
- Why are younger people not joining? Are they too busy?
- Would more social functions attract people?
- Is a new leaflet drop a useful action?
- Would spreading the word through other local actions (the Turnham Green litterpick for instance) help attract new people?
- Would focussing on trying to increase the greenery in our very built-up, concrete area attract new people?
- Would having a stall at the Chiswick Flower Market (possibly with leaflets to hand out) be a good idea?
- Are there particular issues that we could publicise to attract members?
- Many residents are transient/tenants rather than putting down long-term roots which changes their commitment to the area.
- The pandemic interrupted the Society's movement towards adding more social events.
- WhatsApp groups have become the place that local residents air their grievances about local issues but having expressed their opinion they leave it there rather than following up.
- Would an event organised by the Society attract attention?
- Publicising more often on local news outlets such as the Chiswick Calendar or the Chiswick W4 site could attract more attention.
- We have a lot of knowledge between us – could it be put to use as a local service to residents? Would advertising this 'service' attract people?

The Chairman finished this section by reminding the members that if the Society is not providing something that people want and become involved with the Society would in the end likely be wound up.

## 10. Any Other Business

- **Chiswick Business Park** It was understood that the Iranian broadcaster whose staff were threatened by the regime in Teheran had now left. It was not known,

however, when the high-level security provision would be relaxed and when, for example, match-day parking for the Brentford stadium would be resumed.

- The Business Park has some interesting places to visit including a small “farm” in a container where vegetables are grown and there are beehives. This could be the destination for a Society visit.
- There is a campaign to get **step-free access** in local tube stations that is being run by Nick Rogers, the GLA member for Hounslow, Richmond and Kingston. We are encouraged to support this as there are no stations with step-free access in the whole of Chiswick.
- **Gunnersbury Park summer events** will be unveiled at an event on 25<sup>th</sup> February at the Gunnersbury Museum. Many members were inconvenienced by the extreme noise and bass beat at some of the music events in the Park last year and are concerned that there are even more events due to happen this year than last. Members were encouraged to attend the meeting.

#### **11. Date and time of next meeting**

The next public meeting will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Stephanie Lang called for a vote of thanks to committee members and the meeting then adjourned to have a celebratory drink at 8.56pm.

Signed by the Chairman:

Date: