



THE WEST CHISWICK & GUNNERSBURY SOCIETY
www.westchiswickgs.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 10th February 2025
Held in the Age Concern Hall, Oxford Road North, W4
7.30pm

MINUTES
(subject to formal adoption at AGM in 2026)

In Attendance:	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 16 other Members and residents.

Also in attendance: Councillors Joanna Biddolph and Ron Mushiso

1. Welcome and Apologies

Marie Rabouhans, from the Chair, welcomed Members and Councillors to our 23rd AGM. Apologies were received from: Rupert Holderness

2. AGM Minutes

The Minutes of the previous AGM on 12th February 2024 were accepted as a true record and adopted.

3. Public Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the public meeting of 30th September 2024 were accepted as a true record and approved.

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

None raised.

5. Annual Report and Accounts

The reports were presented. The Secretary drew members' attention to the request for new committee members. The Treasurer reported that the Society is hoping to get online banking back. She also highlighted the donations made to two local charities, Age Concern and the Hogarth Youth Centre. She thanked the two members that have verified the accounts: Richard Vinter and Chris Jenks.

The Chair thanked the Secretary and the Treasurer for preparing the reports.

The Chair brought the details from the Annual Report up to date: there has been no action on Holly House; the Hold self-storage is going ahead and the old building at 250

Gunnersbury Avenue has already been demolished to make way for it; the Travelodge hotel has been built but there is a parlous lack of space for deliveries, collections, pedestrians and disabled parking. The Chair has raised the space issue with Hounslow Planning. The Chair raised the new additions to the Local List to which we have contributed and will report back on which of our suggestions are adopted. The Annual Report and Treasurer's Report were proposed, seconded and adopted.

6. Matters Arising from the Annual Report 2023

No matters arising were 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 Vivic	(Grosvenor Road)

Their joint re-election was proposed by Jeremy Cuss, seconded by Veronica Hunt-Lewis and they were duly re-elected.

The following 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)

They were proposed by Ruth Mayorcas, seconded by Stephanie Lang and they were duly re-elected.

The Chair thanked Terry Thorn, the first Chair of the Society, who has stood down from the Committee but remains a member of the Society, for his service. The attendees showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

8. Development and Planning:

Chiswick Tower/ "BSI Building": As yet no planning application has been submitted but is due "this month". The Chair has spoken to Council Transport Officers who are in discussion with TfL and Network Rail. All agree that both lift and stairs are needed but Network Rail feasibility studies only look at lift installation. The Chair described the current status of the putative application as she understands it: Plot 1, comprising the tower and annex will be the first part to be submitted and the other areas – plots 2 & 3, the current car parks on either side of the tracks – will be the subject of a future application. Once the plot 1 application is submitted members are encouraged to comment on it. While station improvements will not be part of the application, the opportunity to emphasise their need should be taken. The Society will keep up pressure on the developer to put money into the necessary improvements. The Chair and Vice-Chair had participated in a meeting of the Gunnersbury Station Action Team (GSAT) called and chaired by our MP, Andy Slaughter. She noted that TfL and Network Rail sent PR representatives rather than engineers to the meeting. They did not have a good understanding of the details and requirements. Member R. Vinter asked how both stairs and a lift could be fitted into the available space. The Chair and

the Vice Chair gave a description of how this might be achieved. The Vice Chair reported that we have raised the need to keep the two back entrances in good repair, well-lit etc.

The Chair reported that the Chiswick High Road frontage, at least, will be improved as part of the development.

Member Ruth Mayorcas reported that she has been told that applications for the two plots for future housing, plots 2&3, are in abeyance to see what is required for station improvements.

A question from the floor concerning the footprint for the actual building works on the tower was replied to by the Vice Chair: it is likely that plots 2&3 will be used to store building materials but that the details of the building logistics will be part of the future application.

Another question from the floor asked about the number of possible future residents and how much pressure they would put on the local infrastructure – utilities, schools, doctors etc. The Chair replied that as the co-living units would attract young, single people schools at least should not feel the pressure and that the Council must take the other pressures into account when considering the application.

Councillor Mushiso responded to a question about Section 106 money. He said that the specifics of how it is spent can be tightly or loosely worded. For the spending of the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy), a certain percentage must go to a specific designated area, but the rest can be spent elsewhere in the borough.

Chiswick Terrace Acton Lane: An 85-bed specialist care home replacing the current terrace of shops with flats above is being proposed. The building would likely be a similar height to the other new Essex Place development. The proposal includes one small retail unit on the ground floor and a garden in the gap between the development and the Old Packhorse pub (Grade II listed). This will remove the unsightly rear area and will complete the Essex Place development. That Chair reported that we are, in general, content with the plan.

Ruth Mayorcas asked who owns the land between the front entrance to Sainsbury's and the bollards preventing through traffic along to the rest of Essex Place. Some drivers seem to be using it for free parking which means driving along the pedestrian area. Councillor Biddolph said she would follow up on this.

Local Plan update: The submission of the Local Plan is delayed but it is intended/hoped that it will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by an independent Inspector before the summer holidays. The examination in public might then take place in late 2025.

Heathrow Airport 3rd runway: While some people are in favour of this potential development the Chair believes that many are against it. In favour of the development would be the creation of new jobs for residents around the airport. Against it is the increase in noise and air pollution and traffic on local streets. The Chair attended a meeting of the pressure group HACAN (Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise) of which we are a member; our MP, Andy Slaughter was the guest of honour. Both he and Ruth Cadbury MP, currently Chair of the Parliamentary Transport Committee, are firmly opposed to the 3rd runway. The Chair encouraged members to keep up with the campaign (there is a link on the WC&GS website) and noted that Paul Beckford of HACAN is a very experienced campaigner. Members are also encouraged to express their opinion of the development by writing to their MP. Councillor Mushiso noted that there appears to be cross-party agreement in opposition to the plan.

9. AOB

Terry Thorn reminded us that there will be a celebration of the end of the second World War in Europe on the weekend before 8th May and hoped that there would be street parties in Chiswick.

The Chair reported that the London festival of Architecture will focus on the Great West Road in Hounslow this year and for members to look out for events.

Don Osborne asked whether there is a plan to dim the streetlamps in Hounslow. Councillor Mushiso said that there had already been a dimming and that a further dimming would take place in a bid to save money.

10. Date and time of next meeting

The next public meeting will be held at the end of the summer or in early autumn, date to be confirmed by email.

In the meantime, it is hoped to organise another social event in the Pilot or the Gunnersbury pub – information will be sent out later.

Stephanie Lang thanked the committee and asked those present to show their appreciation of the work the committee does with a round of applause.

The meeting adjourned to enjoy a glass of wine together at 8.55pm.

Signed by the Chairman:

Date: