



Hinchley Wood Residents Association

co-Chairs: Saranne Bristow (SB) Peter Arthur (PA)

Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2024 at 8.00pm
at St Christopher's Church Hall, Claygate Lane, Hinchley Wood, Esher KT10 0AQ

In attendance: Saranne Bristow (SB) Co-Chair, Robert Fulton (RF) Treasurer, Susan Pavlis (SP) Secretary, Roy Turner (RT) Membership Secretary, Sue Haig-Brown Road (SHB) Road Representatives' Rep, Councillor Janet Turner (JT), Councillor Gill Coates (GC), Councillor James Crawshaw (JC)

Present: Vina Owen, Nigel Haig-Brown, Chris Robinson, Sue Robinson, Pat Love, Andy Kapica, Tony Mustoe, Pravin Patel, Alex Prideaux, Evie Coulter, Sophie Santon, Deborah Fernandez, Margaret Thompson, Councillor Mark Sugden, Anne Cairns, Chris Burman, Gordon Manickam, Rachel Dewilde, Joan Hendry, Andy Hendry.

Agenda item		Led by
	<p>The Meeting was called to order at 8.00pm by SB, the co-Chair, who welcomed all attendees.</p> <p>SB introduced Hamish White (HW), Elmbridge Brough Council's Countryside Officer, who gave a presentation and answered questions on the Oak Processional Moth. HW indicated the progress of the moth and the damaged being caused at the caterpillar stage. The issue of finance to cope with the dangers to health, specifically children and those with breathing problems, was discussed.</p> <p>SB thanked HW for his informative talk. SB moved to the agenda at 8.45pm</p>	<p>SB</p> <p>Hamish White (speaker)</p>
1.	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Peter Arthur, Diana Arthur, Siobhan Halliday, Gary Halliday, Rodney Whittaker, Drew Hill and Laurence Shaw</p>	<p>SB</p> <p>RF</p>
2.	<p>Receive the minutes of the 2023 AGM</p> <p>No amendments or queries were forthcoming.</p> <p>Minutes agreed as a true record Proposer: Janet Turner Second: Christopher Robinson There were no matters arising.</p>	<p>SB</p>
3.	<p>Receive the accounts of the HWRA for the 2023 financial year</p> <p>RF informed the attendees that finances remained stable. The Christmas event raised £800 exactly and the Secret Garden event raised £1,003. All money raised was donated to The Children's Trust.</p> <p>Gordon Manickam, Honorary Examiner, had received and agreed the accounts. Accounts approved by meeting. Proposer: Tony Mustoe Second: Nigel Haig-Brown. RF thanked Gordon Manickam for the examination of the accounts</p>	<p>RF</p> <p>RF</p>
4.	<p>Reappoint the Honorary Examiner</p> <p>Gordon Manickam agreed to continue in this role and was re-appointed as Honorary Examiner for the 2024 financial year.</p> <p>Proposer: RF</p>	<p>RF</p> <p>SB</p>

5.	<p>Receive reports from the co-Chair & Councillors of the Association</p> <p>Report from the co-Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of participation from the local community continues to cause concern. • As participation did not improve through live streaming it has been dropped as an option for joining meetings. • Road Reps have yet to be found for all roads. A thank you was given to the people who have covered more than one road. • If anyone is aware of a resident who may take on this role, please ask them or speak to SB. • SB encouraged Road Reps to come forward with new ideas. <p>Actions over 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Secret Garden was a successful initiative with 30th June in the diary for 2024. New venues are needed. SB stressed that it is unnecessary to have a perfect garden – just an open space to be enjoyed. £1,003 was raised for The Children’s Trust. ➤ With the agreement of the proprietors, a defibrillator has been attached to an external wall of Crossys and the premises will supply the electricity. Thanks has been given for their generous support. The defibrillator was funded by Hinchely Wood Residents Association. ➤ Norman Jones, as an ex-police officer, had been appointed as Crime Police Liaison Officer. He was making useful contacts with Elmbridge Neighbourhood Police and British Rail Transport Police. Unfortunately, he has had to step down from the role. ➤ Cards giving contact details for British Transport Police will be left at the back of the hall for people take if interested. ➤ The Countdown to Christmas event proved popular and successful with £800 raised. This money was donated to The Children’s Trust by HWRA. The support of local organisations and companies helped towards the success. Already SB is being asked if/when it will happen this year. SB reported that the workload was immense with the involvement of others needed for an event next Christmas. <p>Reports from Councillors</p> <p>Councillor Janet Turner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local area is generally good with a low level of crime. More Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators are required who understand the role, particularly the reporting structure. • Memorial Gardens are beginning to look very pleasant. To prevent people from walking through the hedge surrounding the Gardens, a fence is being installed on the inside. • Last November the flagpole in the Memorial Gardens was vandalised. A new flagpole is due to be erected. • JT and JC are in discussion with Elmbridge Council regarding the soil overfill at the rugby ground. Q Could soil cause flooding to gardens near to the railway line? A That is unlikely. • Councillor Mark Sugden reported that Surrey County Council are looking at boundary changes. A proposal is Thames Ditton, Weston Green and Hinchley Wood combining into one Ward. This larger area would have two County Councillors giving the Ward additional influence at county level. 	<p>SB</p> <p>SB</p> <p>JT</p>
----	---	-------------------------------

	<p>Councillor Gill Coates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GC responded to the proposed boundary changes citing Thames Ditton and Weston Green object to this plan as it would involve too many resident associations who will oppose each other ultimately letting in political parties. GC reported that she had been the subject of a vendetta following the closure of six community centres in November. Health and safety (H&S) concerns forced the closures and reports of permanent closures were untrue. GC reported that the comments about her were hard to deal with. If the centres remained open following the H&S reports, the council would have been liable if problems occurred. The closures hit residents very badly and two were reopened as soon as possible. The most vulnerable residents had transport and the days the centres were open increased. More centres are going to reopen and recruitment is underway. Not being able to keep up with the maintenance of the buildings is due to a 40% cut in funding over the last 10 years. Of the money raised, 78% goes to Surrey County Council, 11% to the Police and the rest goes to Elmbridge – about £23 million. Elmbridge spends more on social services than most other comparable councils. £1 million has been requested from Surrey County Council. The Thames Ditton Centre has become a white elephant. Originally it was moved to Elmbridge County Council from Surrey County Council. Leasing to a Community Interest Company (CIC) is being considered. Current hirers would be unaffected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q Why not use the Claygate Centre? A Vulnerable adults can use any local centre. Transport and facilities could cause a restriction. Mark Sugden is arranging for the A309 fencing from the Scilly Isles to the village to be repaired. This to be financed by Surrey County Council. 	GC
6.	<p>Election of Officers</p> <p>All members are willing to stand for another year.</p> <p>Proposer: Sue Robinson Seconder: Praveen Patel</p> <p>The vote was passed 'en bloc'.</p>	
7.	<p>Local elections – adoption of a candidate for Hinchley Wood and Weston Green ward, to contest the Elmbridge Borough Council election on Thursday 2nd May</p> <p>GC will stand again as a candidate representing Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward. GC stated that the vendetta and deeply personal remarks had made her decide not to stand for election again but, following further discussions, she reversed her decision.</p>	JC
8.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>JC has agreed to take over the upkeep of the noticeboard at Hinchley Wood. Roy Turner was thanked for maintaining the noticeboard for 24 years.</p> <p>SB thanked the attendees for coming to the meeting. Meeting closed at 9.50pm.</p>	SB

Date of next meeting: TBD