

WHITEHALL PARK AREA

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting Thursday 18th April 2013, 7.30pm at St. Andrew's Church

Present from the Committee

Gloria Chandra, Michael Heath, Heather Eggins, Dorothy Leng, Tony Wylam, Sean Madigan.

Apologies from the Committee

Kay Clarke.

24 members and others attended the meeting, and several members sent their apologies.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Dorothy Leng, welcomed members and guests to the meeting and invited the Committee and those attending to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the 2012 AGM, held on 27/4/12, were presented and approved.

3. Election of the Committee

The Chair proposed that the nomination of the Committee be taken en bloc, which was agreed. Gloria Chandra, Kay Clarke, Heather Eggins, Dorothy Leng, Sean Madigan, Michael Heath and Tony Wylam were elected to the Committee *nemine contradicente*.

4. Annual and Financial Reports

The Chair presented annual and financial reports (Appendices A and B) and gave a short verbal summary. She highlighted the range of activities, prompted by the wishes of the membership, that WHPARA had organised and financed through the year.

In answer to a question about the setting up of book clubs, film clubs and nature clubs she replied that there hadn't much of a response from members, possibly because there were book and film clubs already in existence. However, WHPARA can claim that it has brought together a group of bridge-playing members.

The Chair reiterated that without more input from members it would be difficult to sustain this level of activity as the Committee is under-resourced. It was understood that people had little interest in spending time in committee meetings, but that some of the proposed constitutional changes might go some way to free up time. The Chair encouraged people who might have an

interest in an issue or area to get in touch to see if the Committee could support them in any way. One new member had expressed an interest in joining, which was heartily welcomed.

Michael Heath spoke to the meeting about website and other developments, such as the adoption of Mail Chimp for emailing and the creation of a WHPARA presence on both Facebook and Twitter. Four newsletters had been sent out over the year as well as regular emails to the membership, and the membership list was now fully up-to-date. He reminded members of the considerable amount of time demanded by website maintenance and related work and encouraged people to help out if they were able.

Comments from members:

- One member urged the Committee to consider the fact that if last year's expenditure were to be repeated annually for three years, without the Association raising any further income during that period, we would run out of money.
- Several members commended the website and the quality and type of communications.
- Several members expressed support for events that bring people together and thought the investment WHPARA had made in such events was money well spent.

5. Constitutional Amendments

The proposed amendments to the constitution (Appendix C) were discussed and approved.

6. Any Other Business

Several members suggested activities and events that they would be interested in organising or supporting and were invited to contact the Chair after the meeting.

AGM business was brought to a close at 8.15pm and was followed by a talk on the topic of air pollution and its impact on public health. The speakers were Greg Foxsmith, independent Councillor for Islington and Caroline Russell, Chair of Living Streets, who were both well informed and eloquent. A lively discussion ensued, with several suggestions made as to how we could tackle this serious issue. Caroline Russell left some forms, petitioning the council for action on air pollution, for members to distribute.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm, but many stayed for drinks and informal discussion until 10pm.

Appendix A – Annual Report

This year has seen a range of activities organised and sponsored by WHPARA as well as some important developments in our communication with members. Our Committee met six times during the year.

Activities

1. We organised and funded a well-attended Barn Dance at St. Andrew's Church as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June 2012.
2. We set up a Councillor and Police Forum, which took place in October 2012, enabling members to quiz their local representatives on matters of concern.
3. We conducted two 'walkabouts' in the area, one in August and one in October, with councillors and council staff from planning, conservation and road traffic departments. Each addressed different issues such as road traffic signs, conservation area infringements (e.g. satellite dishes), the state of the roads and pavements and dog fouling.
4. We supported a music concert in November 2012, whose proceeds went to the Night Shelter for the Homeless.
5. We held a successful get-together in February, supporting local businesses and raising funds for the Night Shelter. It was an opportunity for members to meet each other, and attracted several new members.
6. We made several representations to Islington Council regarding the enforcement of Conservation Area guidelines.
7. Committee member Tony Wylam organised and led a summer walk around Hampstead Heath, sharing his knowledge of its flora and fauna.

WHPARA has also been represented at relevant local initiatives such as Islington Ward Partnership Stakeholders meetings and the Chair has met with the Leader of Islington Council and representatives from other local groups.

Membership and Communications

We have updated our membership database and now have 171 definite current members, only four of whom don't have email. As well as regular emails we have sent out four seasonal newsletters during the year, and we receive frequent enquiries from members and would-be members. For the coming year membership will again be free of charge.

The website has continued to develop and is regularly maintained and updated. In addition we now have a presence on both Facebook and Twitter, and we hope that this will further enhance communications with our members and other local residents.

Dorothy Leng, Chair
March 2013

Appendix B – Financial Report

	Outgoings	Receipts	Balance
BALANCE AT 2012 AGM			£6,629.48
Donations from February get-together		£170	
Web hosting contribution		£57.53	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		£ 227.53	
February 2013 get-together	£561.42		
Room hire	£135.00		
Councillor Forum	£252.23		
Barn Dance	£318.97		
2012 AGM	£157.99		
Stationery	£40.27		
Webhosting 1/4/12 – 31/3/13	£115.06		
Donation to Night Shelter	£170.00		
TOTAL OUTGOINGS	(£1,750.94)		
BALANCE AT 27/3/2013			£5,106.07

Prepared by Dorothy Leng (Chair) on behalf of WHPARA.

March 2013

Appendix C – Amendments To The Constitution

Strikethroughs to be deleted, text in red/italic to be added. The full constitution can be downloaded from the Downloads page of our website.

Rule 4

2. The Quorum of the Committee shall be ~~four~~ *three* of its elected Members.
3. The Committee shall elect its ~~Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer~~ *officers* by simple majority voting.
4. ~~No more than one officer shall be elected from the same household and~~ *No* officer shall hold office for more than three consecutive years unless otherwise the position remains unfilled. The composition of the Committee shall be as representative of the area as possible.
7. The Committee shall conduct all the WHPARA's business at no fewer than ~~four~~ *two* meetings in each year. *Any number of sub-committee meetings may be held whose recommendations or decisions will be subject to Committee approval.*

Rule 5

1. The Chairperson of the WHPARA (or, in his or her absence, ~~the Vice Chairperson or~~ any other Committee Member) shall conduct the meetings of the amenity group.
4. The Secretary, in consultation with the Chair~~man~~, shall be responsible for the convening of all meetings, the setting of the agenda and the giving of the prescribed notice to Members.
6. ~~No more than one officer shall be elected from the same household and~~ *No* officer shall hold office for more than three consecutive years unless otherwise the position remains unfilled. The composition of the Committee shall be as representative of the area as possible.

(This rule is identical to 4.4 above, and could therefore be removed).

Rule 8

2. Only ~~paid up~~ Members of the Association shall be entitled to vote.
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