

Wimbledon Common West Residents' Association (WCWRA)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at the Hotel du Vin on Tuesday 4th June at 20.00

1. Introduction from Andrew Durant, acting chair

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced the two guest speakers: Dr Catherine Nelson, chair of Trustees, The Friends of Cannizaro Park and Jacqueline Laurence, director of the Wimbledon Museum.

Last year at the AGM there was some concern that without new committee members the WCWRA may have to fold. However, the chair was pleased to announce that following a successful social event held last November, five committee members have been recruited and the role of chair has been shared to make it less onerous. More details followed during the 'election of the committee' section of the meeting.

Thanks were then given to the Hotel du Vin and Robert Holmes for their generous contributions, reducing the costs of holding the AGM. The chair also thanked Emma Hoskins, a former West Place resident, who is our website developer. She supports Colin Price who does an excellent job of managing the website. Again, Emma provides this service at well below market rate.

Finally, the chair thanked his predecessor, Clive Hilton, for his many years' service as chair of WCWRA. Clive is still very actively involved in the community as chair of the Wimbledon Union of Resident Associations (WURA). WURA is a committee comprising representatives of some 20 residents' associations and other bodies around Wimbledon Village. Using his WURA knowledge, Clive produces a free newsletter containing items of local news and events. He invited people to subscribe by emailing him at clive@inlocum.co.uk

Clive is also heavily involved in the 'Save Wimbledon Park' campaign. He informed us that the Planning Application by the AELTC for development of their facilities onto the former green space of Wimbledon Park Golf Course is now being decided by the Greater London Authority. Although, the formal consultation period has ended, for the near future you can still leave your comments about the development on the GLA planning website

<https://glaplanningapps.commonplace.is/planningapps/21-P2900>

2. Minutes from the AGM on 5th June 2023

The chair briefly ran through the minutes from the last AGM on 5th June 2023. Key issues that were still current included:

- A. **The Parklet outside the Fox & Grapes:** At present it appears the parklet will continue to be operational.
- B. **Heathrow Flight Path:** This is still an ongoing issue, including night flights. For the latest information, David Jenkins, a member of HACAN (the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise), referred residents to their website hacan.org.uk. On the website is HACAN's response sent on 7th May 2024 to the Department for Transport's consultation on night flights.
- C. **Potholes in Camp Road:** Colin Price reported that this is an on-going problem as although holes have been filled in, new ones appear. They are, however, being dealt with by Merton Council.
- D. **Vegetation on pavements:** This is still a problem.

Action: The chair said the WCWRA would write to the Environmental Office, Merton Council to raise the issue.

Anna Hatchard proposed that the draft minutes should be accepted. This was seconded by Michael Hatchard. Unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's report

The chair presented the treasurer's report for year ending 31st December 2023. Funds that were brought forward were £6,075. Income was £603 whilst expenditure was £990. This means a net shortfall of £387, despite raising the annual subscription from £5 to £10. However, total funds held are £5,688 and still represent a reasonable fighting fund if external expertise is required. The full accounts are available on our website.

David Jenkins proposed the acceptance of the report and accounts which was seconded by Clive Hilton. Unanimously approved.

4. Election of committee members

Bryan Barks, former chair and Jenny Deane, current membership secretary, are both resigning. Andrew Durant thanked them for all their hard work and commitment to the association.

There are a number of positions of responsibility to be filled, not least the role of chair. The approach is to have three persons in office as chair, with a view to spreading the burden of office. This change would be reflected in the Constitution (see Point 5 – Revised

constitution). The proposed candidates are Andrew Durant (current acting chair), Michael Hatchard (new committee member) and Emma Pope (new committee member).

Nicola Straker (new committee member) is proposed as secretary, replacing Anna Hatchard (acting secretary). Gino Coquis (new committee member) is proposed as treasurer/membership following the resignations of Clive Hilton and Jenny Deane.

Other new committee members include Anne Peacock and Anna Demetriades.

Other existing committee members up for re-election are Colin Price, Robert Holmes, Anna Hatchard and Carol Andrews.

Therefore, the new committee would consist of:

Andrew Durant (co-chair), Michael Hatchard (co-chair), Emma Pope (co-chair), Nicola Straker (secretary), Gino Coquis (treasurer/membership), Colin Price, Robert Holmes, Anna Hatchard, Carol Andrews, Anne Peacock and Anna Demetriades – committee members.

Acceptance of the election of the new committee was proposed by Jenny Deane. It was seconded by Helen Benedict. The election or appointment of each proposed committee member and each specific office appointment was unanimously approved.

5. Revised constitution

A number of amendments/additions to the constitution have been suggested. Specifically discussed were:

- A. Changes to the office of chair
- B. Exclusion of the liability of committee members

Acceptance of the revised constitution was proposed by Clive Hilton and seconded by Emma Pope. Unanimously approved.

The revised constitution is available on our website.

6. Ratification of actions

After discussion, IT WAS RESOLVED by unanimous vote that the actions of the officers of the Association as reflected in the accounts and other materials that had been tabled were approved and ratified by the members.

The motion was proposed by Clive Hilton and seconded by Leslie Jenkins and unanimously approved.

7. Social Events

Following the success of the November 2023 social, the chair presented three ideas for another social event at the end of this year:

- A. Subsidised drinks at the Fox and Grapes
- B. Quiz night (focused on the Wimbledon area and its history)
- C. Wine tasting

Option A received the most votes, then option B, followed by option C.

More details will follow later in the year.

8. Any other business

A. Potholes in pathways

Steve Rooke (at the meeting) and Vivien Reuter (via email) both brought up the situation of potholes and waterlogging on the footpaths that cross the common on the way to the village. These are particularly bad with the weather conditions we have been experiencing.

The chair invited Colin Cooper, chief executive, Wimbledon & Putney Commons, to comment on the repair and maintenance of pathways on the common. In 2023, £80,000 of funds had been raised to restore four priority paths by external contractors. For example, major works were carried out on Green Ride, running from West Place to Inner Windmill Road. Additional grants and donations are needed to tackle other paths, so fundraising will continue.

However, Colin Cooper did say he would talk to the internal maintenance team to see if there could be any interim patching up of the paths of most concern to the WCWRA.

Action: WCWRA to follow up with Colin Cooper

B. Long grass opposite West Place

Nicola Deacon questioned Colin Cooper about the long grass on the meadow opposite West Place which is interfering with sight lines when driving. Colin explained that the Commons had been operating 'No mow May' which was continuing on into June. He would, however, speak to their team to find out when it would be mowed and if anything could be done to improve the sight lines.

Action: The Commons have subsequently implemented cutting on corners to improve sight lines.

c. Friends of Fishpond Wood

David Jenkins pointed out that this Association had a history of improving our local green spaces. In fact, the WCWRA formed 'Friends of Cannizaro Park' 31 years ago. To this end, he would like to draw the members' attention to Fishpond Wood. Adjacent to Warren Farm, Fishpond Wood features wetlands surrounded by old oak-hazel woodland. The ponds support a wide variety of life such as frogs, toads, newts and dragonflies. It is owned and managed by Merton Council but needs additional funding and care, particularly the repair of the boardwalk which allows access to view the flora and fauna. If any member wants to show an interest in Fishpond Wood, with no commitment, register as a Friend by emailing fishpondwood@gmail.com

9. Guest Speakers

Dr Catherine Nelson, chair of Trustees, Friends of Cannizaro Park

Dr Nelson delivered an overview of 'Cannizaro @80', a five-year renovation masterplan from 2024-2029. If you would like to support the Friends, more information can be found on the link below.

<https://cannizaropark.com/support-the-friends/>

Jacqueline Laurence, director, The Wimbledon Museum

In 2022, the Wimbledon Museum was extensively refurbished and redesigned. Jacqueline Laurence gave the meeting a wonderful virtual tour of the changes as well as an insight into the many adult and child engagement programmes the museum is involved in.

For more information about visiting, volunteering or donating, please visit:

<https://wimbledonsociety.org.uk/museum/>