

LOWER SUNBURY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Riverside Arts Centre, Thames Street, Sunbury, on Wednesday 21st June, 2023 at 8.00 pm.

Present

(i) Committee members: Paul Watts (President), Paul Thompson (Chairman), Colleen Cuthbert (Secretary), Iain Findlay (Treasurer), John Hirsh (Vice Chairman), Neil Huntingford, Chris Hyde, Oliver Parr, Stacey Pinto, Nigel Spooner.

(ii) Cllrs. Sandra Dunn, Kathy Grant, Matthew Lee, Laurence Nichols, Buddhi Weerasinghe

(iii) Other members: 65 approximately.

Apologies for Absence: Jyoti Banerjee, Colin Hodgetts

Minutes of AGM held on 22nd June 2022 – Approved.

Chairman's Report

PT said LOSRA's newsletters will be delivered with Sunbury Matters in future. Thanks to all volunteers who have delivered in the past. PT encourages residents to sign up for LOSRA ebulletins. Around 600 have so far. LOSRA has a new gazebo paid for by Cllr BW. LOSRA's aims remain to protect, maintain and preserve our environment and has been involved with a wide range of local issues over the year. LOSRA continues to pursue a foot/cycle bridge, Sunbury to Walton. The annual subscription, last raised in 2008 to £5, will not be increased, but remains under review. New committee members are required for LOSRA and the PPG. PT thanked all current committee members including John Carey & Sebastian Usher, who are not standing for re-election.

Treasurer's Report - Accounts for year ending 31st December, 2022

IF reported on the accounts. Subscription and sponsorship revenue is still less than pre-Covid and with no Sunbury Regatta, opportunities for attracting new members are reduced. Thanks to the Post Office, the Good Estate Agent and Colleen Cuthbert for collecting subs. The accounts were approved. **Dominic de Lord of Crick Heitman Ltd.** was reappointed **Independent Reporting Accountant.**

Election of Officers and Committee

Paul Watts was proposed to be re-elected as **President**. Agreed. It was proposed **Paul Thompson** be re-elected as **Chairman**, **Colleen Cuthbert** as **Secretary & Membership Secretary**, **Iain Findlay** as **Treasurer** **John Hirsh** as **Vice Chairman**, **Jyoti Banerjee**, **Neil Huntingford**, **Chris Hyde**, **Oliver Parr**, **Stacey Pinto**, **Nigel Spooner** as **committee members** – all approved. It was proposed that **Colin Hodgetts & Ian Beardsmore** be elected to the committee - Approved

Local Plan

PT had explained in his report that Anne Biggs had sent her apologies and the Local Plan was currently in limbo as Spelthorne councillors had paused the Examination in Public for 3 months.

Presentation by Rebecca Kendrick, Thames Landscape Strategy Project Officer

RK showed a short film and spoke of the work of the TLS which is a long term plan to rewild the Arcadian Thames from Weybridge to Kew. This would involve utilising the flood plain to take excess water, where it hasn't been built on, and restoring river banks and natural habitats. It is a partnership of organisations such as the Royal Parks, councils, community groups and volunteers. Other sections of the Thames are dealt with by similar organisation

Open Forum /Any Other Business

Questions were asked about the blocked backwater by Rivermead Island and the proposed Community Hub at Sunbury Cross.

PW expressed (to the Councillors present) LOSRA's strong feelings about the decision of SBC councillors to delay the examination in public of the Local Plan and the consequent vulnerability of SBC to developers, with no plan in place. He asked why new councillors required the time to acquaint themselves with the Plan given that it was the central issue on which they had campaigned. In addition,

like PT earlier, PW rebuffed the suggestion that LOSRA is a "one issue" organisation and made the point that LOSRA is not deaf to the views of the Borough as a whole.

Alan Doyle quite understandably said that he was concerned that councillors would withdraw the plan when discussions resumed in September. Councillor Lawrence Nichols said this must not be allowed to happen, but that some changes may be necessary. He went on to note that, although leader of the Lib Dem faction in the Borough, he was unable to impose a whip on his fellow party councillors. He stated clearly that his support was merely for the 3 month delay and not for any changes. Councillor Kathy Grant defended her last minute vote in favour of the delay by saying that she believed she had to take all Spelthorne residents into account.

Close Meeting - The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.00 pm.