

PRESENT: J Dalton (Chairman), J Reyner (General Secretary), I Phillips (Treasurer), P Daymond (President). Committee Members: Brian Adams, Neena Bedi, C Mountain, R Piper, V Silk C Tarr. Also present MP David Simmonds and Councillors R Puddifoot, J Hensley, P Corthorne.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies had been received from our patron Malcolm Beaumont, as well as RAF Northolt representatives Ian Rushforth and Group Captain Jon Hough, and residents Rachel Evans, Erica Locke, Mr and Mrs D Hughes and Diana May Cllr E Lavery. Also from Committee members Janice Tranter, David and Heather John and Humphrey Tizard.

Minutes of Last meeting – these had been placed on the seats in the hall there being no matters arising, these were approved proposed by Brian Cable Seconded by David Bond unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Jill Dalton welcomed everyone to the AGM in what is the association's centenary year, including MP David Simmonds, and 2 of our 3 ward Councillors Banerjee and Goddard, as well as the chairs of 2 of our neighbouring RAs Paul Hanscombe from North Uxbridge and Jane Turnbull of Oak Farm.

Apologies had been received from our patron Malcolm Beaumont, as well as RAF Northolt representatives Ian Rushforth and Group Captain Jon Hough, and residents Rachel Evans, Erica Locke, Mr and Mrs D Hughes and Diana May. Also from Committee members Janice Tranter, David and Heather John and Humphrey Tizard. Minutes of last AGM were proposed for approval by Pauline Cramp, seconded by Elaine Workman and unanimously approved. The Chair then presented subject reports from committee members.

Membership As you know we sadly lost Julian Ingram at the time of our last AGM. We have since been pleased to welcome two ladies who will share the role as joint membership secretaries - Pat Ingram and Janice Tranter. We thank them both and welcome them on board.

Following on from the decision at the last AGM to change the subscription amount to £5 to cover two years we have sadly lost some members though we still run at around 3000 member households. We have 2 major challenges as we move forward. The first is the usual one of finding replacement Area and Road Stewards who are so vital to delivering our Newsletters and remaining in touch. This effort continues as we seek to replace those who have moved out of Ickenham or are no longer able to contribute their time and effort, due to changed circumstances. Our second challenge is how to adapt to changing times where cash is no longer king, and members wish to pay by card and/or electronic subscriptions. Although the change to £5 has made it slightly easier for the cash to be found it is still a challenge. As a small organization the issues associated with our dependence on subscription income and electronic payments are challenging both in terms of cost to the Association and having to develop multiple payment systems. We are working on how to make those changes.

I'd like to thank our many Stewards for their efforts in getting Newsletters delivered and subscriptions collected. If you think you could spare a few hours assisting us please speak with us this evening.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER Along with our website, the quarterly newsletters are our main means of communication with residents. We continue to use a local printing firm to produce our newsletter and their quotes remain competitive, although we always get other quotes and go with the cheapest offer. Our next edition will highlight the fact that our centenary exhibition will be taking place on 8th June in the village – the start of Gala week. We are also producing a booklet on Ickenham which will be on sale at the exhibition and at our stand on Gala Day on 15th. We would more than welcome your suggestions of how to improve the contents of our quarterly newsletter, and whether there are any subjects on which you would like to receive more information, but which you feel are not covered sufficiently.

WEBSITE, EMAIL ADDRESS and TWITTER ACCOUNT are listed at the top of the front page of each Newsletter. They are well-established and well-used facilities, with the website recording a steady number of 'hits' or visits.

Email account Our Hotmail account is monitored by our General Secretary June Reyner and continues in importance as our primary source of communication. This is how our members contact us and how we contact them as well as our councillors, elected representatives and formal bodies (HS2 etc.). Our communications list of over 300 subscribers is now well established on the Mailchimp platform and, we have

sent approximately the following number of emails: April 2023 to end of March 2024 412. Mailchimp emails trigger an entry on our website and on the village Facebook page. As you will see this account is being used more and more and the topics cover TfL weekend working updates, information on road closures in particular with reference to HS2 works, and publicity for local events, etc. We do not seem to be able to increase this number as members do unsubscribe – whether this is by clicking on the wrong tab in the email or not we cannot ascertain. Please rest assured that our mailing and membership lists are compliant with the general data protection regulation (GDPR). If you are interested in being added to this email communication list, could you add your email address to the list available at the rear of the Hall.

Website etc Our updated website has now been running for several years and is updated regularly by our former minutes Secretary David Tebbutt. He also maintains a list of Planning details culled from the LBH website by our planning administrator. The website and Facebook are also maintained for us by David, and we are extremely grateful for his continuing help in these areas. We are still investigating the best way to use current media to improve our communication spread.

PLANNING Following Lynn Douglass stepping down last year we have struggled to maintain our previous level of involvement with planning issues. Phil Davy continues doing the planning admin and is doing a sterling job for us and we wish to record our thanks for all his help in this area. Following last year's appeal for help Colin Mason offered his services and has proved invaluable though sadly he now has to stand down due to a change in his circumstances. We do, however, thank him for all his efforts. We currently therefore do not have anyone looking at the planning applications and unless someone comes forward, we will not be able to continue scrutinising them, and objecting or commenting as we have in the past. Therefore, if there is anyone present who thinks they may be able to help, or if anyone has a bit of spare time and an interest in the appearance of Ickenham we really would like to have some additional planning team members - **no** commitment to join the Committee, training would gladly be provided. Please do have a word with any committee member afterwards if you think you could help.

PLANNING REPORT 2023/4 I know that many residents are interested in the proposed relocation of Uxbridge Library from the High Street to the Civic Centre. The Council has to obtain planning permission for that to happen and the planning application has now been formally registered and started. Do please post your comments on the Hillingdon website if you can – polite and constructive would be helpful! The borough has changed the way it runs the planning committees. As from autumn 2023 there is now only 1 planning committee in place of the former Major and borough committees. This committee meets monthly, and we continue to scrutinize the agenda to check whether there is a reference to Ickenham.

This Association has continued to seek to preserve and enhance our local environment and amenities by scrutinising every planning application relating to the Ickenham area, or applications from adjoining wards which would impact our area. If we do not receive any help, we will not be able to continue doing this. After all, the visual aspect of Ickenham is still a major factor in attracting people to live here. The number of applications for Ickenham looked at are as follows:-

Between 31.03.23 and 31.12.23 we looked at **205** applications of which 204 were approved (10 of which were submitted prior to 31.03.23) 50 refused (3 of which were submitted prior to 31.03.23) and 5 withdrawn.

Between 01.01.23 and 31.03.23 we looked at 65 applications of which 25 have so far been approved 4 refused and 0 withdrawn.

Anyone making an application for planning permission is encouraged to obtain the advice of the London Borough of Hillingdon's planning team, seek to comply with local and national planning guidance, and discuss plans with their neighbours. We have to bear in mind that many plans for home extensions and alterations are covered by the laws for permitted development, and so however unattractive the outcome, there is nothing we, nor the LBH can do about it. The Association sent quite a number of planning letters of objection or observation or comments to the Borough between the AGM held in 2023 and this year's AGM. This is in addition to other general letters to Councillors and residents plus the almost daily email exchanges with various LBH departments. There were 12 North Planning Committee and major applications committee Meetings scheduled between April 2023 and September 2023 and 6 planning committees between October 2003 and March 2004 including several applications from Ickenham and West Ruislip Wards.

It is increasingly disappointing to us that developers seem to be ignoring the special status of our Conservation Area. We will continue to fight this as much as possible and we are pleased that the LBH Planning team now have an officer interested in maintaining the Conservation Area so that hopefully there will be more scrutiny over proposed flatted developments in those areas of Ickenham despite the precedents set by previous approvals.

Health David John monitors health matters for us, with particular reference to the local and national issues of the NHS. Amongst the difficulties that are besetting the NHS at the moment, it's good to know that the prospect of the New Hillingdon Hospital is well on course to deliver an extremely impressive building and design, with exciting new facilities. The plans propose a new state-of-the-art hospital, which supports the very best in the delivery of healthcare, in the same location, next to the current hospital. The plans for the New Hospital have a "Wow Factor"! The Trust expects to deliver the New Hillingdon Hospital by 2030, as planned.

HS2 from Brian Adams We continue to meet monthly with HS2 and the contractors. We raise concerns and issues from residents and HS2 advise us of short-term plans. This construction phase of HS2 'Phase One' is due to complete by the end of 2025. Tunnelling is ahead of schedule requiring concrete tunnel segments to be brought in by heavy goods vehicles in addition to those delivered by rail. The number of HGVs will substantially increase this year.....estimated to be about 10,000..... with the delivery of engineering materials for the building of the abutments for the bridges over the River Pinn and Breakspear Road South. These HGVs are planned to go through the village down Swakeleys Road to West Ruislip. The impacts on the landscape continue with the dumping of tunnel spoil on the fields between Breakspear Road South and Harvil Road. We were advised that the mounds would reach a maximum of 6 metres; they already appear to be greater than this. When the dumping finishes the topsoil will be replaced and we should see the green fields reappear. The next phase is the 'Systems' phase. This will include the laying of tracks, signalling, gantries and the software systems. The contractors for this phase should have been appointed last September as far as we are aware no contracts have yet been agreed. This phase also includes the construction of a maintenance depot; this will be sited, subject to connection to the Chiltern Line, north of the Chiltern Line between Breakspear Road South and Harvil Road or West Ruislip. We have requested more detail of the proposed workings of this depot as we assume most activity will be during the night. When we add testing to the plans – remember the number of years required to get the Elizabeth Line fully tested – it seems unlikely that passengers will be going from Old Oak to Birmingham before 2033....even if they want to! The latest estimates for this very limited phase are £65 billion. In 2013 when we first formally responded to the HS2 project we did comment that their estimates were optimistic; not even our cynical team thought it would be 4 times over 'budget' and still not complete.

Ickenham Marshes \ Frays Farm Meadows\ nature reserves The Association continues to support the ongoing management of various wild spaces across the village. From The Frays Valley to the Ickenham Marshes, our local nature reserves continue to be great havens for wildlife and leisure destinations for local people. The sale of the local golf course was recently announced by the Council. We have received some verbal assurances from the Council about the future of the area but remain gravely concerned about the loss of footpaths and access to two nearby nature reserves. The recent news that the Council has agreed to set aside a local green space to enable Wealdstone Football Club to draw up plans for a new stadium also came as a complete surprise. We will monitor the matter closely.

Many thanks again go to the London Wildlife Trust, the Hillingdon Natural History Society and the Council for their ongoing commitments to taking care of our wild spaces.

FOMLUC Federation of Metropolitan Line Users' Committee Brian Adams attends these meetings where possible and keeps us up to date with ongoing works and issues.

GREEN SPACES AND SCHOOLS Neena Bedi is our representative on Green Spaces matters and she is also our liaison with local schools. Swakeleys Park continues to be well used and maintained, with the exception of the lake, which needs attention. We continue to liaise with the council on the matter.

POLICE MATTERS Vic Silk attends the Ward Panel meetings, chaired by Chris Tarr and also attends Neighbourhood Watch meetings on behalf of the Association. His quarterly report in Ickenham Calling keeps us

up to date with crime and crime prevention in the village. The chair attends the quarterly planning forums organised by LBH, and I also attend the meetings of HARA (Hillingdon Alliance of Residents Associations) with Pete Daymond – he also attends meetings of the London Green Belt Council and, with June Reyner, the RAF Northolt Community Liaison meetings.

TREASURERS REPORT With reference to copies of the accounts, which were available on paper to attendees, treasurer Ian Phillips provided the following report:

As members will recall last year's AGM agreed that annual subscriptions should increase to £2.50 and that two years subs i.e. £5 would be collected at one time. Hence subs collected, as shown in the top line of the accounts, amounted to £11,982 of which £5,875 related to 2024/25. We have benefited from the higher level of interest rates, so bank interest increased to £292. Total receipts for the year 2023/24 amounted £6,462.

On the expense front we have continued to benefit from cost effective printing arrangements, particularly in relation to the newsletters - our single largest expense. In particular we are pleased to use a local printer and so support a local business. Office services is unusual in showing a net receipt of £5, this reflects compensation payments received from Barclays Bank following complaints of poor service provision. After expenses totalling £2,719 your Association had a net surplus for the year of £3,744. The fund statement reflects the fact that subscriptions for the new financial year i.e. the figure of £5,875 in brackets, were collected in advance. I should like to thank the committee for all their support, and the Area and Road Stewards for their dedication in collecting subscriptions, which are the "financial life blood" of your association. Our Honorary Auditor Fiona Morgan has "signed off" the accounts for the year, as presented to you and has agreed to continue in the role going forward.

The Treasurer's report was proposed for approval by Margaret Maes, seconded by Joan Waters and unanimously approved. The re-appointment of Honorary Auditor Fiona Morgan was proposed for approval by Anke Phillips, seconded by Vic Silk and unanimously approved.

The Chair then thanked the association committee for their time, expertise, and for giving so much to keep Ickenham the special place we know and love. Since our last AGM there have been some to the committee. We sadly lost Julian Ingram as membership secretary at the time of our last AGM. We are fortunate in having Pat Ingram and Janice Tranter to replace him as joint Membership secretaries. As required by our constitution, the chair stood down and handed the meeting over to President Peter Daymond, who thanks Jill for her tireless efforts over the years, confirmed that all committee members were content to stand for election for a further year, and oversaw the election process. and oversaw the election of officers.

Elections The committee members seeking election were:

President - Peter Daymond

General Secretary - June Reyner

Membership Secretaries - Pat Ingram and Janice Tranter

Treasurer - Ian Phillips

Chris Mountain - minutes secretary

10 Committee Members: Brian Adams, Neena Bedi, David John, Maureen Pemberton, Richard Piper, Vic Silk, Chris Tarr , Humphrey Tizard

3 Co-opted members: Dave Grimshaw, Vivek Syal, Simon Taylor

The election of the committee was proposed for approval by Geoff Douglass, seconded by Anke Phillips and unanimously approved.

The newly re-elected chair commented that 3 full committee and 3 co-opted committee vacancies exist and stated that if anyone is interested in joining the committee, please chat to a committee member after this meeting. We would very much welcome someone bringing fresh ideas and input to the Committee.

Councillor Banerjee then gave an update on canal feeder / Ickenham Stream behind Glebe Avenue/Austin's Lane. He stated that the previously mentioned access issues had been resolved and that maintenance works were scheduled for Autumn.

The Chair then closed the formal meeting and invited MP David Simmonds to address the meeting. She noted that boundary changes mean that Ickenham will no longer be in the Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner Constituency and offered the Association's sincere thanks for his service to the community over the past decades both as ward councillor and as MP.

David thanked members for welcoming him. He commented that enabling works for the Hillingdon hospital project had caused some disruption and that he continues to put pressure on the Department of Health to ensure the timely delivery of this important scheme, as well as improved health services in other parts of the area. David mentioned that he is keen for a master plan for the future of Mount Vernon hospital to come forward including to address maintenance and refurbishment as required.

He commented that local high streets are in good shape, that local unemployment remains incredibly low, on how good the local education provision and on positive news on international trade. He commented that it continues to be a pleasure to work with local councillors and the council which, in his view, provides good value for money. He reminded attendees that his constituency surgeries continue at the Maison du Soleil continue to run. David said that since becoming a local councillor in 2002 it had been enormous privilege to serve the community and expressed some personal regret about the boundary changes. He thanked the association for their efforts on a number of fronts and wished everybody well for the future.

Councillor Martin Godard addressed the meeting. He reiterated the apologies for absence from councillor Lavery and remarked that local authorities around the country were having a pretty rough time at the moment, with one in five council leaders considering that bankruptcy in the next two years as a possibility. Martin reassured attendees that Hillingdon would not go bankrupt because of the authority's low levels of debt and commitment to not spend money we don't have.

He commented that central government funding for councils is running flat and social care costs are going through the roof. In light of this the council is using technology to reduce bureaucracy and find further cost savings. Residents may see changes in the way services are delivered but that those services would still be provided. The relocation of the library is a good example of this which is expected to deliver operational cost savings of £420,000 a year.

Martin said that councillors are always happy to meet with residents where there is a need and reassured attendees that responses to any queries or questions would be responded to promptly and as fully as possible. Martin thanked the association for their efforts and commended all attendees for taking an interest in local matters. He concluded his remarks by calling on those present to consider whether they could serve their local community by becoming a ward councillor. Regardless of any political persuasion he would be happy to discuss this with anyone should they be interested.

There was only one matter raised from the floor for the question-and-answer session. Joan Waters and Mr Barnes expressed concern about road safety and congestion generally and specifically around schools.

Councillor Goddard commented that road congestion is a very complicated matter with no easy solutions. He noted the recent introduction of a 20 mile an hour speed limit around Glebe school and suggested that residents petition for a similar scheme on Warren Rd around Swakeleys school.