



NORTHWOOD HILLS
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**
The MBE for volunteer groups

Northwood Hills Residents' Association 83rd Annual General Meeting
Minutes Wednesday 19th May 2021 at 7:45pm

The Meeting was virtual and held on Zoom due to Covid 19 compliance restriction

Present: Andrew Riley, Tony Lane, Linda Swan, Fiona Morgan, Bobbie Ward, Chris English, Alan Lester, Leo Mandel, Jane Clayfield, John Choopani, Sjur Berven, Ed Donald, David Simmons MP, Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Shabbar Shachendina, Sonia Graham, Cllr Duncan Flynn, Sgt James Bishop, Fiona Morgan, Alan Shipman, Carmel Hynes, Maggie Lane, Roxanna Peters.

1) Agreement by Members Present to hold a Virtual AGM

- The members unanimously agreed to hold the AGM Meeting as a Virtual Meeting

2) Apologies for Absence

- Cllr John Morgan, Graham Mann, Chris Sennington, Lynne Halse, Keith Blunden, Joan Butfield, Zubin Writer, Graeme Knights

3) President's Opening Address

- Professor Tony Lane welcomed everyone.

4) Approval of Minutes

- It was agreed that the minutes of the 82nd AGM will be put forward for approval at the 2022 AGM.

5) Chairman's Report

- Andrew Riley gave the Committees' sincere condolences go to all the families and friends who had had the worst of outcomes from the deadly Covid 19 virus.
- He explained that because of the pandemic the Spring 2020 edition of the Hills Echo was cancelled. Although a great deal of work had already been done any delay in the cancellation would have proved very costly.
- A decision was also taken to cancel the programme of events until further notice.
- The Committee felt that they needed to do something to help the community and had tried unsuccessfully to make a donation of £1000 each to the Kate Fassnidge Trust and H4All who were supporting the

vulnerable within the community. So the Committee then decided that as the projected expenditure would be significantly lower than normal, any monies received in respect of Membership Subscriptions or donations by 30 June would be donated to a local NHS project. The Committee was amazed that £1,500 was raised and subsequently agreed to ring-fence this amount to buy a piece of equipment for the new Northwood Health Centre. The decision to set aside the membership fees was picked up by Zurich Insurance who were very impressed and ran two articles about the NHRA in their newsletter which was distributed to all their business customers in the UK.

- By the autumn, the number of Covid cases had fallen so a smaller than usual version of the Echo was produced. It was decided not to ask schools whose priority was educating children or church groups who were not able to hold proper services. The local business community was also not asked to advertise as many had little or no income
- Andrew explained that with the reduced number of Covid cases the following virtual events were then arranged:
 - In November NHRA joined forces with a number of faith groups to record a virtual online Remembrance Day service for Northwood and Northwood Hills. With thanks to Leo Mindel's expertise, the event was broadcast as a live service on several media channels at 11:00am on Remembrance Sunday.
 - Although we could not hold the Christmas concert, it was agreed that we could hold a virtual Grand Switch on of the Northwood Hills Christmas lights. This was done with the help of Mayor Teji Barnes and her "magical hand sanitizer plunger bottle" from the Mayor's Office. Father Christmas also recorded a message.
- A number of virtual Committee Meetings and Police Ward panels took place to ensure that the NHRA continued to move forward. In spring 2021, a virtual meeting took place with the Mayor who was keen to understand what NHRA was doing to support the community.
- Sadly, during the year Maxine Goswell our Secretary and Lois Goswell our Editor and Web Master stood down from the Committee. Both had done excellent work for the NHRA and would be missed. Andrew was pleased to say that they would be invited to attend the 2022 annual Supper Party so that a proper goodbye could be said. Maxine has agreed to continue to work on the NHRA Facebook which now has circa 1,500 members and is encouraging local roads to form WhatsApp groups.
- Andrew was delighted when Linda Swan, who is the PA to the Head of Northwood School, agreed to join as Secretary and Ben Jefferis, a Year 11 student at Northwood School agreed to become our new Web Master. Graeme Knights joined as an Ecology and Environment Committee Member and Ed Donald agreed to join us. We still need to define Ed's role but we hope he will work with us to attract younger members.
- Jan Choopani an existing Committee member volunteered to become the acting editor of the Hills Echo. In March Jan and others produced a bumper 80-page edition of the Echo, which was delivered to every home in the Northwood Hills Ward. Jan's husband John is responsible for bringing in the advertising and they worked together as an excellent team to produce a great edition of The Echo.
- Andrew also mentioned Graham Mann and John Choopani who during the year vastly increased the number of road stewards; approximately 99% of roads are now covered.
- Andrew thanked Alan Shipman, Roxana Peters and others who have built a new comprehensive database of members.
- As mentioned in the Situation Report issued due to the postponement of the 82nd AGM a team NHRA of volunteers have taken on the challenge of maintaining the station platform gardens. They are doing a great job and

have transformed the two platform gardens. Many positive comments have been received from residents and commuters. TFL were supposed to be giving a grant of £250 p.a. to cover the cost of plants and equipment but unfortunately, due to the current precarious state of their finances were not able to do so.

- Planning as usual took a lot of time but pleasingly there were some notable successes. Some of the planning issues were raised with David Simmonds who in turn discussed them with an all-party Parliamentary Group that he chairs. The All Party group is trying to positively influence the Government's thinking on Planning Policy, as Government policy is not always helpful to Hillingdon. The Council is also trying to remove some of the Governmental implications by registering a number of what are known as Article 4 documents which take circa 15 months to become effective.

6) Hon. Treasurer's Report

- Fiona Morgan presented the unaudited accounts for 20/21. She hoped that they would be audited shortly and requested agreement, which was given subject to the Committee having delegated authority formally signing off once audited.
- Last year there was a surplus of £1,082 before monies were ring fenced to make a donation of £1,500 to the new Northwood Health Centre for the purchase of equipment. There was also a donation of £1,000 to the new St Edmunds Scout Hut appeal when it launches.
- £15,000 was on a deposit account at the Bank.
- The treasurer was asked the number of people paying by Standing Order or Bank Transfer. This was stated to be approximately 25%

7) Election of Officers

a) Election of Officers – Existing Committee with nominations received listed below.

Election of President

Position	Current Committee Member	Committee's Nominations
President	Prof. Tony Lane	Prof Tony Lane (Acting)

b) Election of Chairman

Position	Current Committee Member	Committee's Nominations
Chairman	Andrew Riley BEM ACIB	Andrew Riley BEM ACIB

c) Election of Vice Chairman

Position	Current Committee Member	Committee's Nominations
Vice Chairman	Leo Mindel	Alan Shipman (Acting)

d) Election of Committee (as a whole)

Position	Current Committee Member	Committee's Nominations
Vice Presidents	Herbert Levinger, Alan Lester, Trevor Dixon	Herbert Levinger, Alan Lester, Trevor Dixon
Hon. Secretary	Maxine Goswell	Linda Swan
Minutes Secretary	Maxine Goswell	Bobbie Ward
Membership Secretary	Roxana Peters	Roxana Peters
Hon. Treasurer	Fiona Morgan FCCA	Fiona Morgan FCCA
Hon. Auditor	Jane Brighton ACMA	Jane Brighton ACMA
Transport Officer	Vacant: Information currently supplied by Anthony Wood	Vacant: Information currently supplied by Anthony Wood
Planning	Andrew Riley, Prof Bobbie	Andrew Riley, Prof Bobbie Ward,

	Ward, Sjur Bevan	Sjur Bervan
Press Officer	Andrew Riley	Andrew Riley
Environment Officer	Lesley Crowcroft – (Consultant)	Lesley Crowcroft –(Consultant)
Ecology and Environment	N/A	Graeme Knights
Police Liaison	Graham Mann	Graham Mann
Health Officer	Joan Butfield	Joan Butfield
Quartermaster	Vacant	Shabbar Sachedina
Shops Co-ordinator	Andrew Riley/ John Choopani	Graham Mann/ John Choopani
Editor The Hills Echo	Lois Goswell	Jan Choopani (Acting)
Advertising	John Choopani, Graham Mann, Jan Choopani,	John Choopani, Graham Mann, Jan Choopani,
Web Master	Lois Goswell	Ben Jefferis
Events Committee	Lynne Halse, Keith Blunden, Jane Clayfield, Terry Clayfield, Jo Crockford	Lynne Halse, Keith Blunden, Jane Clayfield, Terry Clayfield,
Charity Donations Officer	Alan Shipman	Alan Shipman
Committee Members	Paul Akers, Ted Adams, Alan Shipman, Shabbar Sachendina	Paul Akers, Shabbar Sachedina, Leo Mindell. Tony Lane, Ed Donald

Professor Tony lane had agreed to continue as President until a new president could be appointed.

8) David Simmonds, MP CBE

- David congratulated the committee on their work for the area.
- He stated that he was working with the local councillors, Cllr Flynn and Cllr Bianco on the various planning issues
- He reflected that the Government had focused its efforts to obtain support for local businesses when lockdown occurred, and that it had enlisted the help of local Councils to help in the distribution of funds to their specific regions.
- The Covid 19 vaccination programme had gone well and he hoped that some normality to life would soon return.
- The impact of Brexit to immigration, environment and agriculture was still being felt.
- He agreed that there should be some levelling of polices so that wealth and business would be encouraged to spread through the country.
- Local problems included the possible planning application for Joel Street Farm. Since this was a designated green belt area, it was unlikely any planning application would be approved.
- There had been discussions over the future of Northwood Cottage Hospital at Northwood Hills. Plans have been submitted to refurbish the hospital site as the GP practice and to sell the existing health centre site with planning permission for residential development
- The Chair advised that whilst there was common ground to have a new health centre with some residential development both NRA and NRA have objected to the current proposals and were supporting a petition submitted by residents of Juniper Close. A number of objections from residents of Waverley Gardens who will also be impacted are known to have been submitted. The Planning Application will be heard by the Major Planning Committee, date not yet known.
- In closing David reported that when the new Ward Boundary changes come into effect at the 2,22 Local Elections the number of Council seats across the Borough will reduce and as a consequence the Council had

decided to merge the North and South Planning Committees (smaller development) at the same time giving the Officers more delegated authority. The Major Planning Committee will remain.

9) Sgt James Bishop,

- Sgt Bishop reported that the team for Northwood Hills was still not up to full strength. Happiness was who was still unable to fulfil his full duties would be replaced. Additional personnel would also be recruited from Uxbridge. One of the new Officers had started and had already arrested a shoplifter in Boots.
- Ricky who had been absent for some time with COVID had now recovered.
- Sgt Bishop hoped that he would have two PCs and one PCSO which might ultimately increase to 3 PCs and 1 PSO.
- He reported that anti-social behaviour was still occurring in Joel Street and he had applied for extra assistance which had improved the situation. However, now that restrictions were being removed he hoped that the situation would remain stable.
- There were concerns about speeding in Joel Street and Catlins Lane and some ops were in view. Sjur Bervan requested that Cuckoo Hill / High Road Eastcote should also be under observation with regard to excessive speeding. Sgt Bishop undertook to investigate this.
- Sonia Graham reported that there was excessive drug dealing in the Fore Street area, both in houses and in the Park. Although complaints had been made, she was unsure whether any steps had been taken to investigate this.
- Cllr Flynn reported that people were recording certain events on video on house entrance bells (e.g. attempts to open doors of cars and houses) although the pictures were not always clear at night.
- Chris English reported that the catalytic converter on his car in Catlins Lane had been stolen at about 9pm one night. He queried why an Officer from Acton Town had been sent to investigate the incident. Sgt Bishop said that it was normal for such officers to investigate the offence as several local areas had been combined across West London and the team dealing with this type of theft were now based in Acton. Sgt Bishop, stated that Honda and Toyota cars were being particularly targeted by the thieves.

10) Q&A Questions and Answers

- Sonia Graham reported that there had been an application for land in Fore Street to be used as storage for over 80 storage containers, which had been refused. However, there was continual traffic in Fore Street, lorries were arriving in the area to make use of the containers already there. This very disturbing for the residents and representations had been made for an Enforcement Notice nothing appeared to have been resolved.
 - *Action: Andrew to speak to those concerned in an attempt to rectify the situation.*
- Sjur Bervan requested information concerning the Ward boundary changes which come into effect in 2022. Cllr Flynn reported that Coniston Gardens, Maybank, Wiltshire Lane (south of Salisbury Road), Somerford Close and Egerton Close would move to Eastcote Ward.

11) Any other Business.

- The Chair reported that Thursday on 2nd June 2022 Northwood and Northwood Hills Associations would combine to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with a 'musical Picnic in the Park'. David Simmons has agreed to be Patron of the event. Bruce Houlder "The Representative

Deputy Lieutenant for The London Borough of Hillingdon" will be attending and will close the event. A Jubilee committee which has its own constitution had been formed, with Leo Mindel as the Chairman. It was agreed that NHRA would make £1000 available to the organising Committee. Leo, said that the Associations had previously organised two other events (2012 and 2016) which had been very successful. He was searching for sponsors for the event and Shabbar Sachedina offered to help.

- The Chair reported said that during the COVID pandemic a number of the local shops had been adversely affected. However, he was pleased to report that there were more shops open now than before the start of the COVID crisis, only three shops and two half shops were now vacant in Joel Street. He reported that Budgens had taken over Space and the refitted store had opened today. He also commented that the regeneration programme for Northwood Hills been very successful.

12) President's Closing Remarks.

In closing, the Chair on behalf of the President thanked the Committee for the work they had done over the last 24 months as well as the Ward Councillors, MP and Police for their help and support.

Forthcoming Events – Subject to alteration
Wednesday – 23 June Ward Panel and Committee Meeting
Wednesday – 8 September Ward Panel and Committee Meeting
Friday – 24 September – Echo Copy Date
Saturday – TBA Northwood Hills Clean Up Day
Sunday 14 November Remembrance Sunday
Saturday – 20 November, Christmas Lights Switch On
Wednesday 24 November – Ward Panel and Committee Meeting.
2022
Wednesday - 19th January, Ward Panel and Committee Meeting
Wednesday - 23rd March, Committee Meeting
Saturday - TBA, Northwood Hills Clean Up Day
Wednesday 27th April, Annual Supper Party
Wednesday - 18th May, Annual General Meeting (Key Note Speaker, Richard Kornicki CBE DL)
Thursday - 2 June, (Bank Holiday) Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration Event.
Wednesday - 22nd June, Ward Panel and Committee Meeting
Wednesday - 7th September, Ward Panel and Committee Meeting.
Saturday - TBA, Northwood Hills Clean Up Day

Wednesday - 23rd October, Committee Meeting

Sunday - 13th November, Remembrance Sunday

Saturday - 19 November, Grand Switch-On of The Christmas Lights

Wednesday - 23 November, Ward Panel and Committee Meeting.

DRAFT