**THE 2nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF** THE HAM AND PETERSHAM ASSOCIATION AND AMENITIES GROUP

**Held in St Thomas Aquinas Church Hall, Ham Common**

**At 7:30pm on Wednesday 11 May 2022**

1. **Welcome**: The President, Rachel Lipscomb, welcomed members to the second HPA&AG AGM, and she thanked the Trustees and the members of the Management Committee for their hard work since the Initial AGM on March 3rd 2021.
2. **Minutes of the 2021 AGM**: The minutes of the inaugural AGM held on 3 March 2021 were confirmed.
3. **Statement of Accounts for 2021**: The accounts for the period 10 December 2020 to 31 December 2021, prepared by Pauline Gizejewski, the Honorary Treasurer, and approved by Julia Bailey, the External Examiner, were confirmed.
4. **Trustees Annual Report**: The Trustees Report for the period 10 December 2020 to 31 December 2021 was approved.
5. **Appointment of Trustees and Officers**: Under the Ham & Petersham Association and Amenities Group’s Constitution, Geoff Bond, Jo Chambers, Pauline Gizejewski, Linda Holland, David Jowers and Sir David Williams were required to retire as Trustees, with Geoff Bond, Pauline Gizejewski, Linda Holland, David Jowers and Sir David Williams willing to serve for another three-year term as a Trustee.
Geoff Bond and Sir David Williams were willing to continue to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, whilst David Jowers was willing to continue to serve as Honorary Secretary.
DJ reported that 18 completed ballots had been returned, all in favour of the above, and none objecting.
The meeting confirmed the reappointments.
6. **Illustrated talk by Sir David Williams: “Ham and Petersham: Past and future”**Sir David showed maps and photographs to contrasted the increase in development and traffic density over the last 100 years, related how Ham UDC introduced social housing in the 1930s, praised Eric Lyons and James Stirling for their designs for Parkleys and Langham House Close, and noted how well the Wates estate had visually matured over 60 years. Sir David showed some photographs from the 1979-1980 Petersham Road collapse, including a London Transport Routemaster bus turning round by reversing into the very narrow Sandpits Road.

Sir David then discussed how, after the gravel pits of Ham Lands had been infilled with chalk and debris resulting from WWII bombing, a campaign had been waged to prevent Ham Lands being developed, with Ham Lands, now protected by its designation as Metropolitan Open Land, home to Bee and Pyramidal Orchids.

Sir David concluded his talk by looking to the future of Ham and Petersham, and the need to get local schools, including the Deutsche Schule (noting that 1/6 of Ham and Petersham voters were EU nationals) more involved in local environmental issues.

1. **Chair’s review of 2021**
	1. **Environmental work:** Fewer activities had been possible because of Covid restrictions, but it had still been possible to carry out work at Ham Pond and Latchmere Brook, on the Petersham Common Woods’ Toad Ponds, and wood-chipping the Petersham Copse paths.
	2. **Graffiti:** All graffiti should be reported to LBRuT, the Police, and to the HPA&AG Chair.
	3. **Gate House Garden:** The new Ham sign commissioned by HAG had been installed, but vandals had broken trees and benches. Volunteers to help the professional gardener were needed.
	4. **Ham Common trees:** LBRuT was being chased to replace the diseased Chestnuts and the fallen Plane trees.
	5. **Apple orchard:** An apple orchard near the Ham Street allotments had been planted in association with the Ham United Group.
	6. **Ham Fair:** A most successful Ham Fair had been held in September and Julie Page and the Ham Fair Committee were to be congratulated for this achievement.
	7. **Conservation area street lighting:** The LED replacement street lighting that LBRuT was installing was modern, utilitarian and out of character.
	8. **Malcolm Singleton:** The HPA&AG appeal to create a memorial for Malcolm to record his many years’ service to residents had now raised more than £6000, and it was intended to instal a bespoke bench near to his hardware shop on Ham Parade, although this was being delayed by LBRuT’s Ham Parade redesign process.
	9. **Jo Chambers** was thanked for her many years of service as a Ham and Petersham Association committee member as a HPA&AG Trustee.
2. **Looking forward**: The Chair outlined some of the issues facing Ham and Petersham in 2022
	1. **Ham Close**: A planning application for 452 homes was imminent. Whilst it was appreciated that some homes are not in a good state, local medical, educational and transport facilities needed to be improved to cater for the additional residents.
	2. **Richmond Park:** What would happen to the current temporary road closures once the trial had ended?
	3. **Ham Polo:** We are proud of it but we need to ensure their planning applications are in keeping with the area. Areas of concern include fencing and the provision of an all-weather pitch.
	4. **Grass mowing:** LBRuT was proposing to drastically reduce the mowing of grassed areas.
	5. **5G Phone masts:** Recent applications for phone masts totally ignored their effect on the local environment.
	6. **Summer Party:** This would be held on 11th June – tickets cost £20.
3. **Ham Pond:** Bill Millard, who is responsible for Ham Pond, described his work. Bill had been involved in water related citizen science for nearly 20 years, working on the Hogsmill, Crane and Thames. The challenges facing him at Ham Pond included the 2018 Duckweed invasion, which needed intervention by contractors to resolve; the annual application of Siltex (a highly porous form of calcium carbonate) to break down the pond’s silt; maintenance of the reed bed, which whilst filtering the pond water and good for biodiversity needed to be managed to limit the reeded area and maintain the views of the pond from the surrounding benches; and the restoration of the island. Bill highlighted his work on creating a “living fence” to protect the pond; this had been extended by TCV, but would need maintenance in the future.

Bill then highlighted the challenges faces the lands along the Thames from the forecast rise in sea levels arising from global warming. The Thames Barrier would not be able to protect both Central London and upstream areas, and the “Rewilding Arcadia” project, allowing the Thames to return to a more natural path, was an attempt to deal with this.

Bill concluded with an appeal for more volunteers to help in keeping the pond clear of rubbish, fallen branches, etc.

1. **Meeting Closed** at 9:20pm followed by drinks, there being no other business.