

Draft: to be agreed at CARA AGM 2024

CANBURY AND RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION (CARA) AGM 2023

Minutes of the meeting held at Canbury Pavilion on 12th October 2023 at 7pm

Welcome

Richard Mobbs welcomed CARA members and our post-AGM speaker, Laura Nee from Thames Landscape Strategy on the TLS project to create a natural riverbank beside Canbury Gardens. He noted that Martine Roscorla had kindly offered to take the minutes of the AGM.

Apologies were received from CARA committee members Sharon Langer, Liz Poole, Kelly Page and Nic Lewisohn, as well as from members Anneke Ferrier, Linda Gay and Jonathan Rollason.

Tellers: Mary Mobbs and Laurence Garvey volunteered to count votes if required.

Minutes of the previous CARA AGM, on October 13th 2022, were approved unanimously. There were no matters arising.

CARA highlights 2022/2023 were presented by Richard Mobbs:

- **Social events:** started with Christmas drinks at The Boaters Inn. The events highlight was the Coronation concert in Canbury gardens, a great success, with Sarah Olney MP, our local councillors and the Town Crier joining us. Our events continue with another successful barbecue at the tennis club, in splendid weather early in September.
- **Discounts:** To help members with their own social events, Hilton Double Tree and The Queen's Head have agreed to give CARA members a discount, similar to that offered by The Boaters Inn, details of which are circulated to members along with their membership cards.
- **Learning events:** were well attended and entertaining, thanks to Elliot Newton, the council's Biodiversity Officer. He took us on a bat walk around the gardens, where we heard and saw a remarkable number of bats. He also led a walk about biodiversity and dog walking which was interesting even for those of us who do not own a dog. And, finally, Elliot and Helen Cavanagh, from Kingston College, gave an enlightening and interesting talk in the Pavilion, about the Peregrine falcons nesting on the roof of Kingston College.
- **Communications:** we put a lot of efforts on communications, delivering **Newsletters** to over 800 properties across this area, and emailing CARA eNews every month, giving feedback on local events and informing people about things which may affect them. Our contacts with local organisations enable us to keep members aware of significant local developments, such as the proposed inappropriate development of properties on Lower Ham Road and Lower Kings Road, thereby allowing people to raise their concerns. We also alerted people to the potential environmental impact of Thames Water proposals at Teddington Lock. There were no proper answers from Thames Water to queries made by concerned residents of the area.
- **CARA contacts:** we have contacts with Canbury Gardens Working Group, an excellent mechanism for contact with Glendale, the parks maintenance contractor, as well as with council officers responsible for open spaces. Our thanks to Councillor James Manthel for running this group so effectively, keeping everyone focused on the various projects in and around Canbury Gardens. Among other things, residents may have noticed this year that a few illegally moored boats were removed from our stretch of the river.

- **CARA support:** CARA continues to support Friends of the Bandstand, sponsoring a band and marshalling at concerts, as well as the Friends of Canbury Gardens, including providing bulbs for the gardens and bird and bats boxes for the wildlife area.

There were no questions.

The Treasurer's Report presented by Charles Roscorla.

It was reported that income for the year was £916 higher than the prior year, thanks largely to the generous sponsorship of two newsletters by Greenwoods Residential, one specific generous donation and a small growth in memberships to 220. Expenditure for the year was £738 higher than the prior year, due largely to the sponsorship of a concert and other costs incurred for the Coronation event.

Although there was a small surplus for the year, this was thanks to sponsorship and also to benefits in kind made by The Queen's Head and Project Marquee Limited.

The Treasurer stressed that although total reserves remain high, CARA cannot continue to rely on donations and sponsorship to keep afloat.

John Parrish introduced Resolution 1 by outlining CARA's strengths.

- **The leaflet**, a reminder of what CARA is about and detailing what it does for the community.
- **CARA's influence**, thanks to its contacts with the council and contractors, ensuring they listen to what residents have to say.
- **Canbury Gardens Working Group**, created 20 years ago, now supported by the council and doing great work for the gardens.
- **CARA's support** for volunteer gardeners, offering £250 for new tools.
- **CARA's support of the Bandstand**, finding sponsors for concerts.
- **Discounts** enjoyed by the members, another great incentive for which CARA has worked hard.
- And finally, to avoid CARA becoming unable to fund its normal activities in future, and after over 20 years of the membership fee remaining unchanged, an increase to the annual fee has become inevitable. £5 in 1990 is equivalent to over £11 today, so we suggest to increase the membership fee, from 2024, to £10 a year.

Resolution 1: to increase the CARA annual subscription to £10 a year from 1st September 2024. Vote taken, no objections. Resolution carried unanimously.

Resolution 2: approval of accounts. Vote taken, no objections. Accounts approved.

CARA committee elections:

- Deborah Higgins, new committee member, proposed by Richard Mobbs, seconded by Charles Roscorla: vote taken, no objections. New committee member elected.
- The following committee members are standing for re-election: Clare Francis, Sharon Langer, Richards Mobbs, Kelly Page, John Parrish, Liz Poole, Charles Roscorla. Vote taken, no objections. All standing re-elected.
- Committee member Nic Lewisohn is standing back for a year due to heavy commitments, but hopes to rejoin the committee next year.

Any other business: no other business.

Richard Mobbs thanked everybody for joining the meeting, and brought the AGM to a close.
