



HHT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 8th March 2023 – 7.30 p.m.
Minutes v.3.0

Apologies - Eileen Kinnear, John Williams

Present - Cllr Marilyn Ashton (Chair), Virginie Lambertucci (Minute Taker), Cllr June Baxter, Mayor Janet Mote, Steve Bolsover, Leslie Bolsover, Simon Braidman, Liz Parry, John Orchard, Robin Youle, Jonathan Barker, Adrian Doyle, Margaret Huitson, Caroline Kearns, Mark Billington.

1. **Minutes for the meeting held on 11th October 2022 Approved**

2. **Membership of the HHT Executive Committee 2021 - 2022**

Voted on the representative for the Hatch End Association

Liz Parry – Co-opted as new trustee for the HHT Executive Committee

3. No further matters arising from the minutes other than those laid out in the agenda.

4. **Treasurer's report.**

Leslie handed out expenditure break down, see annex for details. Both expenditure and income has gone up. This includes the future legacy payment for the restricted funding, received email of assurance funds released on or before 15th March 2023.

Robin Youle queried why they are only getting £89,000.000. Leslie Bolsover provided response, the explanation received was that the house was not sold at the price it was valued at, the way the accounts were initially represented was a bit misleading. Person who drew up initial accounts has since left, several of the charities have requested the accounts to be redrawn, but this will not happen. Leslie has accepted the legacy amount of £89,000.000.

5. **NatWest Account**

NatWest signing mandate needs updating to remove Martin Verden from the named list of signatories, the committee all voted in favour of removing Martin Verden's name from the list of signatories. minutes will be presented to NatWest for it to be actioned.

NatWest have now created the option for Charity accounts to move to online banking, it is now free set up. The committee have voted in favour of setting up an online bank account, whilst also retaining the checking facility.

The committee have all voted in favour for these changes to our NatWest account, and these minutes will be provided to the bank for these to be actioned by the bank.

- **Leslie Bolsover send a copy of these minutes to the NatWest Account Manager**

6. Sub-committees' reports: -

a. Harrow Museum and Heritage Centre – Robin Youle.

The Manor House was open on reduced winter hours until end of January and reverted to 6 hours in February, available for a children's half term activity. There was a successful temporary exhibition celebrating 132 years of service at the Old Harrow Cottage Hospital Roxeth Hill, which opened in 1866 and closed in 1998 when Northwick Park Hospital was built and expanded. Currently there is a temporary exhibition on excavations at St Dominic's sixth form college.

A particularly successful exhibitions on the Tamil heritage in harrow, which has drawn in lots of newcomers to view it, and one on interfaith. Other smaller exhibitions, family and adult events have continued, including Tuesday talks. The first 2023 wedding has taken place in the great barn, and lots of future bookings ahead. The friends have donated £5,000 for three defibrillators, in addition to £4,000 donated to the school's and children's foodbank project to encourage visitors to the manor house site. The May day open day postponed to Monday following Kings coronation.

b. Membership – Leslie Bolsover.

Standing at 53 members, sadly when sent out invitations, we have realised some are no longer members, half are now lifetime members. Leslie has written to those who have lapsed membership, in the hope that they will be keen to renew and had just forgotten.

c. Plaques – John Williams.

Cllr Ashton reports that very sadly John Williams is not well, and currently in hospital. The committee extend their well wishes and are praying for John's full and quick recovery. No further updates on the plaques.

d. Harrow Nature Conservation Forum (HNCF) - Stephen Bolsover.

Very sadly Peter Peretti passed away in November last year, he was a huge asset to HNCF and Bentley Priory and is irreplaceable. Peter's friends and family including the Bentley Priory management committee are looking into a memorial. We have now arranged both to get work done and bring in volunteers with regular volunteering work parties on the second Saturday of each month at Bentley priory, we are meeting at the top of Masefield Avenue at 10am, next event is the 11th of March 2023, please spread the word around.

Old redding project which may come to an end this month, although they may hold over some money to help finish off the project. Works undertaken to promote Great crested newts, the largest amount of money came from both the Mayor of London's Rewild London grant, and River and wetlands community days fund.

Sylvia Avenue open space, north of Hatch End town centre has joined HNCF informally, we are awaiting policy from Mark Billington on non-park open spaces. The Harrow wildlife action project, to work on biodiversity across the whole of the borough moves forward slowly, being headed by Caroline Kearns is heading up the outreach component and discussing opportunities. On surveying, Claire Bright is heading up some sessions, and organised two small bioblitzes at Bentley priory and Wood Farm last month. Bioblitzes create a snapshot of the variety of life found in a specific location in a short space of time.

Steve Whitbread, the Harrow Council biodiversity officers is applying for a river and community days project grant to fund surveying watercourses in harrow which will support the existing volunteers are three non-HNCF sites, Headstone Manor,

Yeading Walk and Roxbourne park, and Newton Farm and recruit new volunteers for surveying.

HNCF is now registered as a data provider with National Biodiversity Network (NBN), to give the results of surveys and was the runner-up of the National Biodiversity Network Group Award 2022.

Update - Rough sleepers at Stanmore common.

A big team including Richard Birikorang visited site on the 9th of November 2022.

Richard **Burton** has now been relocated and provided permanent accommodation in Golders green, he tried to clear his encampment prior to leaving. John winter and Simon Braidman have helped to clear the remaining camp and left some trunks. All artificial material has been removed, and no signs of the camp remain. **However since the HHT meeting there are signs of others using the site and a small fire with signal tape and plastic bag sleeves on branches trying to signpost the camp site, all of these have been removed.** The second rough sleeper Greg, young healthy man, hides away on site north of Pynding Mersc and you wouldn't know he is there. He wants to be there, does not create any mess, leave litter and would not welcome a move, as he has been there for 6 years.

Another has since left camp could not be found, and there were concerns as he had mental health issues. Another rough sleeper who used to use the old tool shed, has also since left, after setting fire to the tool shed where one man was camping. There are now no other rough sleepers.

Cllr Ashton provided Steve Bolsover with the details of the current council contacts for rough sleepers. Brian.Bekoe@harrow.gov.uk; Richard.Birikorang@harrow.gov.uk

e. Historic Buildings Grants - John Orchard.

Since the last meeting there have been no enquiries for grants assistance, very quiet. Nothing has come in since the COVID19 pandemic. The hope is that the competition and HHT promotion campaign should help to push the grants side.

Update – Braziers Dairy Farm,

Cllr Ashton confirms there is a breach of Section 106 - Legal agreement. Lucy Hale and planning enforcement officers, have been in discussion with the developers, the case has been passed onto a new solicitor and officers are holding an internal meeting and will be meeting with the developer.

- **Cllr Ashton will try to push this along and will get more involved with the case.**

f. Work with Young People – Simon Braidman

Lots of work with young people and Duke of Edinburgh bronze level, with pupils from Nower Hill school. Simon wrote to the school about the Nower Hill students to praise them and all their work. Simon is also mentoring two students studying nature conservation, going to various sites and undertaking habitat assessments. They were given homework to continue the learning, Simon is really enjoying this and would like to do more of this work. It would be great to mentor students and do more work with them, to promote conservation in Harrow. Simon wants to open this up to more conservationists and requires the funds and equipment to do so. Upcoming plans to go into West London primary school, to deliver a session on bees.

The friends of manor park now has Junior friends of manor park, who carried out a litter pick which was so satisfying and really enjoyed it. That was a great success and the friends will put it on their website.

Mayor Janet Mote thanks everyone involved with all this work and congratulates the success and dedication to engaging with young people.

7. Chairman's Report – Cllr Marilyn Ashton

Cllr Marilyn Ashton is currently establishing herself within the new role as Chair of HHT. She is grateful to Leslie Bolsover for providing information and assisting with settling into this role. In addition to the points already discuss Cllr Ashton is looking forward to achieving new things and is pleased to have such a special group of people on board.

Cllr Ashton is excited to raise the profile of Harrow, its built and wild historic and natural richness to the wider community. We need to look at ways to engage a younger demographic who better reflect Harrow and it's diverse communities.

8. Any other Business

8.1 Raising the profile of Harrow Heritage Trust

HHT previously ran 14 design competitions, which were run in partnership with the Harrow Observer. Cllr Marilyn Ashton currently has a partnership with the council and believes together we can run and organise a competition with the assistance of councillor officers. The aim is to design a competition which will aid raising our profile, through a healthy way to promote the work undertaken by HHT.

Mark Billington, council officer described the various opportunities and avenues for council officers to assist the competition marketing, communications and judging.

Once the initial consultation and format has been agreed by HHT, the council can assist with the concept and design, and provide access to the below channels,

- Harrow People Magazine – goes out quarterly harrow residents and businesses.
- My Harrow - email newsletter goes out weekly 60,000 people.
- Social media, Facebook, Twitter – Daily posts.

Additionally, when visiting sites and during consultations and planning approvals, use the opportunity to raise awareness of the design competition to developers etc. Viv Evans, Harrow Chief planning officer, has sat on London wide panels and could provide the chair of judging panel and assist with the judging criteria for categories.

A sub-committee working group has been established, to include Mayor Janet Mote, Cllr June Baxter, Cllr Marilyn Ashton, Leslie Bolsover, John Orchard.

The sub-committee need to decide what the criteria for the design competition are, whether we want to do new buildings, or open up to existing buildings which is more challenging. Appetite from the chief planning officer to open up to staff to assist us. Without this help we may struggle to organise this, drum up good positive publicity.

- Sub-committee take this forward and discuss the criteria for design competition.

8.2 Commemorating the victims, The Harrow and Wealdstone rail crash 1952.

Mayor Janet Mote attended a memorial at Wealdstone station to commemorate the disaster of the three-train crash during the morning rush hour of 8 October 1952 which resulted in 112 deaths and 340 injuries, 88 of these being detained in

hospital. The relatives said it would be really lovely to have a plaque in recognition of the lives lost and families still impacted by this disaster. It remains the worst peacetime rail crash in British history and the second deadliest overall. Mayor Janet Mote asks whether it would be possible for the HHT to recognise this. Leslie mentioned the possibility of using the work of arts funds, and commission a piece of work, and believes this would meet the criteria.

- Leslie Bolsover follow up with Mayor Janet Mote, to discuss this further.

8.3 Process for nominating important sites for plaques

Question raised what the process is for members of the public to nominate sites for plaques. Discussed the existing “Wealdstone” and awkward location, how it would be possible to have information about the stone etc. The plaque mysteriously disappeared, there is nothing to explain what the stone is.

Cllr Ashton explained that the process is to bring it to the attention of the HHT, either via email to the main inbox or asking a committee trustee or member to bring it to the meetings to be discussed and agreed by the committee.

8.4 ‘Kodak’ big lens sculpture

It was raised that the existing ‘Kodak’ big lens sculpture has no explanation to clearly explain the history behind the site and the sculpture.

- Cllr Ashton investigate whether there is an existing agreement with the site developers to create a plaque or information panel for this sculpture.

8.5 Litter picking in Harrow

Adrian Doyle, was contacted by Thames21 to be interviewed to discuss litter picking in headstone manor park. They’ve requested us to share from our experience about the things we find, what are the ambitions of the group and identify the various barriers to clean ups and litter picks.

Discussed the great work of the Harrow Litter Pickers group, being run by Casey Dalton and Keith Hewatt, the HHT has supported the group and supplies pickers and funds for graffiti cleaning equipment. The group have an agreement with the council to collect the bags. They are doing the “Big Spring Clean” in South Wealdstone. There is a map for groups to sign up and schedule the areas they wish to clean.

Leslie describes the main barriers for stream side collections, being safe removal of glass and PPE needed to collect glass. Currently they must let the council green team know there is glass in the collection, so they can safely collect the rubbish. Other issues include the Nitrous cannisters, both the mini-canisters and the industrial sized canisters used for recreational drug-use and discarded.

9. Next confirmed meeting dates are as follows:

- Wednesday 28th June 2023 - 7.30 pm
- Wednesday 4th October 2023 – AGM - 7.30 pm

Please send apologies and any future agenda items to Minutes Secretary Virginie Lambertucci at Virginie.lambertucci@gmail.com