



MINUTES OF THE 2023 OWGRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held 7.00pm, Thursday 25 May 2023 at the Indian Gymkhana Club, Thornbury Avenue, Osterley, TW7 4NQ.

Present: Cliff Assi (chairman), Edward Locke (Membership Secretary), Lis Guest (Street Rep Co-ordinator), Leo Vermeulen (Webmaster), Ian Speed (Treasurer), Colin Hume (Crime & ASB, Friends of Jersey Gardens), Barbara Stryjak (Campaign Coordinator) and 78 OWGRA members and guests.

1. Welcome. The Chairman welcomed those attending the meeting. He advised that Chief Superintendent Sean Wilson would be joining the meeting soon for the second part of the AGM.

2. Introductions and Apologies for absence. The Committee introduced themselves. Apologies were received from Balraj Gill, Basil Mann, Gaia Bianchini, Ann Thomson, Christine Diwell, Mohsen Zikri, John Collis, Stephanie Collis, Brenda Ravening, Malik Dhala, Wendy Wincote, Bharat Jain, Lynwen Roe, Armand Fasola and Aiden Sugrue. The Chairman invited Colin Hume to chair the rest of the meeting.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM held on 18th May 2022. Andy Christou proposed, and this was seconded by Peter Dick. All were in favour. **The minutes were therefore approved.**

4. Chairman's Report. Colin introduced the Chairman's report which covered a wide range of OWGRA activities, but dominant had obviously been the campaign against the proposed Tesco/Homebase developments and the public inquiry. This was coordinated by the Residents' Action Group led by OWGRA Campaign Coordinator Barbara Stryjak. There were no questions. Ian Todd proposed, and George Andraos seconded. All were in favour. **The report was therefore accepted.**

5. Treasurer's Report. Ian Speed referred to his report and noted that income from the annual subscriptions was down as the membership drive had only just started, but we had had some public inquiry costs reimbursed. Expenditure had been mainly on printing, insurance and room hire costs. There were no questions. Colin noted that the friends of Jersey Gardens had received a community grant of £960 from LBH. This had been deposited in the OWGRA account. They had recently bought two picnic benches with it, which had been installed on the oval lawn. Peter Dick proposed, and Mira Kaushik seconded. All were in favour. **The report was therefore accepted.**

6. Election of the New Committee. Colin stated that the existing committee was now only 7, all of whom were prepared to continue. There had been no new nominations for the committee. More help was desperately needed if we were expected to continue to manage the current workload. Members could attend one of our committee meetings to see what goes on. The election of the existing committee en-masse was then proposed, and this was agreed by all. Mo Beg proposed and Mira Kaushik seconded. All were in favour. **The existing OWGRA Committee would therefore continue in office.**

7. AOB.

David Pavett said that he was sorry that the committee was still struggling, but that help need not be offered in the form of a formal position, but could be in other ways, eg. proof reading of documents etc. Peter Dick noted that a proposal to demolish the 19thC Vine Lodge in Church Road had been submitted for the second year running. He urged members to look at the plans online and object. Ian Speed noted that objection leaflets were available at the meeting. Sissel Harland, on behalf of a group of new members from Harewood Road, expressed concern at the recent ASB from young men coming in to the road from outside the area to play ball games, take drugs and play loud music. It had been reported. PC Jessica Wilson would seek further details.

Pankaj Malhi, from Ashley Drive, was worried about late night ASB in Osterley. Gita Kumar, of St. Mary's Crescent, noted continued ASB in Jersey Gardens, including drug dealing. The Gardens had been locked before Covid, which had reduced it, but it was not sustainable to continue. The recent car crash and the use of the road as a cut-through to avoid the upper part of Thornbury Road had again raised the issue of speed humps. Cllr. Unsa Chaudri said that officers had agreed to meet on site to discuss traffic calming measures. Annalice Fulgoni asked why there were no speed humps in Osterley Road. Unsa stated that the road was on the list for consideration.

Howard Simmons expressed his thanks to the committee, saying what a fantastic job they were doing. This was heartily endorsed. Garth Halanen, from Bassett Gardens, said that there used to be a CCTV camera there, which had reduced the incidents of drug dealing, but it had been removed. He wanted it replaced. Cllr. Tony Louki confirmed that such cameras are only put in temporarily, but will review the incidents and discuss. He noted that the councilors' surgeries were held on the first and third Saturdays of the month at Osterley Library, from 10.30-11.30am.

The formal AGM was then closed by Colin at 7.50pm, when refreshments were available provided by the Gymkhana.

The meeting reconvened at 8.25pm.

8. Talk. Sean Wilson. Chief Superintendent, Metropolitan Police Borough Commander for West London. Colin Hume introduced Sean Wilson and his colleagues, and also welcomed our MP Ruth Cadbury.

Sean Wilson started by explaining that he was previously the Barking and Dagenham Borough Commander, but as crime evolved and became more complex, the Borough Command Unit (BCU) model was brought in (each BCU covers 2-3 boroughs). This had five elements: neighbourhood/partnership, response, complex crime (like CID), safeguarding/public protection, and headquarters/admin. The old model would not have worked for modern crime, as he is now able to pull in resources for across the Met. This changing face of crime has resulted in improved training and resources for the police. Drug dealing has a whole network behind it, and is worth around £12.5 billion a year. Car crime has become more sophisticated and technical and is not usually opportunist anymore. A complex economy underpins it all.

The police are putting more resources into schools, especially primary, while continuing with secondary and PRU's. Policing is changing but needs to accelerate the change. Most of Baroness Casey's recommendations have been accepted and a 10 point plan developed. PCSO numbers will be increased significantly, and local consultation will inform allocation. There will be a small increase in constables. The increase in mental health and domestic abuse issues will lead to stronger safeguarding and proactive units. Targeting of resources will be focused on specific areas, and the

OWL network developed. He made a plea for residents to install 'Ring' type doorbells that record. They will work together with the community and participate in community networks and online platforms. They will be recruiting, especially locally via outreach programmes. In his view they had 18-24 months in which to change.

Kamal Shah asked what the local issues were. Sean Wilson said that along with low-level drug dealing and catalytic converter theft, there were festive/seasonal burglaries, shed burglaries, use of drones, even use of UPVC window removal specialists! Residents should be alert and observant, and domestic cameras are useful. It only takes a few minutes to burgle. They rarely get fingerprints these days, but DNA and facial recognition are increasingly important. George Andraos asked when we would get more local police, and a decent vehicle! He also plugged OWL. Sean agreed, but they needed face-to-face visibility, and intended to look at where the offices are located.

Barinder Gill, the new Chief Inspector for LBH community policing, introduced himself, and emphasised that the police needed a good response from residents and a strong Neighborhood Watch (NW) operation.

9. Close of Meeting

Colin thanked Sean Wilson for an interesting talk. He stressed how important NW was, and urged that all incidents are reported, either by 101 or 999. If there are any problems, do let OWGRA know.

Cliff thanked all attendees, and Sean Wilson and Barinder Gill. He thanked MP Ruth Cadbury and local Ward Councillors Tony Louki and Unsa Chaudri. He emphasised the need for help for the committee, who he also thanked. Finally, he thanked the Indian Gymkhana.

The AGM closed at 9.12pm. Note: The AGM was recorded and is available on the OWGRA website.

The Chairman's and Treasurer's reports were circulated prior to the AGM and are also available on the OWGRA website. (Minutes prepared by Edward Locke. 28.5.2023)