



Annual General Meeting of Ham United Group 17/11/2021

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting:		HUG AGM	
Date:		17th November 2021	
Attendees:		Attending Directors Daija Angeli (Chair) Dharbi Modi (Secretary) Chris Ruse (Director) David Williams (Director)	Attending Members: Catherine White (Social media) Paul Bartlett Matthew Rees Barbara Nixon Richard Woolf John Hatto
Apologies		Ian Bowden, Penny Frost, David Lawton, Helen Erhardt, Sharon Mehta, Jill Lamb, Chas Warlow	
Points:			
1.	Chairs welcome and apologies.		
2.	Approval of previous AGAM of 2020 minutes. (i) RW highlighted item 3 states that the Q posed re spending of £2 per year is not likely to be accurate. DA confirmed the figure should read as £1200 per year. (ii) RW Paragraph 1, the word "attending" should be added to the 9 members. Minutes approved with the above changes.		
3.	Financial report and approval for the year ending 30th April 2021 DA explained that the accounts have not been looked after since September 2021, when the Treasurer, Olga Creevey resigned. DA is stepping in and processing payments until a new treasurer is recruited. Pepe (former Treasurer, Jose Medina) has helped to prep the accounts, however CR has identified a significant error in the admin costs which has not been identified. DA to meet with Pepe for rectification/clarification. Accounts not able to be approved during the meeting.		

	<p>DW suggested that DA is given authority to submit to HMRC once accounts are in order to avoid any fines. All agreed.</p> <p>RW voiced that the financial management of HUG has been shambolic over the last 4 years and needs to be put into order. Suggested a paid position as it is proving to be difficult to recruit a volunteer to take the role on.</p> <p>CW suggested that we make another attempt to recruit via local networking, fliers and social media. Also to contact the other charities in Richmond. CR explained that they are mostly facing the same problem with regards to sourcing and keeping a Treasurer.</p> <p>DA may have a reluctant volunteer, Wiebke Kortum. Will have further discussions. CR said he would help with recruitment where possible.</p> <p>MR is familiar with building spreadsheets and will help with this aspect.</p> <p>All agreed that the accounts cannot be submitted as they are. DA and DM to submit the accounts once errors are found and corrected.</p>
4.	<p>CIC report for the year ending 30th April 2021</p> <p>Approved by DW.</p>
5.	<p>Report on our groups and activities during 2021:</p> <p>Richmond Maker Labs(RML), Friends of Ham Lands (FoHL), Meditation Group, Allotment, Ham Close, Good Gardens for Everyone.</p> <p>RML contribution via email:</p> <p>The first eight months of the year saw no active RML meetings at all. Restarted meetings in Little House near the end of June 2021. These meetings are restricted to six people per evening. Although small meetings are necessary at present, they lack the spirit of community and mutual help that RML used to provide.</p> <p>RML team took the opportunity to clear out a lot of junk and to re-organise the floor-space. This provided three distinct advantages. Firstly, it gave more space to work in. Secondly it allowed for physical spacing between people. Thirdly, it created the appearance of a properly organised community workshop.</p> <p>Little House has been visited recently by architects and officers concerned with the Ham Close rebuild. The fact that RML were well-presented has undoubtedly helped form a positive impression to our visitors.</p> <p>For the future, there is time to prepare for the turmoil of a move to a new space. We</p>

may have to suspend operations yet again for a considerable time. I've no doubt that we will re-emerge better than ever.

Library Garden:

Several people had retired from the group over the past few years, so for a while there were no regular sessions. Sufiyo and DA have attempted to revive it this year, and led three maintenance sessions with between 8 and 15 volunteers. Ideally, the group would like another two volunteers to take this on, at least one of them with ornamental gardening knowledge. DA will keep the group going for now.

Good Gardens for Everyone:

We have been awarded £1600 in June for this project from Richmond's Local Area Fund. The project aims to encourage residents to adopt more sustainable and wildlife friendly gardening practices. Thus far, we have organised three events, two walks and a talk. The walks were very well attended with just under 30 people each, and ten people attended the talk. Next year, we will have three more events and two social media campaigns.

Ham Meditation Group:

The appetite to continue to practise remains via Zoom. The sessions have been adapted to suit, and weekly sessions are in place. However, numbers of participants has dropped as has donations. It is believed that people prefer to meet in person but understand that zoom is the next best thing at present. With Sufiyo's departure, it has become apparent that maintaining the group on a practical level will be more involved and demanding than anticipated. This will be reviewed when we are able to meet again in person. Will continue on Zoom, for review around March 2022.

FoHL via email (Sharon Metha):

HUG's ethos is strong. In my short time being involved with FoHL I am aware of huge potential to engage and for the different groups under the umbrella to complement each other. Nature is everywhere

- Sometimes it needs management
- Sometimes it need conservation
- Sometimes it should be cherished
- It contributes to supporting mental health
- It can bring the community together

There are a number of projects evolving

- Let's Go Outside And Learn are working with FoHL on a project to engage people at risk of isolation with nature
- Habitats & Heritage Duke of Edinburgh volunteers have work days on Ham Lands for 14+
- We are trying to develop a project with year 12 pupils at Grey Court with the

	<p>support of Ben Skelton from Ham Youth Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have supported a project with Malden Oaks and St Richards School • We are trying to get individuals or groups to adopt a patch so that we can get a much better understanding of the biodiversity and the impact of climate change and our interventions • Richmond Council and Habitats and Heritage will want to build on their Climate week and our engagement with it. <p>Relevant knowledge and experiences from these activities when shared with other groups can make a big difference and help reinforce the united ethos.</p> <p>DA added that FoHL had been awarded a grant of £250 for tools, meeting room hire and postcards from Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group. This was not the full amount she had applied for, and there will be a meeting to discuss whether the remainder of funds would be awarded which would hopefully explain why this was the case.</p> <p>Discussion points around the room:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider shared space for storage of tools between HUG and HPAAM - RW asked if there will be an updated survey of Ham Lands. - MR highlighted that we may not want to share all precise information to preserve the rare plants, but at the same time want people to explore. - DW reiterated concerns about plants being stolen, particularly rare ones. -CW confirmed that from a social media perspective, people like informative posts, what there is and stories involving people within the community. <p>Ham Close, update from RW:</p> <p>HUG as established a Ham Close consultation group and met in September 2021. The latest update is that the planning application has been postponed from November and now looking like it will be into 2022. HUG is focussed on sustainability, biodiversity;</p> <p>See appendix 1 for dull details of Ham Close Consultation: Ham United Group [HUG]. Response to The Future of Ham Close. Consultation with RHP/Hill Group. 23-24 July 2021.</p> <p>Allotment:</p> <p>HE has taken on the allotment in May 2021 and has revived this with students and teachers of Grey Court School. Is looking for more volunteers to come forward.</p>
6.	<p>Update from the Membership Secretary:</p> <p>There are 205 people on the current membership list for HUG. Once people join the list, they remain on it. There is no reason to remove people from the list unless requested by the member. Suggestion to audit the list next year, or to keep it going as it is.</p>

	CR confirmed that it is acceptable to take online application forms; the consensus is to accept emailed applications from the named email.
7.	<p>Update on communalisations (newsletter, website, Facebook, Twitter)</p> <p>We now have 246 subscribers to the newsletter (200 at AGM 2020). 28 new subscribers recruited through Ham Fair. Otherwise, people self-subscribe on our website, and some are added manually when they send in a membership form. DA send out four newsletters, and four additional emails (AGM minutes, event update, meeting invite to prep Ham Fair & invite to AGM).</p> <p>Catherine White (CW) joined our team in April and has massively improved our social media engagement. Discussion around the fact that the HUG website is in need of an overhaul but the budget for this is only £300, and not enough. Suggestion to contact Habitats and Heritage as it would be no cost if they were to take it on.</p> <p>CW has produced 2 marketing reports to demonstrate effectiveness and traffic of using social media for HUG and FoHL. See appendix 2 and 3 for detail and analysis.</p> <p>RW requested clarification regarding how to access comments on Facebook.</p> <p>Action point: DA provide RW with details on the Facebook posts regarding the Northolt tour</p>
8.	<p>Plans and meetings for 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular group activities will continue – Meditation Group, RML and FoHL • 5 to 6 sessions at Ham Library Garden • 3 Good Gardens events • FoHL have a draft programme of walks • Ham Fair - proposed 11 June 2022 • Architecture walk (16 July 2022, The history of social housing in Ham, or Orford Place, the development off Ham Common) • Summer party • Apple weekend
9.	<p>Election of Directors and Officers</p> <p>See appendix 4 - summary sheet of Directors and Officers.</p> <p>DA (Interim Chair) stood for Chair, proposed by DM and seconded by CR</p> <p>DA proposed Helen Erhardt as Director - Helen has revived the work sessions at the Grey Court Allotments over the past six months and also helped me prep the sessions at Ham Library Garden. Seconded by CW.</p> <p>DA proposed Sharon Mehta as Director. Sharon has volunteered with Friends of Ham Lands for over three years and not only led countless hours of volunteer work but also made many connections into the community. Seconded by DM.</p>

	<p>DW stepped down and was thanked for all his contributions. DW wished HUG all the best and thanked everyone for their work.</p> <p>JL stepped down and sent a message via email: "As I am standing down as a Director I would like it recorded that it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve and I shall continue to support the excellent work that the Group does".</p> <p>All thanked both DW and JL for their support and contribution to HUG and the community.</p>		
10	<p>AOB</p> <p>(i) Architecture tour of the buildings of Ham Common had 14 attendees. (ii) 11/09/021 - Ham and Petersham Sea Scouts opened. This may be a possible resource for the future. (iii) Ham Parish Lands - CW suggested to approach them for resource of a Treasurer. (iv) DA requested all to think about fundraising for next year.</p>		
Actions:		Person(s) Responsible:	Completion Date:
1.	<i>DA provide RW with details on the Facebook posts regarding the Northolt tour</i>	DA	1 Dec 2021