



**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 25th January 2012
At 7.30pm at The Children's Centre, Ashburnham Road, Ham**

Present

Mark Brand (Chair), Andrew Beedham, Jean Loveland, Sarah Perrett, Carole Hegedüs, Chas Warlow, Justine Glynn, Briony Rowland, Danielle Coleman, Bettina Rixon, Peter Rixon, Geoff Hyde, Cllr Brian Miller, Cllr Sir David Williams, Tazleem Mulhall, Diane Slater

Apologies

Jill Lamb, Cllr Sue Jones, Mary Pitteway, Penny Frost, Gerhard Mueller, Frank Hegedus, David Lawton, Chris Hunt

1 Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished all a Happy New Year.

2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The date of the minutes referred to in item 1, 14 December 2011, should have read 17 November 2011. With this correction the minutes were accepted.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting

- In item 5, it was stated that the council had £10,000 to spend and Brian said that he had been unable to confirm or identify these funds. Paperwork will be forwarded to Brian to enable him to investigate.
- In item 5, there is reference to the PandH Sea Scouts having put in an application for a new building. In fact, this is not yet applied for. David would be interested to see the plans and they will be sent to him.

4 Reports on Current Activities

- **The Barn Dance**
 - Despite the success of the event and all of Peter and Bettina's hard work, the second Barn Dance didn't break even and there remains a shortfall of £110 for the school rental and straw bales. Mark requested that the bills be handed to Jean for immediate settlement, although it was noted that we had no funds which were not yet allocated, and we needed to look into non grant specific funding. Tazleem said she was willing to approach local businesses and generally fundraise and Sarah indicated that she was willing to be involved. Tazleem was thanked for offering to fundraise, and also for helping to organise an events calendar.
- **The Village Plan**
 - Andrew reported that all the information is now condensed down, but he had not been able to do much work on it since the last meeting. The report was to have been available to the ward councillors in January, but so far this had not happened. It was noted that we had previously agreed that HUG would come up with its own proposals. We will see what comes out of the Village Plan when it is published. We want a formal neighbourhood plan as laid down in the Localism Act. Brian said that the problem was the methodology, the survey was very narrow, and David that it wasn't just about individual complaints and irritations, but about community involvement and both said we need to reserve judgement. Mark said that if we could produce something responsible and measured, that would be a useful contribution, and we are very grateful for all the work put in, which Andrew will continue with.
 - Andrew reported that neither of the bids he had recently put in were successful. At some point, the Energy Saving Trust and similar will have to realise that they have to take on suburban areas. We need to win on typical suburbia; we will never win on vulnerability. We need to have a 10,000 population to qualify for a big Lottery Bid "Building Sustainable Communities" £ ? due in by 1 February and we are joining with North Kingston. This will give us a broader range of properties.
- **Street Champions**

- Jean and Chas are involved in restarting the street champions network. The first phase was very successful and engaged with the local community. We have 10 weeks until it ends, and we have to make an extra push to get as many people as possible to sign up and get the free green items. This final push will be a very intense 10 weeks to get the money allocated. It was noted that there was universal recognition that Chris Hunt had done an excellent job. David said that we were the most successful of the 10 London low carbon zones.
- RHP are finally on board. The new area manager has come to the steering group and is working with Chris Hunt leafleting all properties, of which 100 of the 750 RHP tenants in the zone have signed up, so overall we should exceed our 1,000 target, which is more than 25% of eligible households.
- We are determined to keep the scheme going for benefits to the community beyond CO2 reduction and climate change, and to get some extra funding, which would be a big challenge to get from the major suppliers British Gas and EDF, as no more can be expected from Mayor's fund. Andrew has put in a bid to extend it to a critical mass to get everyone thinking about it all the time.
- Business properties have been included, and it was a shame that nothing could be done with St Richard's church, which is all glass and leaking heat. It is a 60s building, of lightweight construction and consequently not able to take the added weight of double glazing. Mark said that he would pass on details of a German company which manufactures slimline and lightweight double glazing. St Richard's is very keen to reduce its heating bill. It was suggested that there could be some benefit in interaction between business and residential elements with regard to low carbon.
- Stuff will be streamed from the website to Facebook, and it was suggested that Street Champions have a more separate identity and also a different name.
- **Swimming Pool**
- The members were asked to pass on any fundraising leads that they might have for the swimming pool project to Sarah Perret.
- **Ham Hydro**
- The Council is still accepting representations on planning. David pointed out that endorsements should be on a planning point. Consultation is ongoing until a decision is reached.

5 Boosting membership and communication

- Various people are funding several projects. We need funding but we need some more people keen to run some small projects. The Facebook site and Project Dirt are set up.
- There will be a photo display in the library and we can invite people to join from there.
- There will be a stand at Ham Fair. Various options were discussed for the stand, (bigger, umbrella of all projects under the HUG brand, focus, differentiation, vegetable display). Danielle and Sarah will form a sub group to consider what might be practical. Mark will talk to the most active people over the next few weeks.
- Peter suggested a story telling tent which children can snuggle into and he was willing to do this, (sustainability stories).
- Tazleem offered to do portrait photographs.
- Sarah and Justine will focus on what might be possible with regard to talks.
- It is important to raise money and awareness, and if any members know anyone in their street who is dissatisfied, we should try to get them on board. If there is something they are thinking about, they might like HUG support.

6 Any new projects from new project Leaders or members

- Andrew has been working on 3 sites, all with differing issues. He attended a Petersham advisory group meeting and put in a pitch for an orchard. Cath Rosen, CEO London Orchard Project and the National Trust and all its expertise are fully behind us. If we have made progress, this will feature at the Ham Fair; loads of apples would go.
- Peter has been sending pdfs to the Arcadian Times (online magazine). These also should be on the HUG site.
- Mary has some donated plants and volunteers and is working with them, recently tidied up the Library Garden. Some help might be needed with digging.
- HUG has been invited by OpenSquares www.opensquares.org to put the allotment in. We could fundraise as a tester, but as it is generally open, some are not happy about charging and it would probably be better to go with Woodville Gardens instead. (OpenSquares is different to Open Gardens, which is linked to English Heritage.)

- The Library Garden and the Allotment are entering for the BTCV Green Flag award.
- The Little Planter in Back Lane: We should take a holistic view of the area, there is the potential for more greenery, linking up little green sites. Local schools have been heavily involved in projects but there is no coordination per se. Not sure if some of the activities are appropriate for the children.
- Cycle Workshops: Funding has been received from the LCZ and there is a further £1,000 available up to 31 March for a suitable LCZ project.

7 AOB

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

29 February 2012 at 7.30pm at the Little House.