



Annual General Meeting of the Ham United Group

Virtual meeting 25/11/2020

MINUTES

1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and apologized if anything went wrong. It is our first virtual meeting and everyone was put on mute until asked to speak. She hoped everyone has taken time to read the documents for the AGM.

Committee Members; Chris Ruse, Jill Lamb, Daija Angeli, Ian Bowden, Penny Frost, Justine Glynn, David Williams, Chas Warlow, Sufiyo Andersson, Jose Merdina. And 9 members.

2 Approval of the minutes of the 2019 AGM held on 28 November 2019

Proposed by Gareth Richards and Seconded by Jill Lamb

3 Report by the Treasurer and approval of the accounts for the year ending 30 April 2020

Pepe not present at the start of this item. The Chair mentioned that a meeting was held to discuss and there were a few adjustments. She will go through the Report page by page so do ask any questions.

Pepe joined us and explained The Accounts. The main issue is that HUG is spending more than it raises. There is £4,752 in bank of today's date.

Q: are we spending about £2 a year, are they what our marginal accounts? **A:** Our main costs is the magazine – 4 ads @£180. Our Public Liability Insurance is approx. £200.

The Meditation sessions now has a higher rental cost, but that is covered by donations.

HUG needs to raise £1.5k - £2k per year to remain solvent.

No questions were raised. Daija explained that HUG is busy applying for funds and there were plans to run walks for which we will ask for a donation. There are ideas that can be realised once the pandemic is over.

HUG exists to facilitate projects. **Q:** Chris Manning – didn't understand how the NF funding affects Ham. Can HUG apply to Council for funding to pay for projects, not running costs? Potential for collaboration on gardening across the Borough

Pepe is standing down and would like to meet the new Treasurer to hand over etc.

The Year End Accounts were Approved, proposed by Ian Bowden and Seconded by Gareth Richards.

The Chair proposed a **VOTE of THANKS** to Pepe for his guidance and help over the years as Treasurer.

4 CIC report for the year ending 30 April 2020

Is a presentation of what has happened during the year. Daija has done a good job to précis our year in the space allowed.

Proposed by David Williams and Seconded by Chas Warlow.

5 Report on our groups and activities during 2020: Richmond MakerLabs, FoHL, meditation, library garden and allotment, Ham Close, Green Screen.

MakerLabs – Ian reported on the horrid year. Headbands made for PPB – London based doctors took and managed to deliver via a 'back door' arrangement. Members of ML meet on line and in June/July decisions on what was needed to make it a sanitised environment. Presently, they are still working through the list and reorganising the stuff. Social side is a weekly on line via video is well supported

FoHL – Chris reported that the group continues to be active despite activities being curtailed. Originally, meetings were bi monthly to discuss what has been seen on The Lands and discuss proposals for walks. Work has continued on Ham Lands South with help from Good Gym and TCV. Working in cooperation with the Council, FoHL is now seen as one of the most active and friendly groups in the Borough.

Shrub and brambles are regularly cut back to protect the grass lands of the area. Then raked. Obviously, The Lands has been much busier due to being discovered during Lockdown. We have held two well supported litter picks. The BMX track is also popular and has expanded their area so we are looking to engage with them.

Bends in the River sees students from Malden Oaks help with studying and surveys. The monthly newsletter which is getting more interesting and FB has some 300+ followers. FoHL has now built the shed and is a great storage space. There was a special VOTE of THANKS to the core group of naturalists and especially, Sharon Mehta who has brought a huge amount of energy and commitment to Ham Lands. Things are starting to get back to some normality.

Meditation – Dharbi introduced herself. Like everyone there has been a challenge. The group has grown over the 3 years and has both regulars, one off attendees and those who dip in and out. Our average is about 6-18. We continued during the 1st lockdown managing within legislations towards the end. We are good at self-funding and manage so despite the need to move to a larger venue keep a financial buffer. Numbers are capped at approx. 12 so everyone feels safe. We take temperatures, sanitise etc.

Thanks to Sufiyo for mentoring and as a result is sustainable with members able to step up to take the baton.

Library & Allotment – Jean said the Grey Court Allotment is going great guns and average 10 children on a Wednesday. The Library needs commitment especially this autumn. Sadly, at the moment we are unable to organize work parties so she proposed, with agreement, that we approach HPA to perhaps fund the use of TCV to do the tidy up. She mentioned that she will be away from December house sitting so that would be a great help to have the TCV tidy up which then puts the garden in a good place for spring events. Then perhaps we could have insect hunts and story time in the garden as in the past.

Chair mentioned that the garden will become the focus for plans in 2021 and the 'Good Gardens for Everyone'. Members agreed to approach HPA for funding.

Ham Close – Richard stated HUG continues to be consulted on the proposed developments. It was noted that some residents of Ham Close were members. At a virtual meeting on 12 Nov it was confirmed that 452 homes were proposed on the site. RHP presented an update from RHP 3 prospective developers. There is a 2stage process and in March the final developer will be announced. The finalists are: Countryside, London Square & Hill Partnership.

Members are urged to view the recording on the website - www.hamclose.co.uk.

Richard shared some Screens showing a) a map of where Ham Close sits, b) a view of the Close buildings at present, b) Master Plan has been in circulation created by BPTW partnership and d) 3D model which is helpful.

Richard also said he is visiting the projects spoken of in the presentation and next year will share his findings.

David mentioned potential challenges of disruption and 2 things applicable to HUG. 1st class architecture & ensure the ecological environmental.

Chris R said we must ensure that the community space such as Youth Club and MakerLabs is comparable.

6 Update from the membership secretary

Chris said there are 197 members to date including 6 new members.

Chair said that we need to work out how to streamline

7 Update on communications (newsletter, website, facebook, twitter)

Last year it was decided to send out a regular newsletter and this year we produced 3. 200 people are signed up to the newsletter, but 30 are not members so we are looking at ways to engage with them. Also we had a stall at Ham Parade Market resulting in some good conversations

8 Plans & new projects for and meetings in 2021

Good Gardens for Everyone:

Before Lockdown we held a Brain Storming session. One of the ideas was @ Good Gardens for Everyone', which aims to encourage and empower locals to have environmental areas/garden. Thanks to Matthew Rees, who is key in planning We applied to Postcode Lottery, but not successful. We will now go to the Council.

Q: why look for funding when we have money in the bank? **A:** Daija said she would rather seek funding for the core costs rather than do on a small budget and much of our money is earmarked for various projects. If we did not find funding then we would run out of funds in 2 years.

Q: is there another area where this project has been done in another area? **A:** important to link in with other gardens potentially engage with Habitat & Heritage (previously SWELN).

Projects come from what people want and hence grows organically, rather than impose a preplanned idea. We hope to capture young families with children.

Bench on Ham Lands by the river.

The plans are still evolving so not quite ready yet so will leave till the next meeting.

9 Directors and Officers

Please see summary sheet Directors and Officers

Resigning Directors

It was noted that Jose Medina (Pepe), Justine Glyn, Paul Brown and Jean Loveland are standing down as Directors. Chair stated she was delighted and grateful for the support she has received over the past year and has learnt much.

New Directors Appointment

Chair announced 2 new Directors.

A) Olga Creevey, Proposed by Daija, and Seconded by Penny.

It was noted that Olga has volunteered to become our Treasurer as Pepe is stepping down.

It was put to the virtual meeting and Olga was duly elected.

B) Dharbi Modi is hosting the Meditation sessions. Proposed by Daija and Seconded by Jill. As Jean is standing down, Dharbi has agreed to be the Company Secretary. Proposed by Chas Warlow and Seconded by Jean.

It was AGREED by members with a show of hands. Dharbi was duly elected.

Bank Account Signatories

Members have agreed the change of Bank signatories, Pepe (leaving Treasurer and Jill (former Chair) to be replaced by Sufiyo (Chair) and Olga (newly elected Treasurer). The new signatories were Proposed by David Williams and Seconded by Daija Angeli

Chair proposed a **VOTE of THANKS** to retiring Directors and HUG has been left with a good legacy.

At present, HUG has Directors with a number of skills so that makes the group sustainable.

10 AOB

No AOB

Chair apologized for running slightly over and closed the meeting with a Thank You to all noting that in HUG 'we are good together'.



Summary of Directors and Officers

HUG may have up to 12 Directors.

At the Directors' meeting on 4th June 2013 the following points were agreed:

- All Officers must be Directors
- Directors will retire in 3-year rotations but may stand for re-election
- Officers are encouraged to consider leaving their roles after 3 years, using the 3rd year to coach a successor, so that new joiners are able to take on positions of responsibility (see below for the rotation of retirement)

Directors (existing role in brackets) appointed at the 2019 AGM (or later):

Sufiyo Andersson (Chair)
Jill Lamb (Vice Chair)
José Medina (Treasurer)
Chris Ruse (Membership Secretary, contact for FOHL)
Jean Loveland (Minutes Secretary)
Daija Angeli (Website and Social Media)
Penny Frost (Director without Office)
Justine Glynn (Director without Office)
David Williams (Director without Office)
Paul Brown (Director without Office)
Ian Bowden (Contact for Makerlabs)
Charles Warlow (Director without Office)

Rotation of retirement:

- *November 2020:* Paul
- *November 2021:* Jill, Daija, Penny, Justine, David
- *November 2022:* Jean, Chris, José, Charles, Ian, Sufiyo

NB José, Jean and Justine wish to step down from their position at this AGM.

Up to 4 positions of Director may be filled at this AGM. We welcome members to apply for a director role, if you wish to become more involved - e.g. by taking on a post or taking over a project, such as the gardening projects.

Proposed new directors:

Olga Creevey

Olga approached us after finding out about the Treasurer vacancy on social media. She works as a PA and business assistant. Previously, she worked in civil service and as a paralegal in Australia. She moved to the UK eight years ago and has lived in Richmond for six years. She has lots of volunteering experience, some of this as Treasurer.

Dharbi Modi

Dharbi has been a regular participant at the meditation since the beginning. She has taken responsibility as facilitator and co-ordinator; her help with the risk assessment enabled the meditation group to continue during COVID-19. Dharbi grew up in Ham and has 20 years of experience working in HR.