

# **Old Chiswick Protection Society**

## **Minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

### **(2012)**

**1. Welcome**

The Chairman thanked those present for attending, and thanked Fullers for their neighbourly hospitality.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting were approved.

**3. Election of President**

Sir Alan Munro was unanimously elected President for the forthcoming year.

**4. President's remarks**

Sir Alan thanked the Chairman for his support. He asked the question: Why are we here. Well, for two reasons: OCPS was the first preservation society in west London, dating back to the 50s when infill became a big issue. It gives grassroots representation to the local borough. Hounslow is an effective Local Authority and responds well to email complaints. It helps us to keep the conservation area attractive for those of us who live here, and for others who choose to enjoy it. We are the unofficial custodians of this very special area. Secondly, our own sense of community; as a generator of communal spirit. It is rarer in London and becomes more precious as time goes on. Residents may be transitory, but it is important for them to feel part of the community. We are fortunate indeed to live here.

**5. Election of members of the Executive Committee**

Graham Clifton was re-elected to the Committee to serve for three years. Thanks to him for his splendid work on the Newsletter.

**6. Hon. Treasurer's Report**

James Stitt presented the accounts which were duly approved. Subs were a bit down. Pollarding the Eyot had been our biggest expense. We have about £23,000 in the bank, and need to spend it in the conservation area. We had made a donation to the William Hogarth Trust for Hearthstones at Hogarth's House.

**7. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer. He thanked the previous Chairman, Mrs Langley for her work. Pollarding the Eyot would continue. The oral history project is very important for those who come after us. The Tunnel sub-committee have seen off the bore tunnel which was to have been in our area. The guerilla planting on the Roundabout had gladdened many hearts, including that of the Prince of Wales.

The area had had more than its fair share of car crime. It affects the character of the area. We didn't get our concerns about the frontage of Chiswick Lodge listened to, hopefully with the Localism Bill locals will indeed have more say. Janey Stevens had discovered that the Eyot was in fact an historic withy bed and we would be pollarding it again, and also protecting the revetments using the pollarded willow. Working parties would also be meeting to tackle the Himalayan balsam.

## **8. Questions and Answers**

It seems as if the shop is to remain shut. Mrs Young is still hopeful of it becoming a community shop.

Thames Tideway Tunnel: we are keeping a watching brief. Tony Taylor is the person to ask if concerned.

The Old Post Office: an application for change of use had been rejected.

Foundation stone at Chiswick Lodge: the developers have agreed to install it

Flood warning system: some concerns about its effectiveness were expressed. It seems that the area has been incorrectly mapped and is lower than previously thought.

Work has begun on setting up the OCPS website.

The Chairman thanked everyone, again, for coming, and thanked Fullers for their unstinting generosity in providing both the venue and excellent refreshments.