

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KENLEY AND DISTRICT
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (KENDRA) HELD ON APRIL 26TH 2022 AT KENLEY
MEMORIAL HALL, GODSTONE ROAD, KENLEY**

Present: 48 Members including 1 Councillor and 9 Committee Members

Apologies: Committee Member John Davenport, Councillor Jan Buttinger; MP Chris Philp; Members Angela & David Caygill, Mike Street, Brenda Shepherd and partner Peter.

1. Christine Heal, Chairman welcomed all the members and said she was very pleased to see so many in attendance.

- 2. Report from Police Liaison Officer – Conor Campion**

He reported he had recently attended quarterly Ward meeting with Sgt Tony Brown, 2 police officers and PCSO who are our neighbourhood team. Kenley is a low area for crime with anti-social behaviour, burglary and vehicle theft being the main issues. A number of stolen vehicles had been recovered. Regarding catalytic converter thefts people can have theirs tagged at Water Smart. The Chairman asked if anyone had seen the juggernaut parked on Hayes Lane near the edge of the Airfield. Conor said that if anyone had any issues to email the local team.

3. The Chairman said that unfortunately Chris Philp MP was supposed to speak now, but has been called to vote in Parliament.

4. The Chairman introduced Councillor Ola Kolade who would be speaking on behalf of Chris Philp and Jan Buttinger, who is unable to be with us as she is unwell with COVID. Jan would be retiring at the Elections on 5th May after giving us 25 years of service on the Council, in particular the Planning and Licensing Committee and has attended many committee meetings. In recognition of her work the Chairman will be giving Jan the beautiful bouquet of flowers on display. Ola said that it was remarkable the work Jan had done for Kenley and was very meticulous, Chris Philp (? I've deleted an 'a' after Chris but don't know what you were trying to say) was very lively, hard working person with the interest of Kenley at heart.

Ola then turned to his own role - there are six things that we want to tackle as we lead up to the local elections (1) The Council finances and the cuts to services which affect residents – the borrowing of large sums from Central Government and selling off a lot of assets (2) Planning – 80% of case work is dealing with applications, we will look into SP2 framework. We are not opposed to new build in the right areas. (3) Street scene and road safety – they receive many emails regarding fly tipping in Old Lodge Lane which goes back to resources. (4) Set Up an Improvement Panel with a Tenant Charter to make sure council properties are fit for purpose. (5) Town Centre – not in good shape, needs investment and mix of retail, housing and leisure. (6) Crime – is a significant issue with 5 murders last year. Oasis is a group which helps young people excluded from school which otherwise would open a Pandora's box of crime. Put significant money into Croydon Action who work with young people and families to give them opportunities to progress in life, this is more in the North of the Borough but need to look South as well. The Chairman thanked Ola and asked members for a round of applause. Ola answered questions from Mike Lott regarding Clean Streets App. and David Hooper regarding state of roads. Other members mentioned the Kenley Good Growth Fund and Purley Swimming Pool and Purley Skyscraper. Mike Lott said he thought My Old China should be demolished. Ola said there are endless problems within Kenley area which will take time to deal with.

5. **Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held 26th October 2021**

The minutes having been circulated and read were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

6. **Chairman's Review**

As we all know we have lived through some very difficult times in the last two years and more. We did manage an AGM in October 2021 and the Committee were pleased it was more well attended than any of us dared hope for. In spite of being unable to hold our Committee meetings in person we kept our regular monthly meetings using Zoom link ups and sometimes these were quite lively events. In addition to these some of the team attended other local meetings and then reported back. DEMOC, in particular has taken up our time over the last 12 months including now when we will be electing Croydon's first 'Non Council' Democratically Elected Mayor. We, particularly Geoff James and myself again via Zoom or more recently in person, at OLL Baptist Church Hall, are involved with the Kenley Steering Group for the improvement of Kenley Ward through the Good Growth Fund – trying to provide benefits to help our immediate localities. Still on Zoom I represent KENDRA at the East Surrey Transport Committee meetings where we discuss the trains and the buses that service Kenley (or not as the case may be). Recently a group of enthusiasts met at the Wattenden Pond on a once a month basis to carry on the restoration works in that area to clear the every overgrown bulrushes, tall grasses and unwanted weeds. The bench seat and table have been repaired and installed another table set (kind donation from the Wattenden Arms). A lorry load of 17 tons of soil was delivered. We have sown wild flower seeds and hope some residents will be able to supply surplus spare plants. Another periodic activity is Litter Picks. A number of residents will scour their local areas to ensure it is kept clear of rubbish. We thank you all for those exploits. These are only some of the activities and meetings that your Residents' Association get involved with. The KENDRA committee will continue to attend our own meetings and join other groups in and around Croydon. The Wattenden Pond work parties and Litter Picking will continue; there will be regular issues of the Kendra Magazine; periodic updates will appear on Noticeboards. In order for this to happen, we are looking for new committee members and also Area and Road Stewards. If this is something you can do, please see one of us after the meeting. In the meantime I wish to thank all of the Committee for their commitment and hard work for Kenley, in particular Geoff James for his very hard work, you will hear from him later. We will now continue with the planned agenda.

7. **Treasurer's Report**

Angela Morrison, KENDRA's Treasurer gave her report, copies of the accounts having been circulated. Angela reported that the 2021 accounts in line with previous years have been validated by an Independent Examiner and give a true and accurate reflection of the state of Kendra's financial affairs as at 31st December 2021. The final accounts have been made available on the Kendra website, a shortened version published in the Spring Kendra Magazine as well as copies circulated. Angela continued by saying that the accounts look a little different to normal due to the impact of Covid on the organization. Subscription revenue is up (£3000 up, because as the Covid restrictions lifted our fantastic Road Stewards were out collecting again). Newsletter costs were up significantly as we published Summer, Autumn and Winter 2021 issues. Operating expenses increased but did not reach 2019 pre-pandemic levels. Kendra ended the year with an operating surplus of £1,963.74. Reserves increased slightly to £23,697.95. Angela thanked Jerry Connor for stepping in to audit the accounts. There were no questions and the accounts were then approved by the meeting.

It was unanimously agreed by the members that Jerry Connor from Kenley Financial be asked to be the Independent Examiner of the accounts for 2022.

8. Company Limited by Guarantee

This is still being worked on, as Covid delayed proceedings.

9. Election of Committee

Chairman asked if any member would like to consider joining the Committee. She then asked the members if they are happy to re-elect the existing committee. The vote was unanimous. Chairman thanked them all.

(i) The resolution to allow the committee to increase the annual subscription for each household from £3 to £5 per annum from 2023 was approved by a sizeable majority.

(ii) The resolution to allow expenditure up to a sum of £1500 to one supplier was also carried. This approval is an annual requirement at each AGM

(iii) The resolution was approved for the production of Kendra magazine to continue until the next AGM with a higher approved limit up to £5000 in view of increased printing costs which may be one supplier.

10. Review of Current Local Issues

(a) DEMOC – GJ spoke about the impending Democratically Elected Mayoral Election to happen with the local borough election on 5th May. Nine candidates have ‘thrown their hats’ into the ring.

(b) Developments of Good Growth Fund – GJ said the ward of Kenley has the potential to double its population as shown in a presentation in 2019 and what was needed. The most important safety improvements were proposals for the narrow part of Hayes Lane to make it one way; the Kenley Lane hill; and the humpback bridge. Due to finances of LBC and GLA money for these improvements is tight and could be cancelled. What we could see are banners put by shops; way finding street signs; Godstone Road red route upgrade; flood alleviation at bottom of Kenley Lane which is possibly starting work in May and parklets – planters with shrubs making pavements look more attractive. We need to seriously pursue where the money is for any plans for the future.

(c) Planning – There has been great success with 2-4 Kenley Lane which has been refused (Linda you’d included the words ‘with menaces’ I don’t know why – so I’ve taken it out); the Developer has not appealed, yet. GJ said he sends out the Planning Table every week to members. The draft Croydon plan proposes to downgrade the Kenley Focused Intensification Zone to “moderate”. Planning approvals show that we are four years into 20 year Croydon plan and Kenley is 8 years ahead of its annual run rate.

11. Any Other Business

Members mentioned speeding in Valley Road and Mike Lott said the speed sign in Hayes Lane does not seem to act as a deterrent, but Paul Keating disagreed. Geoff said that speed risers along with smiley face, especially near schools seem to work well. Chairman said that something needs to be done about speed on perimeter road around Airfield. Ola said he would look at Ward budget to see what could be done. David Hooper said before pandemic there were some good summer fetes on airfield and was it possible to do again. Angela Morrison said that with such a small committee it was difficult we could do with some help to organize something as big as a fete. We would need to find sponsors or if anyone has contacts of businesses which would be willing to help to let us know. A member asked Ola about the finances of the Council and whether they have auditors. Ola replied that they had external auditors who have been robust and critical but there has been a huge gap in governance, transparency and lack of internal audit.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Chairman..... Date.....