

The Teddington Society

Annual General Meeting – 31st March 2023

National Physical Laboratory

Minutes of the 49th Teddington Society AGM.

The meeting commenced at 19.30. The formal AGM was preceded by a talk by Dr Penny Owen on the work of the National Physical Laboratory “NPL”

Chaired by the President – Baroness Jenny Hilton

1. President’s Introduction

Jenny Hilton thanked all the members for turning out on a cold wet evening. She also thanked Dr Penny Owen for her talk on the work of the NPL.

She then asked everyone to observe a one-minute silence to mark the recent death of Sheena Harold, Chairman of the Society.

2. Apologies for absence

The Membership Secretary, Ann Whitfield, said the apologies were so numerous that she would not read them all out. A record of those present at this meeting had been made by the registration system online and at the door and those apologies received prior to the meeting

3. Adoption of the minutes of the AGM held at Normansfield Theatre on 20th May 2022

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Elizabeth Foster and seconded by Jayne Chace - accepted by a unanimous show of hands.

4. Matters arising from the 2022 AGM Minutes / Structure of the Executive Committee

There were no matters arising from the 2022 minutes.

Jenny said that since the death of Sheena Harold the Society had been managed jointly by the honorary officers. She said that this structure would continue until the new Chairman was appointed.

5. Honorary Officers’ Report (Joint Presentation by Sally Howland and Ann Whitfield)

Sally Howland said that following a few difficult years with the Covid outbreak resulting in cancellation of events such as the New Year party and Teddington in Flower, the Normansfield AGM in 2022 had been the first time the Society had met for a long while. Subsequently the New Year party was cancelled this year, following the death of Sheena Harold. However the work of the Society had continued in 2022 with the installation of the defibrillator in Elleray Hall and the bench in Manor Road open space, as a memorial to Ann Sayer. New additions to the Committee had been Ann Whitfield as Membership Secretary, Rosemary McGlashon as Leader of the Planning Group, Jo Nicholds leading Teddington in Flower, Ken Howe to lead the History Group and Jayne Chace as reporter for Tidings.

Ann Whitfield said that the Honorary Officers taking decisions on behalf of the Society had enabled the Executive Committee to keep the Society functioning but there was more to do, as there were vacancies for Chairman, Transport Group leader and Events Organiser. The Committee was pleased to note a nomination for the role of Press Officer.

Ann Whitfield said future projects included the provision of refurbished public benches in the Elmfield Gardens area and opposite St Mary's Church on the green triangle between the High Street and Twickenham Road.

Planning work was well underway for the Teddington Village Fair with the Rotary Club of Teddington and the Hamptons leading the committee and of course the event would also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Society.

Future projects were the proposed refurbishment of a box planter by the Council opposite the Park Hotel in Park Road, with the plants and their maintenance to be a Society funded venture and the possible restoration of the Jubilee fountain to working order, again opposite the Park Hotel.

The Committee had produced new merchandise including a tea towel now on sale to members of the Society for £7, newly designed Society mugs which were expected to be on sale at the Village Fair and the production of new book of a "Walk in the High Street", written by Paddy Ching and formatted by Rosemary McGlashon and her husband. Ann thanked Sue Ribbons for the work she had done on the design of the tea towel and was currently doing to produce the mug.

The meeting was reminded that the next Tidings would be the 50th anniversary edition and that all contributions would be welcomed.

A member survey is being developed as it has been 10 years since members were last asked for their views on the running of the Society and its possible forward direction. .

Lastly the use of Ticket Source to sell the Teddington in Flower tickets and the purchase of a card reader to accept card payments for tickets merchandise etc. had brought a more up to date format to the fund-raising activities.

6. Financial Report

Sally said she wanted to thank Nick Picton for his work in being the independent examiner of the accounts.

She said the report this year reflected the division between cash reserved for specific activities and the general funds available to support future agreed projects, which amounted to £16,682

Adoption of the accounts as tabled to the meeting was proposed by Mike Woods and seconded by Geoff Howland

It was agreed by a unanimous vote.

7. Group Leader Reports

7.1 Teddington in Flower

Jo Nicholds said that Teddington in Flower would be held on 23rd April 2023. She sincerely thanked the twelve garden owners who have volunteered to open on that day. Jo said that tickets are available online and would be available at the Landmark on the day together with a plant sales stall.

Across the road St Mary's would host teas, a flower display, bell ringing and the "adopt a grave group" would be there to explain the concept of volunteering to look after a grave in the churchyard.

The proceeds had been agreed to be split 50/50 between the Landmark and the Kingston Samaritans.

Jo asked the meeting for volunteers to be garden sitters whose duties would be to welcome visitors, check tickets and shake the charity tin for individual garden visitors.

She proposed that the Garden Group of the Society would become the Horticultural Group and she hoped to set up talks, visits, plant swaps etc. for members of the group, as well as the annual Teddington in Flower event.

7.2 Planning

Rosemary said that the Planning Group was active in reviewing local planning applications and that she had picked a few key issues to present to the meeting.

- The group had noticed the ACV (Asset of Community Value) on Udney Park Playing Fields had lapsed when the area was sold to a new owner. The Group had therefore applied for the ACV to be re-instated with reference to the new owner.
- The Local Plan, as proposed, would allow mid-rise development alongside the railway between the bridge and the station. The Group were concerned that this could potentially permit structures up to 6 stories and would encourage potential developers to go for the maximum allowable size to increase value. It may not necessarily happen, however the Group were worried that the impact of tall buildings on the areas concerned could be very significant.
- The Group were opposed to large telecoms masts being sited in areas where they conflicted with the surrounding area and had opposed two such structures recently.

Rosemary said that the Group was active and was maintaining members to review applications, however if there were members in the Society with particular expertise say, in planning or architecture, new applications to join the Group would be welcomed and considered.

7.3 Riverside and Open Spaces

Andy said that the key issues were:

- The condition of the Ferry Road Draw Dock area where the brick planter and the riverside terrace are showing their age. He said he hoped that some co-ordination between the Council and the Environment Agency may promote work to improve the area especially as it seemed likely that the Teddington Lock Bridges would be receiving major structural repairs in 2023 and it could be a cost saving if the work was done together.
- The proposed Environment Agency River Thames Scheme, to alleviate flood risk by managing the fluvial flows with improvements to the weirs, to speed the flow downstream, is in a specification development stage.

- The Thames Water project to increase future London water supply with both an extract point above Teddington Lock and a proposed input of treated wastewater downstream of the outtake to balance the flow of water in the river. A response to the Thames Water consultation had been submitted by the Society and we were aware of and co-ordinating with other local societies, residents groups and sports clubs who had also submitted responses to the Thames Water proposals.
- The Society had purchased a bench in memory of Ann Sayer now installed in Manor Road open space facing the river and the Locks as already reported.
- A question from the floor about the Society's stance on Thames Water was voiced however the Chairman said that the AGM was not the time to open a debate on these issues.

7.4 Environment

There were no questions on Geoff Howland's report which had been circulated prior to the AGM.

8. Election of Officers

The nomination of Mike Woods to the position of Press Officer as proposed by Donald Bell and seconded by Ken Howe was received prior to the meeting. The nomination of Ann Whitfield as Membership Secretary, proposed by Sally Howland and seconded by Geoff Howland, was also received prior to the Meeting. The other officers (Liz Waters, Andy Weston, Sally Howland) were standing for re-election. The election of the above officers was ratified by the meeting with a unanimous show of hands.

9. Independent Examiner

The appointment of Nick Picton as the independent examiner was also passed unanimously.

10. Close of Meeting

The Chairman again thanked all present for making the effort to attend and to Ann Whitfield for the organisation of the meeting, the Committee of the Society in their work to keep it functioning in the circumstances and the NPL for providing the venue and the speaker. The meeting was reminded about the need for volunteers to help with Teddington in Flower on 23rd April and the Village Fair on the 25th June 2023.

The Chairman then declared the Teddington Society 2023 AGM closed.