Draft minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting
Of the Wimbledon Community Association

Thursday 1 December 2022
At The Polka Theatre ('The Nest' room)
240 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1SB

From 12 noon to 2pm

1. Chair's remarks and welcome.

   Attended: **Trustees:** David Hall (Chair), Karl Schneider, and Jackie Chapman **also Secretary**

   In addition to the trustees/secretary, there were **15** member organisations present as follows:- Alison Palmer *Bookclubs in Schools, Walk and Talk and Wimbledon Foodbank*; Joe Dillon *Carlton Theatre Group;* Phil Newman *Colour House Theatre;* Jennifer Watters *Love Wimbledon;* Anthony Hopkins *Merton Libraries and Merton Heritage*; Jess Brown and Fran Chabrel *Polka Theatre;* Richard Hayward *South Mitcham Community Association;* Helen Duckworth *Wimbledon Guild;* Jil Hall, *South Park Gardens*; Danila Arde *Sustainable Merton;* Richard Ing *Wimbledon Windmill Museum;* Kumiko Brocklebank *Fayre and Square;* and May Chee *Worple Art Group.*

   One member, The Attic Theatre Company had registered their agreement to vote by proxy in line with the Chair.

   The Chair declared the meeting quorate. The AGM agenda items have been available on Wimblecomm for three weeks, and he hoped that attendees had taken the opportunity to review them. Otherwise, digital versions of the documents would be presented during the AGM.

   Two other member organisations joined after the close of the formal AGM agenda – Katie Preston and Katherine Rowe *Common Works Gallery;* and Mark Eminson *Holy Trinity.*

   Others in attendance – Susanne Ollig (WCA staff), Helen Clark-Bell, Kathie Arundell (WCA volunteer), Ross Garrod (Leader of the Council), Eleanor Stringer (Deputy Leader of the Council), Will Hay, Ian (surname unknown), Tracy Walcott and Nadra Gadeed (both from SW London NHS)

   Ross Garrod made a welcome speech recognising the importance of all the voluntary organisations present. He talked about the recently launched Civic Pride Fund which aims to support the voluntary sector to promote a strong sense of community.

2. Apologies for absence: Slawek Szczepanski *Polish Families*, Mark Connor *SW London NHS,* John Colbert *William Morris House.*

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 10 November 2021 – for approval.

   The minutes were approved at the meeting

4. Chair's Annual Report for 2021/22

The Chair presented his report of achievements over the last year and plans for the coming year.

Key achievements during the financial year

- Significant growth in site visits up to October 2022. We track monthly numbers of visitors, and can report a steady increase over the year, with latest numbers approaching 10,000 pageviews by nearly 2,000 users.

- Rapid and sustained growth in venue enquiries/referrals generated on Wimblecomm. Our ongoing analysis shows that we have generated 2,323 referrals to our venue members since the creation of Wimblecomm.

- Communicated and marketed our new Membership Model, which aims to:
    - Facilitate engagement and further develop our membership community across the Merton Community Sector, including not-for-profit and commercial Community Venues and Groups/Organisations.
    - Offer core and enhanced membership benefits via a differentiated multi-tier framework.

- Developed and grew the new Community Group/Organisation Directory on Wimblecomm.

- Developed and grew our new Jobs and Volunteering Opportunities Board on Wimblecomm.

Our plans for 2023 and beyond

- Complete the member survey for venues and community groups and review the output. We have received twenty responses to date, but need more.

- Carry out a Strategic (Options) Review in collaboration with key partners and our members, to:
    - evaluate Wimblecomm's social impact
    - future growth, diversification and monetisation opportunities
    - ensure the best possible use of WCA's charitable funds to deliver an optimised service to Merton's CVS organisations and the general public.
    - assess our financial and human resourcing needs

- Subject to the above scope and deliver a major overhaul / re-design / re-build of the Wimblecomm website, its technical architecture and features.

- Review our membership model and related processes, making subscription and listing as accessible and user-friendly as possible.

David thanked members and partners for their continued support and attendance at the AGM and noted the contributions of Genevieve Etienne-Farrell (Community Development Officer) and Jenny Burrett (trustee) who departed during the year.

David thanked Susanne for her continued commitment to WCA and Jackie for her unwavering support during the last 10 years. He also thanked his wife Jil and his son Alexander for their continued personal support.

5. Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2021/22 – for approval.

   The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value

   The charity's funds have been invested with CCLA to raise dividend income to fund its activities and drew attention to the increase in investment valuation.

   The financial statements show income of £25.8k, and costs of £42.9k; the deficit is more than offset by the growth in the investment portfolio. Cash reserves have been used to fund this difference, rather than access the invested money. Costs since the year end have been reduced, largely due to the departure of Genevieve Etienne-Farrell. We have no immediate plans to replace her pending a strategic review. We have also taken steps to reduce the cost of storage of the charity's possessions. This will be completed in the coming year.

   Overall, the financial position of the charity is strong.

   The Financial Statements have been audited by Independent Examiner, Warner Wilde, and were recommended for approval by the Trustees at a meeting on 6 October 2022.

   The financial statements were approved at the meeting.

6. Appointment of Warner Wilde as Independent Examiner for 2022/23.

   Agreed at the meeting

7. Directors, Trustees and Secretary – resignations and appointments.

   Karl Schneider appointed 14 December 2021
   Jenny Burrett resigned 23 June 2022

   The three current Trustees will continue in post.

   The Chair expressed his thanks to his fellow Trustees, but stressed that if we wish to be ambitious in our aims for the charity, we are going to require more support.

   Karl thanked David for his diligence and professionalism as Chair.

8. Any Other Business.
   Nothing discussed.

The formal part of the AGM was followed by a buffet lunch, and an open Connect Session allowing the attendees to network. There was also a guided tour of the Polka Theatre led by the venue staff.

The meeting closed at 2pm.