

Eton Wick Youth and Community Centre CIO



Minutes of Annual General Meeting Wednesday 25 September 2024 @ 8pm

Attendees

Alison Hill – Treasurer and Trustee
Helen Branscombe-Davies – Secretary and Trustee
Lucy Ludovici – Trustee representing Eton Wick Village Association (Chair EWVA)
Laura Regazzacci - Trustee representing Eton Wick Waterways Group (EWWG)
Dawn Kane - Trustee representing Eton Wick Youth Club (EWYC)
Janice Caldwell – Committee Member, EWVA
Lindsay Pardoe
Karen McGlasson
Riccardo Ludovici – Eton Town Councillor, Eton Wick ward

Apologies

Cllr. Malcolm Leach - Mayor, Eton Town Council
Cllr. Mark Wilson – Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Welcome and introduction – Lucy Ludovici and Helen Branscombe-Davies

Lucy welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting.

Helen outlined explained the creation of Eton Wick Youth and Community Centre Charitable Incorporated Organisation (EWY&CC CIO) explaining that the CIO had been created in December 2022 following an identified need for the community groups of Eton Wick to benefit from charitable status with a single Trustee Board.

The Trustee Board of EWY&CC includes representatives from EWVA, EWYC, and EWWG with all Trustees having equal rights. Helen explained that the Trustee Board of EWY&CC is non-operational, and the roles of Chair and Secretary of EWY&CC Trustee Board are constitutional only. All parties benefit from a single Treasurer under EWY&CC CIO, whilst maintaining individual operation. EWY&CC meetings will be annual with public attendance for transparency although these meetings are purely to meet Charity Commission requirements. A handout with this information was made available to all attending and will be posted on the Eton Wick Village website. ([Click here to access the file.](#))

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(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Village Hall, Eton Wick, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 6LT

Registered Charity No.1201257

EWYCC-CIO@outlook.com

Treasurer's Report – Alison Hill

Alison explained that the financial year was slightly shortened due to the registration of EWY&CC CIO with the Charities Commission on December 7th, 2022. The current (next) financial year started on November 1st, 2023, and ends October 31st, 2024.

Alison continued with an explanation of the structure of the accounts. Until March 2023 there was one (Barclays) current account, and one (Barclays) savings account for use by the EWY&CC CIO groups (Waterways Group, Village Association and "The Wick" Youth Club). In March 2023 there was a separation of accounts with "The Wick" Youth Club now having separate banking with the Co-operative Bank, and a second Barclays Savings Account being opened. Funds were transferred between the accounts so now the Waterways Group funds are held in Barclays Savings 1 and other grants and allocated funds managed by the EW Village Association are held in Barclays Savings 2, (and all the Youth Club funds are managed through the Co-operative Bank Account).

Separating particularly the "The Wick" from the other accounts has enabled the running and funding requirements for this group to be clearer, and the Waterways Group having a separate saving account allows it to more easily to evidence its funds as it applies for grants going forward.

Alison presented the summary income and expense accounts for the four bank accounts for the financial year. The full Treasurer's report will be posted on the Eton Wick Village website. ([Click here to access the file.](#))

Eton Wick Village Association Report – Lucy Ludovici

Lucy reported that the first Eton Wick community groups Christmas social, held in December 2023, had been well received. Volunteers and committee members from all village groups were invited to the Greyhound public house for drinks and snacks funded jointly by EWVA and EWYC. Lucy advised this event would be repeated in 2024 with a proposed change of venue to the Eton Wick Football & Social Club to allow for greater numbers to attend.

Lucy advised that following very low community attendance at EWVA Community Meetings in 2023 and early 2024 it had been decided to change focus away from holding meetings and to launch a monthly newsletter. The Wick 4-Weekly edition 01 was circulated at the beginning of April 2024 and has been published every month following. The newsletter is sent by email to nearly 300 addresses, it is published on the Eton Wick Village website and promoted via social media. Printed copies are available every month in the Village Pharmacy and Hair by Us, and it was agreed at the meeting that the Corner Café would be approached as a third location for copies.

Lucy also advised that EWVA had decided to focus on improving the appearance of Eton Wick and launched the Eton Wick in Bloom initiative in the late spring of 2024. An intense two-week period of finding funds for EWVA to fund the lamppost brackets, plus raising sponsorship for the hanging baskets for the 2024 six-month summer season from local shops and residents, had resulted in a successful inaugural year with almost every lamppost in the centre of the village supporting beautiful floral displays. Funds were also used to replant the flower towers, with local volunteers undertaking the watering duties.

Lucy referred to the results of the 2024 Village Survey which would be presented later in the AGM, sharing that Eton Wick in Bloom had received a significant percentage of votes as a focus for village fundraising. EWVA will be holding a Prize Bingo evening on Friday 11th October to raise funds for Eton Wick in Bloom, with money raised being put towards increasing the number of lampposts (brackets and hanging baskets) for future years with the aim of extending the floral display along the length of

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the village over time to maximise impact. Lucy continued, options for wooden planters made by village volunteers from pallet wood (reuse/repurpose/recycle) are being strongly considered as options for future years to improve the attractiveness of the village and more volunteers will be needed to water these. EWVA hoped to tap into expertise within the village, eg Eton Wick Allotment Association, to assist with this project.

Eton Wick Youth Club Report – Dawn Kane

Dawn reported that 2023-2024 had been a tumultuous period with the club being unable to use the Youth Club space in the Village Hall from mid-July 2023 for several months due to circumstances beyond control. Eton Wick First School stepped in and provided a temporary venue at the school which EWYC used from October 2023 to February 2024. The change of venue to the school was swiftly followed by the resignation of the Youth Leader. Member attendance, particularly at the older ages (ages 13+), fell as a direct result of the venue move, plus volunteer numbers were a challenge (and continue to be) so the club changed format to a single age group (ages 8-14) to enable it to continue. The single age group session format continues, and the club moved back into the Village Hall in February 2024 and started to pay hire for use of the venue. Weekly subs were increased from £1 to £1.50 to allow for the new requirement to pay rent.

Dawn explained that the core volunteers ran the club successfully, each taking the lead in a different area of activity provision or administration. Use of the outside space in good weather, light levels permitting, and use of the Sports Hall all year round enabled a wide range of sporting and physical activities whilst the Youth Club hall and kitchen were the venues for creativity and quieter activities eg crafts and cookery.

Dawn advised that a recent meeting with the owners of Ginger Jolley nursery had been very positive with the nursery agreeing to Youth Club use of the kitchen both for tuck/refreshments and cooking activities.

The Youth Club are now storing almost all furniture and equipment in the link building storeroom and everything else in the smaller craft/sports store by the front entrance. Leaving the hall clear for nursery use. Volunteers need to arrive sufficiently early before the Monday evening session to move everything out (table tennis table, table football, all tables, chairs, crafts for that evening, tuck etc) and then stay late to fully pack away at the end of the session.

A recent London to Brighton charity bike ride by supporters of EWYC has raised circa £2,000 which will be ring fenced for special activities and not used for day to day running of the club.

Dawn looked to the future and advised that the club plan to introduce a buddy system to help support new members, and that renewed focus will be placed on educating members not to litter during sessions and to be mindful of the noise they generate as a Yoga class is held in the Village Hall above on Monday evenings.

Lucy added the news that the Eton Wick Fireworks Committee have made EWYC a beneficiary of fundraising at the fireworks in October 2024. EWYC members, with adult accompaniment, will be collecting at the event and monies raised will be used to help fund the weekly activities, purchase of craft supplies for example.

Dawn advised that EWYC will shortly be holding budget planning and activity planning meetings with the adult volunteers.

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Laura reported that the last year has seen significant flooding and sewage pollution around our village, especially in the spring and again recently. Increased rainfall during those periods caused the sewage storage facilities at Slough Water Treatment Works (SWTW) to reach full capacity. This resulted in partially untreated effluent being released by Thames Water into the Roundmoor stream network, which cannot cope with such increases in volume of water/effluent, partly due to silt and prolific weed growth along its course, and because the gradient is very slight. Many complaints were made by residents to the Environment Agency (EA) and Thames Water (TW), and the ensuing press coverage helped to highlight our dilemma to senior executives at TW. At our request visits were made to our site by senior TW managers and EA staff to see the flooding themselves both in residents' gardens, Dorney common and on the Moores Lane footpath. As a result, TW agreed to engage contractors to clear the Roundmoor/Boveney rivers twice annually until the planned improvements to processing and storage of effluent at the SWTW prevent any future sewage releases into the Roundmoor. Now that TW are taking on the weed clearance of the main rivers, our team of volunteers have not been idle. By regularly removing debris from the Colenorton ditch along the Moores Lane footpath and Common Brook at Bell Lane/Common Road they have helped to prepare these waterways for increasing loads of water flooding in from the Roundmoor at times of high rainfall. Much of the Common Brook/Colenorton is inaccessible to volunteers and landowners are responsible for the maintenance of this waterway. The issue of flooding on the footpath should be addressed by Slough Council who own the land and the EA who were responsible for its alteration over the Jubilee, and both been made fully aware by us of their responsibility to safeguard residents who use this path regularly for work, school and shopping. Over the summer we participated in litter picks along the Thames and water and riverfly testing on the Boveney/Roundmoor.

TW are hoping to mitigate against flooding next year by applying to the EA to use mechanical methods to clear weed overgrowth more thoroughly and therefore more quickly, although the spawning season rule cannot be broken. Some issues have been identified by the EA and the contractors including low bridges and fallen trees, which are the responsibility of riparian owners. Bridges should only be used if they are fully retractable to the owners' bank and do not have a footprint in the riverbed Laura advised that there is guidance on this in the latest riparian owner handbook (link below).

Laura confirmed that TW have abandoned the plan for a pipeline and instead have planned a major improvement to the SWTW. Apparently when completed, the works will be able to cope with increased storm water flow and storage of untreated or partially treated sewage at times of flooding. The downside is that an increase in output of treated water will be inevitable. The proposed works are now fully planned and authorised and they are out to tender. Work is likely to start at the end of 2025. No firm date yet for completion but we understand that this project is being fast tracked by TW.

Laura advised that EWWG has submitted a bid for Water Restoration funding from the Rural Payments Agency for a design and development consultation to restore and improve natural flow and ecological status of Boveney/Roundmoor in preparation for any future increases in volume whether from effluent increase or increased rainfall/runoff. If successful, the planning will start this winter and stakeholders, including riparian residents and landowners will be involved in the consultation throughout. This bid is independent of any of TW's plans and if successful, any planning for the future of our waterways would have to take into account the interests of local residents/landowners as well as the ecosystems in our waterways.

EWWG have received new guidance from the EA for Riparian owners, who have rights and responsibilities for their stretch of the river. This includes the removal of impediments to flow such as fallen tree trunks. It also offers guidance on what permissions are required for any construction on or near the river, such as flood defences, bridges and use of herbicides. Link below.

<https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/your-watercourse-rights-and-roles>

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Eton Wick Village Survey Report – Helen Branscombe-Davies

Helen reported that the survey had been hand delivered to all village residences plus made available for online completion. The percentage of written survey results to online digital completion of the survey was exactly 50:50.

Helen shared summary charts of the survey results, providing more depth to the data with references to the feedback and comments received and insights provided. Helen advised that the information shared at the meeting will be posted on the Eton Wick Village website and promoted via social media.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 21:30.

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