

## **The Horsham Society**

### **Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

#### **1 Welcome from the President**

Dr Annabelle Hughes welcomed all to the AGM. She went on to mention two specific initiatives taken by the Society during the previous year, namely, Local Lists and Town Greens. She expressed her disappointment at HDC's reaction, particularly in relation to Town Greens, and urged members to write to their councillors pressing for action.

#### **2 Apologies for absence**

Maureen Ruddy, Dave Richardson, Susan and Mike Parsons, Mr and Mrs Arnold and Pam Spencer.

#### **3 Minutes of the 2009 AGM and matters arising**

The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.  
There were no matters arising.

#### **4 Minutes of the 2009 OGM and Matters arising**

The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.  
There were no matters arising

#### **5 Chairman's report**

The Chairman's report was published in the March Newsletter.

(Sec note: The report contained references to the Local List, Town Greens, the September Members' Meeting, the visit of Chichester Conservation Area Committee and the work of the Planning Sub-Committee. Also, thanks were given to the officers, committee members, webmaster and members of the Newsletter Distribution Team for their contributions throughout the year.)

#### **6 Honorary Treasurer's Report and Accounts**

Roy Bayliss highlighted key points from the 2009 Accounts which continued to show a healthy balance.

Specific reference was made to the legacy of £2000 from the late Pamela Alexander. Part of this money was used to fund the booklet containing the proposals for Local Lists and additional Conservation Areas.

Members were asked to sign up for Gift Aid with their subscriptions wherever possible as this provided a very welcome additional income from HMRC.

Roy thanked Stuart Ritchie for his work in preparing the accounts which were always completed within a very tight time window. A formal vote of thanks was proposed by Nigel Friswell and

seconded by John Steele.

A member requested information about the subscriptions made by the Society and the reason for the substantial reduction of subscription money between 2009 and 2008. The following answers were given:

- The Society subscribed to The Historic Towns Forum, the Federation of Sussex Amenities Societies, the Open Spaces Society and CPRE.
- The Civic Trust went bankrupt in 2009 so no subscription was paid.

(Sec note: the Civic Trust previously accounted for more than half of such subscriptions)

## 7 **Election of Officers**

Nigel Friswell reminded the meeting that he had agreed at the last AGM to act as Chairman for just one year while the Executive Committee took steps to find a successor and he confirmed that he was now stepping down accordingly.

Unfortunately, no successor has been found and the search must continue. Nigel invited any member who wished to be considered to step forward at the AGM or subsequently.

The following nominations for officers were proposed, seconded and adopted:

Vice Chairman: Ian Dockreay

Hon Secretary: Rod Cuming

Treasurer: Roy Bayliss

Membership Secretary: Pat Gale

## 8 **Election of Committee Members**

All current committee members agreed to stand for re-election, namely, Peggy Gledhill, Carol Stokes, Sandie Brittain, Paul Fletcher, Michael Hall, Brian Slyfield and John Steele. Arthur Haines was a new nominee.

The nominations were proposed, seconded and adopted.

Nigel reminded the meeting that members were always welcome to attend the committee meetings which take place on the first Wednesday of each month but to pre-advise the Hon Secretary.

## 9 **Appointment of Honorary Independent Examiner**

Stuart Richie agreed to continue in this role.

The appointment was proposed, seconded and adopted.

## 10 **Any Other Business**

### **a) Town Greens**

John Steele stated that the Society has long campaigned for the registration of Town Greens and that a change of law has made registration of land by its owners a simple process. Following consultation with HDC the Society selected five HDC-owned non-controversial sites for registration. However, HDC has rejected the proposals claiming that such protection was unnecessary as the spaces were already adequately protected by existing planning controls.

John pointed out that the experience with Ramsey Close demonstrated that this was clearly not the case and that registration was an essential safeguard.

Members were asked to write to HDC pressing for registration.

**b) Horsham Town Signs**

Nigel explained that the Town Signs placed by the Society on the main routes into Horsham were looking a little tired and needed renovation. Such renovation last occurred fifteen years ago. The AGM was asked whether the Society should continue to retain responsibility for maintenance or hand over the responsibility to HDC with the possibility that signs might be replaced by other, brasher signs.

By show of hands the AGM voted overwhelmingly for retention.

**11 Christ's Hospital: Past, present and future**

Nigel introduced Tony Hogarth-Smith, CH Administration Officer and David Cooke, CH Chief Executive who proceeded to give an absorbing and enlightening presentation about the history of Christ's Hospital and the achievements, challenges and operating philosophies of today.

Responding to a member's question David Cooke said that opportunities to visit the school were available through the Verrio Tours, lunchtime concerts and occasional Open Days. More details could be found on the website "[www.christs-hospital.org.uk](http://www.christs-hospital.org.uk)"

**12 Close**

Nigel thanked David and Tony for their fascinating presentation. He went on to thank members for attending the AGM which was then closed.

REC 26/3/10