

## **The Horsham Society**

### **Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 31st March 2011**

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

Dr Annabelle Hughes welcomed all to the AGM and thanked the Executive Committee for its work during the previous year. She noted that the Local List, a Society initiative, had recently been formally adopted by Horsham District Council so becoming a material planning consideration. As to the future she remarked that the Committee faced considerable challenges given Coalition plans both to devolve planning decisions and to remove local planning regulations.

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

Dave Richardson, John and Pam Gorman, Paula Lamplough, Martin Andrews, Susan Richardson, Sandie Brittain, Roy Bayliss, Arthur Haines, Brian Slyfield.

#### **3 Minutes of the 2010 AGM and matters arising**

It was noted that the minutes as printed in the Newsletter incorrectly gave the meeting date as 2009 rather than 2010.

Otherwise the minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.

Under matters arising Nigel Friswell reported that refurbishment of the Town Signs had been completed. HDC would erect the signs in the near future.

#### **4 Chairman's report**

The Chairman summarised his annual report which had been published in full in the March Newsletter. He thanked the officers and committee members for their contributions, Kathy Gleeson for newsletter distribution, Ann Needham for running the website, Stuart Ritchie for his work on the Annual Accounts and Annabelle Hughes for her continuing support as President.

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

In the absence of the Hon Treasurer, the Chairman presented the Annual Accounts, pointing out that income and expenditure had remained virtually flat for the two years 2009 and 2010 after adjusting for a legacy. Deficits of approximately £800 had been recorded in both years, meaning that losses had now been seen in each of the last five years. There was no immediate problem as reserves were healthy but action would be needed to ensure the finances remained sound.

The Annual Report and Accounts were proposed, seconded and adopted.

#### **6 Election of Officers**

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

Chairman: David Moore

Vice Chairman: Ian Dockreay

Hon Secretary: Rod Cuming  
Treasurer: Roy Bayliss  
Membership Secretary: Pat Gale

7 **Election of Committee Members**

The Chairman announced that Sandie Brittain would not be standing for re-election and thanked her for her considerable contributions over the years.

Nominations received were for Peggy Gledhill, Carol Stokes, Jill Williams, Paul Fletcher, Nigel Friswell, Michael Hall, Arthur Haines, Brian Slyfield, John Steele.

The nominations were proposed, seconded and adopted.

8 **Appointment of Honorary Independent Examiner**

Stuart Ritchie had agreed to continue in this role.

The appointment was proposed, seconded and adopted.

9 **Proposed changes to the Constitution**

The Chairman explained that changes to the Constitution were needed partly for legal reasons but primarily to improve governance and to adapt to changing circumstances. The proposed changes had been fully reported in the March Newsletter but the Chairman made particular reference to the change enabling the Committee to modify subscription rates without the need to obtain approval at an AGM. However, any rate change would require three months notice enabling the membership to challenge and call an Extraordinary General Meeting, if necessary.

The changes were proposed and seconded.

The changes would now be referred to the Charity Commission for approval prior to adoption.

10 **Any Other Business**

The Chairman announced the following:

a) Newsletter postage charges

In order to cover postage costs for out-of-town members postage charges would be increased for new members with immediate effect and for all members from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

b) Design Awards

An award scheme would be introduced during the course of the year to encourage good building design in the town.

c) Chesworth Farm

In association with Forest Neighbourhood Council, the Society had been leading an initiative to establish a Friends of Chesworth Farm driven by a desire to protect the site from housing development. A public meeting to this end would be held in the Drill Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm. All members were invited.

d) Members' Meetings

It was planned to have two Members' Meetings this year, probably in June then September. Details would be available shortly.

11 **Water today – what about tomorrow?**

The Chairman introduced Meyrick Gough, Water Resources and Strategy Manager for Southern Water, who presented a fascinating picture of the water needs of the area, how those needs were changing and the planning and actions taken to meet those needs.

12 **Close**

The Chairman thanked Meyrick for his excellent presentation. He then thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.