

The Horsham Society

Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting

Thursday 29th March 2012

1 Welcome from the President

Dr Annabelle Hughes welcomed all to the AGM. She went on to describe how the Executive Committee had helped other groups such as the Friends of Chesworth Farm during the previous year and talked about the challenge of dealing with new planning laws in the year ahead. She thanked the Executive Committee for its work and highlighted Nigel Friswell's welcome initiative to train town guides.

2 Apologies for absence

Dave Richardson, Martin Andrews, Marion Charman, Susan Richardson, Carol Stokes and John Steele.

3 Minutes of the 2011 AGM and matters arising

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

4 Chairman's report

The Chairman presented his annual report which had been published in full in the March Newsletter. This included references to the continued flooding of the surface of the Forum, the disgraceful state of the road surface in the Causeway and the successful fight to save Muggeridge Field from development.

There had been several changes to the membership of the committee. Sadly Oliver Palmer had died towards the end of 2011. Arthur Haines had resigned for health reasons and Brian Slyfield had decided to step down as Editor of the Newsletter.

The Chairman thanked the officers and committee members for their contributions, Kathy Gleeson and the team of distributors 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.

There was a suggestion from the floor that although Brian Slyfield was no longer a member of the Society it might be appropriate to send him complimentary copies of the Newsletter in recognition of his previous work. The Chairman agreed to progress the suggestion.

5 Honorary Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The Hon Treasurer began his presentation by thanking Stuart Ritchie and Gulia Crighton for the excellent work done in examining the accounts and meeting the timetable.

He explained that "Net Outgoing Resources" was the terminology required by the Charity Commission to describe the deficit. For 2011 the figure was £2,654, mostly related to the installation of the new Town Signs.

At the year-end, the "General Fund Carried Forward" ie the reserves, stood at £8,139.

There was a question from the floor regarding the purchase of stamps ahead of the significant price increase scheduled for end-April. The Hon Treasurer confirmed that the advance purchase of one year's supply had been agreed at the recent committee meeting.

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**

Nominations had been received for Peggy Gledhill, Carol Stokes, Paul Fletcher, Nigel Friswell, Michael Hall and 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 **Any Other Business**

a) Horsham Town Community Partnership

Nigel Friswell explained that HTCP had taken on the task of preparing a database of retail premises located outside the town centre. Volunteers were needed in April to help with this one-off task. He invited anyone who would like to help to see him after the meeting.

b) Friends of Chesworth Farm

The Chairman confirmed that the group was up and running. The first project had been to put up new notice boards funded by Section 106 money: the management of river erosion and the creation of wetland were now being investigated. The Friends AGM would take place on 23rd April 2012 at 7.30pm in the Drill Hall and all interested in the preservation of Chesworth Farm were invited.

10 **Unwelcome visitors**

The Chairman introduced Kate Turner, Regional Operations Manager for Rentokil, who gave a riveting talk about rats and bed bugs.

11 **Close**

The Chairman thanked Kate for her excellent and enthusiastic presentation.

Looking to the year ahead, the Chairman highlighted the huge challenge of housing in terms of numbers and location and referred to the opportunities opening up with the refurbishment of West Street and the introduction of core time closure in East Street.

He then thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.