

The Horsham Society

Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting

Thursday 21st March 2013

1 Welcome from the President

Dr Annabelle Hughes welcomed all to the AGM and thanked the Executive Committee for its efforts in the previous year.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Dave Richardson, Carol Stokes and Paula Lamplough.

3 Minutes of the 2012 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. It had been a busy year. The dismal appearance of Blackhorse Way, the poor condition of the road surface in Causeway, core closing time for East Street and the future of the Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre had been just a few of the issues addressed.

The Chairman thanked Nigel Friswell for organising the town guide training and for his sterling work as editor of the Newsletter during 2012.

The Chairman also thanked Kathy Gleeson for her organisation of Newsletter distribution, the team of distributors for delivering the Newsletter, Ann Needham for running the website, Stuart Ritchie for his work on the Annual Accounts for the past twenty years and Annabelle Hughes for her wide-ranging support.

5 Honorary Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The Hon Treasurer began her report by thanking her predecessor, Roy Bayliss, for managing the accounts until November 2012 and for leading her through the idiosyncrasies of the Society's accounting practice.

She went on to thank Stuart Ritchie and Gulia Crighton for the excellent work done in examining the accounts and meeting the timetable.

The key figures were:

Income	£5569
Expenditure	£6557
Net Outgoing	£988
Reserves	£7151

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
Hon Secretary:	Rod Cuming
Treasurer:	Sarah Powell
Membership Secretary:	Pat Gale

7 **Election of Committee Members**

Nominations had been received for Peggy Gledhill, Roy Bayliss, 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) North Horsham Development

John Nicholas explained that he had lived in Horsham since 1968, owned some land north of the A264 and had met with Liberty, the company that was planning a huge development in North Horsham. He asserted that Horsham would be destroyed by the proposal and that everything possible should be done to stop the development.

In response the Chairman confirmed that he had seen the plans and had made absolutely clear to both Liberty and HDC the Society's opposition to the development.

b) Town Guides

Nigel Friswell referred to the proposals put forward by PJ Aldred to encourage regular coachloads of visitors to the town to enjoy the Horsham Experience. Part of the experience could be a town tour conducted by the Society's trained guides. If the proposal took off, more trained guides would be needed. Members interested in becoming a trained guide were requested to contact Nigel after the meeting.

c) Tesco: Brighton Road

Peggy Gledhill launched an impassioned plea for action to stop Tesco setting up shop at the Brighton Road site formerly occupied by the Silver Wok and urged the Council to employ a Compulsory Purchase Order to obtain the site for housing.

d) Leonard Crosbie

The Chairman welcomed the arrival of Leonard Crosbie, Chairman of Horsham District Council, who offered to take questions after the meeting.

10 **Guest speaker**

The President introduced Dr Janet Pennington who talked on the subject of “Chanctonbury Ring: the story of a Sussex Landmark.”

11 **Close**

The Chairman thanked Dr Pennington for her fascinating presentation.

Looking to the year ahead, the Chairman highlighted the big housing challenges to be confronted in terms of numbers and locations and, in particular, how to get a sensible plan for the District without impacting Horsham.

He thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.