

The Horsham Society

Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th April 2014

1 Welcome from the President

Dr Annabelle Hughes welcomed all to the AGM. Many issues had been addressed in the previous year and the President was delighted to highlight the Planning Inspector's recent decision to turn down Mansell McTaggart's appeal and require them to repaint the first floor of their premises in the original cream colour so restoring the visual integrity of the building. The decision followed a long campaign by the Society.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Debbie Malins, Jane O'Sullivan, Pauline and Reg Pycroft, James and Jenny Church, Pat Gale, Anne Smith, Michael Fadil, Andrew and Sue McMahon, Pauline Bishop.

3 Minutes of the 2013 AGM and matters arising

The minutes were proposed, seconded and adopted.

The Chairman drew attention to the minute which recorded Peggy Gledhill's impassioned plea for action to stop Tesco setting up shop in Brighton Road. Since then Peggy had suffered a stroke but remained as spirited and clear-minded as ever.

4 Chairman's report

The Chairman presented his annual report which had been published in full in the March Newsletter. In summary:

- it had proved difficult to make real progress on the dismal state of Blackhorse Way.
- the introduction of core closing time had added to the success of East Street.
- the refurbishment of West Street had received mixed reactions.
- connectivity between the proposed redevelopment of the Lifestyle Ford site and the town centre continued to be a major concern.
- the proposed construction of 2,500 houses plus business park plus superstore plus railway station north of the A264 would be a disaster for Horsham and the Society would continue to be vigorous in its opposition.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for its efforts in the previous year and thanked John Steele for his sterling work as Editor of the Newsletter.

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 and Annabelle Hughes for her wide-ranging support.

Finally, the Chairman urged members to encourage others to join the Society.

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

The Honorary Treasurer reported that revenues were up and that the loss of members resulting from the increase in subscriptions had been less than feared. At the same time costs were down both factors combining to halt the drain on resources experienced in recent years.

The key figures were:

Income	£8923
Expenditure	£5919
Net Outgoing	£3004 (minus)
Reserves	£10155

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

The Honorary Treasurer thanked Stuart Ritchie and Gulia Crighton for the examination of the accounts.

6 **Election of Officers**

The nominations were as follows:

Vice Chairman:	David Moore
Hon Secretary:	Rod Cuming
Treasurer:	Sarah Powell
Membership Secretary:	Pat Gale

The President explained that David Moore had completed three years as Chairman and was required by the constitution to stand down. Given the absence of other candidates for the role, David had offered to continue as Chairman until a new Chairman could be found and appointed by the Committee or until the next AGM subject to the agreement of the members present.

The meeting offered no objections.

The arrangement and the nominations were proposed, seconded and adopted accordingly.

7 **Election of Committee Members**

Nominations had been received for Roy Bayliss, Paul Fletcher, Nigel Friswell, Michael Hall, John Steele and Stephen Watts

The nominations were proposed, seconded and adopted.

8 **Appointment of Honorary Independent Examiner**

Stuart Ritchie had kindly agreed to continue in this role.

The appointment was proposed, seconded and adopted.

9 **Any Other Business**

There was none.

10 **Guest speaker**

Rupert Toovey, Fine Art Auctioneer and Chartered Surveyor, talked about his experiences including his early days in an auction house in Horsham. He handed out some artefacts for the members to examine and pass around but they were “only old ones”.

11 **Close**

The Chairman thanked Rupert for his informative and entertaining talk.

Looking to the year ahead, the Chairman spoke of the need to keep a particularly close eye on proposals for major development in North Horsham as well as the redevelopment of the Lifestyle Ford site and the Bishopric.

He thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.