

FELPHAM VILLAGE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
MINUTES FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON MONDAY 27th APRIL 2015 AT
THE GEORGE INN

Attendees: Angela Barnes (Chair), Glenn Powell, John Fenton-Jones, Maggie Camp, Maggie Lupton, Joyce Pritchard, Geoff Farrell, Leeza Aldis-Hobbs, Louise Cooke, Rachel Searle, Wendy Elsdon, Maggie Fernandez, Mary Fenton-Jones, Marion Brooks, Roger Brooks, Eileen Lord, Tony Lord, Peter Raven, Clive Porter, Jane Barnes, David Spooner, Trevor Coulton, Lindy O'Mullane, Gina Riley, Mary Powell, Ann Travers, M E Haines, Keith Hellyer, Martyn White, Jackie Onions, Andy Camp (Minutes)

1 CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Angela welcomed the audience to the Annual General Meeting.

She stated that we had just ended a very successful year: membership has grown to over one hundred, the Society has returned to a healthy financial position, three working groups had been formed (History and Heritage, Conservation and Development and Friends of Old Rectory Gardens) and regular monthly beach cleaning and gardening working parties had started along with a full programme of events. An informal approach had been maintained.

Adding that she had taken on the role of Chair for six months, after Rachel Searle had stood down in September 2014, she thanked Rachel for her role in regenerating the Society and for continuing her input and interest in it.

She then went on to thank the individual committee members for their work over the year: Andy Camp (Secretary), John Fenton-Jones (Treasurer), Glenn Powell (Vice Chairman and Editor of Newsletter), Leeza Aldis-Hobbs and Louise Cook (Events), Lisa Kebell (creativity / poster design), Joyce Pritchard (Membership Secretary and History and Heritage), Maggie Camp and Louise Cook (Beach Clean), Maggie Lupton (Old Rectory Gardens), Wendy Elsdon (supporting events and research and collation work within the History and Heritage Group), Geoff Farrell (provision of useful input from Felpham Parish Council) and Martyn White (from Arun D.C.). Special thanks were given to Rohan Amick and Gill Chapple, who have now resigned, for their considerable help during the year whilst serving on the committee.

She also thanked the members who attended the AGM who had joined in and participated with Society events and others who supported partners or parents on the committee and gave their time and energy as well.

She then introduced John Fenton – Jones who presented the Financial Report.

2 FINANCE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS ADOPTION

John presented the Society's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 which had been approved by the committee in their April meeting.

In Summary;

Subscriptions and life member donations from our 145 members raised £1,394

He thanked Bay Street Estates for their donation of £104

Events income (net of costs) raised £1,196.

So in total our income for 2014-15 was £2,694.

With regard to Expenditure, we incurred some £500 on Conservation activities which included the net costs of the Christmas tree event of £405 and are very grateful for the grant of £150 made by the Felpham Parish Council. These costs plus the Administration and other costs of £417 made our total expenditure £917.

So overall in the year to 31 March 2015 we made a surplus of £1 777 which counteracts the deficit made in the previous year and this amount when added to the funds brought forward from last year make our funds now £2,370.

Those Funds are represented by bank balances of £2,864 some stocks and amounts paid in advance for next year of £236, less subscriptions and other amounts received in the year relating to 2015-16 which are carried forward to that year.

He stated that Ivon Towse (Independent Examiner) had reviewed the accounts with the accounting records and had reported thereon.

He then commended the accounts for adoption and asked for questions.

The resolution "*To accept and adopt the Accounts*", proposed by Rachel Searle and seconded by Geoff Farrell was carried by a show of hands.

3 APOLOGIES AND CORRESPONDENCE

Andy apologised for the slight error in the Agenda and presented apologies received from Sue Harris, Peter and Julie Boyle, Rohan Amick and Eileen Ricards (who had sent a letter wishing a successful future for the Society, which he read out to the attendees).

He also read out a very positive letter he had received from Mrs Fay Wilson, who also wanted to give the Society her best wishes for success.

4 PROPOSED REVISED CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY

Andy stated that he had been asked to pull together a Constitution during the year and a copy of the old one had been uncovered shortly afterwards. The new version has been adapted to the Financial Year and includes clauses which make the Committee more accountable for the Society's finances.

He went through the changes to the Constitution which were being proposed by the Committee. These were as follows:

Objects and Aims had been changed to *Purpose* which now includes the Society's Mission Statement, states that we are non – political and gives a bit more detail about how we act as a consultee to local government on planning and development.

Membership had been expanded to define *Annual* and *Life Members*.

Subscriptions are taken for the Financial Year, *April to March*, as opposed to *January to December*. *Individual* and *Joint Membership* fees were also defined.

The maximum number of *Committee Members* had increased from 11 to 15 and the minimum number from 6 to 9, due to the wider set of activities that are now undertaken by The Society.

The number of *Officers* (or people with special responsibility) had been increased from 4 to 6, due to the Committee's commitments to the importance of membership and the laying on of events. Positions of *Membership Secretary* and *Events Secretary* had been created.

There had been changes to the *Powers of The Committee*, such as the *authorisation of projects*,

the appointment of working groups and the setting of membership fees.

A new clause relating to *Finance* had been introduced defining how *income should be used, accounting procedures, which bank we used, claiming of expenses, and insurance cover to be provided.*

The *minimum number of meetings in a year* had been increased from 6 to 8 and the date of *the AGM* had been moved to the end of April – to fall in with the Financial Year.

He stated that he had only just taken receipt of some changes proposed by Tony Lord, which he stated would be incorporated easily – relating to Life Members, Insurance Cover and the Notification of AGM's and Special General Meetings. The majority of changes suggested were not discussed in much detail but they have been included here for the sake of completeness.

Section 4 - 3rd para:

“Life Members will be asked to make an appropriate annual donation by July 1st, every year. If *no response to communication sent out* has been received by this date, their membership would cease.”

Section 8 - 5th para:

As the Society's Insurance Policy has been arranged to include risks to which members of the public as well as the Society and its Officers, there is no need to change this paragraph.

Section 9 - 2nd and 3rd para's:

Both will be changed from “in writing” to “in writing *and email*”.

Jane Barnes stated that, being a Life Member, she was unhappy that Life Membership would cease if no donation had been received by July 1st as she had taken out Life Membership in good faith. Joyce Pritchard stated that she is responsible for sending out membership renewal letters and reminders and monitors all correspondence received as a result of these. Only members who had not responded to this correspondence would cease to be Life Members (or Annual Members). Andy stated that Tony's revision to Section 4 would more accurately describe what happens.

The resolution “*To accept and adopt the Revised Constitution including Tony's suggested changes*”, proposed by John Fenton – Jones and seconded by Glenn Powell, was carried by a show of hands.

5 PRESENTATION OF SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

1. Friends of Old Rectory Gardens

Maggie Lupton described the work being conducted by the Friends of Rectory Gardens, which meets on the fourth Friday every month. A very successful “planting event” had taken place on March 27th, where the “Friends” had helped to plant a large number of plants supplied by Arun DC along the main footpath through Old Rectory Gardens and on April 24th, there had been a great turn out to clear the walled area of ivy and other creepers.

She stated that she would welcome any other people who would like to join the “Friends” on Friday afternoon and asked for any attendee, who had a view on the future use of the walled area, to let her know via the Society website email facility.

Angela asked those present if they knew of the location of “The Wishing Well”, but no one was forthcoming.

When asked whether Arun DC were paying the “Friends” for working on their behalf, Andy replied that the “Friends” were definitely not being paid for their work although they could apply for grants

towards special projects. The “Friends” had been set up to input ideas into Arun's Planning process for the Rectory Gardens, to provide some “local” direction and were also quite happy to put in a bit of physical effort themselves.

2. History, Heritage and Archive

Joyce Pritchard stated that interest in this group is growing considerably, since activity started in earnest at the beginning of the year. Contact is being made with The Felpham and Middleton Local History Workshop and it is hoped that knowledge can be shared and checked by the two groups. There will be ample opportunity to discuss the group's collection of items of historical interest at the Summer Fete where members of the group will be available. A History Talk is being arranged on October 17th by the group, following the success of the one held in late October last year.

She went on to say that she would be pleased to receive communication via her phone (the number of which is shown on all membership communication) or via the Society's web site email facility.

3. Conservation and Development

Glenn outlined the activities involving this group, which started off last Autumn with the identification of “shabby buildings” in the village, details of which had been forwarded to Arun DC who are able to act under the Section 215 Notice although changes in personnel and pressure of work in the department concerned had been such that no response had been received so far.

Input from the group also covered the recent Parking Review, the 20 mph speed limit scheme and road mitigation schemes.

He then went on to highlight the Felpham Conservation Area – which was created in 1985, shortly after it was originally formed in 1980 (before Felpham Parish Council was set up). A review of the Conservation Area is being carried out by Arun DC shortly and Glenn hopes that the group can play an important role in it. The consultation is expected in June and presentation is planned for members of the Society and the village to attend.

He also discussed our “Heritage Assets” which were listed in April's *Felpham in Focus*, listed buildings, and our role in commenting on applications for “Area of Special Character status” and “Building of Special Character” status. The Beach Estate, for example, has called for our support in the application to Arun DC for “Area of Special Character” status.

He stated that he was keen to increase the size of the group and asked for interested people to contact him via phone or the Society website. He was interested to hear from people with planning and associated skills, in particular.

4. Events

Leeza listed the events that her team had been involved with over the year, namely

Quiz Night in June, which was a sell out.

Two *Beach Cleans* in July and October

Social Evening for members at the Sailing Club in September which was well attended

History Talk in November which was also well attended.

The *Christmas Tree* event in December, which the Society had been determined to make bigger and bolder than ever before. A *decoration event* had taken place the weekend before in the Sailing Club attended by adults and children, who made the decorations to put on the tree.

Downview and Bishop Tuffnell schools provided carol singers and over 400 people attended the

ceremony which was a very joyful festive event.

Line Dance in March, where tickets were sold out 2 weeks before to 25 members and 35 non – members. Leeza reminded the AGM attendees that members receive discounts when they attend.

Leeza then went on to mention forthcoming events

Another *Quiz Night* with Fish and Chip supper on June 6th – bring your own drinks

Support for the Parish Council's *Fun On The Prom* on August 22nd. The Society will have a gazebo to encourage people to sign on as new members.

Another *Social Evening* for members in Sailing Club on September 10th

Another *History Talk* on October 17th – which will be more of an interactive session than the previous one.

Christmas Tree event on December 4th

Summer Fete

The main event of the year will be the Village Summer Fete on July 11th in Old Rectory Gardens from 12pm to 5pm. Leeza stated that there were going to be stage acts (including a brass band, Irish dancers, popular music duo, rock 'n' roll dancers), a fun dog show, martial arts performers, tug of war, tea tent, games, barbeque and stalls. She described it as being a “proper, village fete”. There had been some good response from local groups and members of the committee, who would be running stalls. A special Fete Committee had been set up and had been meeting for several months. However, more helpers were needed and she encouraged interested parties to contact her through the Society's website email facility.

Angela thanked Leeza for her presentation and added that several members of the committee also supported charities and attended events run by each other.

5. Beach Cleaning

Maggie Camp stated that the July and October Beach Cleaning events had demonstrated that more, regular activity was needed and accordingly beach cleaning events were being held each month. She provided some statistics

At the February event 8 large council sacks and 1 sack for recycling were collected.

At the March event 5 large council sacks and 1 sack for recycling were collected.

At the April event 4 large council sacks and 1 sack for recycling were collected.

She described the regular clean up process as being a success, illustrated by the reduction in the amount of litter being collected over the period.

She also thanked The Lobster Pot, for providing free tea and coffees to the litter pickers (on average 15 each time) and mentioned that Arun DC provided sacks, rings and pickers and there is a designated collection space available on the Prom.

Louise Cooke then encouraged every one to join in and to spread the word. Litter picking will take place on the second Saturday of every month (except the July event which will be on Sunday 12th, the day after the Summer Fete), starting at 10.30 am. She also mentioned Lisa Kebell's posters advertising the Beach Clean and *Facebook*, which also provide information on it.

Maggie then mentioned that the team now has a pink fluorescent spray can which will be used to highlight dog mess on the promenade and green areas, which apparently works well at the task of shaming their owners.

<p>6</p>	<p>ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS</p> <p>Andy Camp stated that, by the deadline date of April 13th, he had received four Committee Member Nomination Forms which matched the four vacancies on the Committee at the time. Accordingly, the four nominated people could automatically move on to the Committee.</p> <p>Nomination forms had been received from</p> <p>John Fenton – Jones, who had joined the Committee during the year as Treasurer, and according to the Revised Constitution, must resign at the end of the year and seek re – election to the Committee. John's nomination was proposed by Andy Camp and seconded by Angela Barnes.</p> <p>Angela Barnes, who gave her intention to act as Chair person for the remaining six months of the year, when she took over from Rachel Searle. Angela's nomination was proposed by Andy Camp and seconded by Joyce Pritchard.</p> <p>Andy Camp, due to his involvement in the Revised Constitution, had believed that he should demonstrate his commitment to the “resignation by rotation process”. Andy's nomination was proposed by John Fenton – Jones and seconded by Joyce Pritchard.</p> <p>Jackie Onions was proposed by Maggie Camp and seconded by Andy Camp</p> <p>He stated that he had more recently received notice of a fifth vacancy, caused by the resignation of Gill Chapple. He asked if any there were any members who would like to put themselves forward to stand on the Committee. Jackie Onions nominated Karen Wing (in absentia) who had previously given her consent. Joyce Pritchard (and several others) seconded this nomination.</p> <p>As there were no further nominations, Karen was elected to the Committee.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>APPOINTMENT OF ADVISERS</p> <p>Glenn introduced Martyn White, Conservation Officer at Arun DC, who cannot take up an elected position on the Committee due to his job but who has been acting in an advisory position during the year and was keen to continue for another year. He also mentioned Rohan Amick who is the local Tree Warden, who had recently retired from the Committee but was interested in continuing his involvement with the Society. He recommended that both Martyn and Rohan be appointed as Advisers to the Committee.</p> <p>He stated that, under the Revised Constitution, up to three advisors could be appointed.</p> <p>The resolution “<i>To accept Martyn White and Rohan Amick as Advisors on The Committee</i>” proposed by Leeza Aldis-Hobbs and seconded by Maggie Camp and several others was carried by a show of hands.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER</p> <p>John explained the role of the Independent Examiner and how it differed from the role of an auditor. Ivon Towse had examined the Society's accounts for 2014 /15 and he recommended that Ivon be re-appointed for the current year.</p> <p>The resolution “<i>To accept the appointment of Ivon Towse as Independent Examiner</i>” proposed by Andy Camp and seconded by Leeza Aldis-Hobbs was carried by a show of hands.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS MATTERS</p> <p>Joyce encouraged the attendees to bring their friends to future events, if they could be of interest.</p>

10	VOTE OF THANKS
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	Glenn proposed a vote of thanks to Angela Barnes for chairing the AGM and for her work during the year as Society Chairperson.
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