

# Felpham Village Conservation Society

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM at 7.00 PM

**Attendees:** J Pritchard (Chair); L Pritchard; J Fenton-Jones; M Fenton-Jones; P Cosgrove; P Harris; J Summerville; G Farrell; G Powell; R Searle; C Holliday; V Morris; J Farrington; J Etienne; Felicity; R Brooks; M Brooks; J Charles; D Wooldridge; A Mackenzie Morrison; M Mackenzie Morrison; B Branscombe; J Lee; N Dargie; A Netley; C Jepson; Kate; G Budhram; T Lord; A Merriman; J Miles; P Taylor; D Webb.

**Apologies:** T Carpentier; C Carr; M Lupton; O Stone.

### 1. Chair's Welcome and Introduction

The Chair, Joyce Pritchard welcomed everyone attending the Zoom AGM 2021 which was the Society's first audience participation event since 2019 and its first Zoom event with members. The Chair said that she hoped everyone was keeping well and safe and although the times had been difficult for so many, there was light at the end of the tunnel, with the large number of first and second vaccinations having already taken place, plus the Government's Roadmap moving to the next huge milestone of 17<sup>th</sup> May. Everyone could only hope to continue keeping healthy and, on a personal note, the Chair said she hoped finally to be able to see her family.

The Chair hoped that everyone had received and managed to read the Society's Annual Report in which was listed everything the Society had managed to do during these unprecedented times. As soon as practical and permissible, the Society would provide the ever-popular events that members and the Felpham community had previously enjoyed.

On a procedural note, the Chair asked those who were not familiar with the practices of using Zoom and who wished to ask a question, to wait until after each Agenda item had been reported. She said that questions could either be put into the 'Chat' box or by raising a hand/emoji hand; a 'Spotter' would let the Chair know and the questioner would be invited to speak and "unmute" themselves.

There would be four Zoom polls in which members would be asked to vote from a Yes/No option in order to approve: a) the Accounts; b) new Committee Members; c) the Advisors to the Society; and d) the Independent Examiner.

Prior to passing over to the Treasurer to give the Finance Report for 2020/2021, the Chair reminded members that due to the Covid Pandemic lockdown, the Society had been unable to hold its AGM in April 2020, and therefore the Annual and Financial Reports for 2019/2020 had been posted online for comments/questions to be forwarded to the Society. The Chair reported that, as no comments or questions had been received, the Society had accepted the Reports for 2019/2020 as approved.

### 2. Finance Report for the year ended 31 March 2021 and Approval of Accounts

The Treasurer, John Fenton-Jones presented the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021. These Accounts had been posted on the Society's website and the link sent to members.

The Treasurer said that a continuing effect of the pandemic had been the cancellation of all but one event, including the annual fete which normally provided the Society with surplus funds used for the hanging baskets and other activities. A restricted Christmas Tree event had been held and some other activities had continued, incurring minimal expenditure, such as supporting "individual" Beach Cleans and work at the St Michael's Allotments. The Society had not been able to put up hanging baskets in 2020 but planned to do so in 2021.

The Treasurer said that total Income for 2020/21 was £1,559 as opposed to £7,391 in the previous year. Total net expenditure was £1,060 which was lower than the previous year. The Society would have broken

even for the year but had received a grant of £500 from Felpham Parish Council towards the cost of new sound equipment for events which had resulted in a credit for the year. He said that the surplus of £500 increased the Society's funds to £7,611.

The Treasurer referred to the importance of having reserve funds, for example to cover the Society's expenditure on the hanging baskets in the village as well as other activities. The Society needed its members' support and he thanked everyone who had renewed their membership.

The Treasurer commended the Accounts to the membership and said he would take any questions. There being no questions, Pamela Cosgrove proposed that the Accounts were approved; Maggie Lupton seconded the motion which was unanimously approved via Zoom poll.

### **3. Annual Report for Year Ended 31 March 2021**

The Chair referred to her Annual Report which had been posted on the Society's website and the link sent to members.

The Chair said that the Committee had worked to do what it could during the year. Committee meetings had been held via Zoom. Gardening had taken place in the Old Rectory Gardens until permission was withdrawn by Arun District Council due to pandemic restrictions; she was pleased to report that the Green Flag Award had been renewed. The Society had promoted and supported private/individual Beach Cleans and had also been able to organise a restricted Christmas Tree light-up event. The Chair had continued to write articles for the "Heart of Felpham" series in *Felpham in Focus*.

Moving forward, the Society had arranged a History Talk via Zoom, to be given by Sarah Slater, on 7 May 2021; the subject would be Working with the Ghosts of Hampton Court Palace. An in-person History Talk was planned for the autumn. The Society would be providing teas and coffees in the Old Rectory Gardens as part of the St Mary's Flower Festival, on 23 May 2021. A plant sale was also planned at the St Michael's Allotments and the hanging baskets for 2021 would be put up at the end of May. Regrettably, the Society could not hold a summer fete in 2021 but would monitor the situation with a view to a holding an event in the Old Rectory Gardens later in the year.

There were not any questions raised.

### **4. Election or Re-election of Committee Members**

The Secretary said that two members had resigned from the Committee and would not be standing for re-election: John Farrington and Ian Hewitt. One co-opted member had stood down, in accordance with the Constitution, but was standing for election. Two other members were standing for election, giving a total of three members to be elected:

Glenn Powell who had been co-opted to the Committee over the past year: proposed by Joyce Pritchard and seconded by Jane Summerville; Caroline Carr: proposed by Pamela Cosgrove and seconded by Jane Summerville; and Oliver Saunders: proposed by Pamela Cosgrove and seconded by Jane Summerville.

All three members were unanimously approved as Committee members via a Zoom poll.

### **5. Appointment of Advisors**

The Chair nominated the following Advisors for the forthcoming year:

Martyn White as Conservation Advisor; and Steve Alderton as Tree Advisor. John Fenton-Jones proposed the motion which was seconded by Pamela Cosgrove and unanimously approved via a Zoom poll.

## **6. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

The Treasurer nominated Ivon Towse as the Society's Independent Examiner, continuing from the previous year. Jane Summerville proposed the motion which was seconded by Pauline Harris and unanimously approved via a Zoom poll.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Val Morris said that the monthly Beach Clean would recommence on Saturday 22 May, operating from the East Greensward, subject to the Government's easing of restrictions. Thereafter, it would revert to taking place on the second Saturday of the month.

There was no other business.

## **8. Close**

The Chair expressed her thanks to: the Committee, including those standing down; the Secretary for arranging the meeting on Zoom; Murdo Mackenzie Morrison for arranging the music and sound at the Christmas Tree lighting (and other events in "normal" years); the "heavy gang" for their work setting up events and putting up hanging baskets and poppies (also in "normal" years); and to all of the Society's many volunteers. Finally, the Chair thanked members for attending the AGM. Glenn Powell thanked the Chair. The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Jane Summerville  
Secretary

April 2021