

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 25th APRIL 2022
Felpham Memorial Village Hall**

Attendees: J Pritchard (Chair); L Pritchard; J Fenton-Jones; M Fenton-Jones; P Harris; G Farrell; G Powell; M Powell; R Searle; J. Etienne; S. Atkinson; G. Walker; A Walker; S Holmes; M Pavard; A Menzies; A Merriman; A Barnes; L Stonelake; C Jepson; F Hurcomb; A Wilkins; D Wilkins; K Watson; M Blakey; V Darlington; L Aldis-Hobbs; E Cooke; D Cooke; M Webb; D Webb; P Taylor; J Summerville (Secretary).

Apologies: S Charon; P Charon; P Cosgrove; N Gibb MP; M Lupton; V Morris; Y Sinon; A Netley; M Brooks; R Brooks; C Holliday.

1. Chair's Welcome and Introduction

The Chair, Joyce Pritchard welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31st March 2022. She thanked members for attending and for their continued support, especially during the unusual times over the last two years.

The Chair referred to the Annual Report that was available to members and which set out all that the Society had done during the year. Those members of the Committee who were present were introduced to the meeting: Jane Summerville – Secretary; John Fenton-Jones – Treasurer; Pauline Harris – Events Officer; Glenn Powell – Hanging Baskets & Allotments Group; Geoff Farrell – Conservation & Development Group; Rachel Searle; and Jenny Etienne. Those Committee members who had sent apologies were: Pamela Cosgrove – Membership Secretary; Maggie Lupton – Old Rectory Gardens Group; Valerie Morris – Beach Clean Group; and Colin Holliday. The Chair said that all had worked hard for members and the Felpham community. The Chair passed to the Secretary for approval of last year's Minutes.

2. Approval of Minutes of the AGM 2021 (held via Zoom)

Proposed: P Harris; Seconded: G Farrell; Approved: Unanimously.

3. Finance Report for the year ended 31 March 2022 and Approval of Accounts

The Treasurer, John Fenton-Jones presented the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022. He explained that, for the latter part of the year, he had shared the Treasurer role with Glenn Powell and was presenting the Accounts on behalf of the two of them. These Accounts had been posted on the Society's website and the link sent to members.

The Treasurer said that expenditure had exceeded income by £1,239 because of activities that had had to be cancelled or reduced due to Covid 19: the Fete, in particular, which had not been held in 2021 (nor in 2020). The Fete historically had provided the Society with much-needed funds to carry out its activities. Nevertheless, the Committee had decided to proceed with hanging baskets in 2021 for the benefit of the village. After income received, eg from plant sales and the Snooks Corner Group, the cost of the Hanging Baskets & Allotments Group was £1,523. In total, the Society's four groups (Hanging Baskets & Allotments, History, Heritage & Archive, Old Rectory Gardens, and Beach Clean) spent £1,597. Administration costs totalled £1,641 which was higher than the previous year and included an annual subscription to Zoom Pro and the cost of the two membership Social Evenings. Membership income was up by £452 to £2,155.

Notwithstanding expenditure exceeding income for the year, the balance of the Society's funds was £6,372. After the year end, the Society had received a grant of £1,000 from Felpham Parish Council which would show in the 2022/2023 accounts. Thanks were expressed to Felpham Parish Council. The Treasurer also thanked Ivon Towse, the Independent Examiner for the past seven years.

The Treasurer said that he himself would be standing down from the Committee after seven and a half years. He said that the Society was in a good financial state. Its funds had been £593 when he took on the role in 2014 and were now £6,372. He commended the Accounts to the membership and invited questions.

A question was asked about the Society's reserves. The Treasurer said the Society retained a sum of £2,000 - £3,000 by way of reserves. With a Fete being planned for summer 2022, the Society's income would be higher than that for 2021/2022 and the Society would continue to prosper.

Approval of Accounts: Proposed: J Summerville; Seconded: G Farrell; Approved: Unanimously.

4. Annual Report for Year Ended 31 March 2022

The Chair referred to her Annual Report which had been posted on the Society's website and the link sent to members. The Chair raised some highlights from the year:

In May 2021, after the lifting of Covid restrictions, the monthly Beach Clean and Old Rectory Gardens Groups got back to volunteering as well as the Hanging Baskets & Allotments Group who were meeting weekly to get ready the hanging baskets for 2022 which would be put up at the end of May.

Grateful thanks were expressed to Sylvia Endacott who, in October 2021, had given an interesting History Talk on the origins of Butlins in Bognor Regis.

The annual British Legion Poppies had been put up for Remembrance Day 2021 and the Society's wreath had been laid by former long standing Committee Member, John Farrington.

The Chair said that she had been very disappointed not to be able to join in the Annual Christmas Tree lighting in December 2021 but the Committee, local choirs, mince pies and mulled wine had ensured the success of another community event. She expressed thanks to: Butlins who had once again donated the tree; Father John from St Mary's Church who had given his blessing; and Murdo Mackenzie Morrison for the sound effects.

There had been two successful Social Evenings at the Fox Inn where some new members had joined the Society.

The monthly articles in *Felpham in Focus* had been well received; these together with Newsletters and the Society's Facebook Page had ensured the community knew of the events that were planned.

In conclusion, the Chair said that, although a number of the Committee were retiring at this AGM, they were leaving the Society in good hands and that the new Committee would continue to provide members and the community with exciting events and activities.

No questions were raised on the Annual Report.

5. Amendment to the Constitution (to reduce the quorum for Committee meetings from 7 to 5)

Under the Society's Constitution (point 9), the quorum for making decisions at Committee meetings was seven. On practical grounds, the Committee would like to amend the quorum from seven to five with immediate effect.

Proposed: John Fenton-Jones; Seconded: Pauline Harris; Approved: Unanimously.

6. Election or Re-election of Committee Members

The Secretary said that seven Committee members had resigned and would not be standing for re-election: Joyce Pritchard; John Fenton-Jones; Glenn Powell; Rachel Searle; Colin Holliday; Caroline Carr; and Oliver Saunders. Two members were standing for election:

(i) Jenny Etienne who had been a co-opted member to the Committee in the last year –
Proposed: Joyce Pritchard; Seconded: Jane Summerville; Approved: Unanimously.

(ii) Gill Hilfer who was a new member –
Proposed: John Fenton-Jones; Seconded: Jane Summerville; Approved: Unanimously.

7. Appointment of Advisors

The Chair nominated Martyn White as Conservation Advisor for the following year.
Proposed: Geoff Farrell; Seconded: Glenn Powell; Approved: Unanimously.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Secretary asked members to give authority to the Committee to appoint an Independent Examiner during the year once the new Treasurer was in place and a replacement for Ivon Towse (who had decided to stand down) was identified.

Proposed: Geoff Farrell; Seconded: Glenn Powell; Approved: Unanimously.

9. Any Other Business

A question was asked about the number of Committee members. The Secretary answered that the Constitution stated a minimum of nine members and a maximum of fifteen.

10. Close

The Chair thanked the Secretary. She went on to say that she would take only two minutes and six seconds of members' time to make the closing address:

Recently, she had been asked for her Key Memories as Chair of the Society which she had found extremely difficult to put into a few words but, suffice to say, each and every moment would not have been possible without the help and support from the Committee, members and the Felpham community.

A key highlight of her time as Chair had to be the 2018 Commemoration of the End of World War I when, after two years of research and preparation, the History, Heritage & Archive Group put on a weekend that would not be forgotten and for which the Felpham Parish Council gave the Society their Recognition Award [which was on display at the meeting].

The Chair also said that she could not forget the last Summer Fete, in 2019 when a local postman remarked: "You are going to be busy due to the number of people arriving – it's just like a football match!"

To close the AGM, the Chair said that she would like to add her sincere thanks to all Committee members past and present, together with their partners, family and friends who had been a huge support. She named just a few: John Fenton-Jones and his wife Mary; Glenn Powell and his wife Mary; Maggie; Pamela; Pauline; John Farrington; Rachel; Colin; Geoff; Valerie; Jenny; and Jane who had supported her at Committee Meetings and produced all of the papers for meetings and the AGM. The Chair then expressed her thanks to everyone not mentioned personally who had been involved with the Society and the groups.

Lastly, but not least, the Chair expressed her huge thanks to her husband, Lionel for his support during the last nine years when she had been on the FVCS Committee.

On behalf of the Committee, Glenn Powell expressed thanks to Joyce Pritchard for her service and leadership as Chair and presented her with a bouquet of flowers and invited those present to show their hands in appreciation. The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Jane Summerville
Secretary

April 2022