

The Society of Friends of Silton

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Society of Friends of Silton, held in the Village Hall, Silton on Tuesday 2nd July 2019 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT

Mrs R Showering	Col C Woodhouse
Mrs L Woodhouse	Mrs J Dyer
Mrs S Williams	Mr P Williams
Mrs M Kingsley	Mrs E Marriot
Mr C Peel	Mr K Downie
Ms D Brockton	Mrs W Harris
Mrs J Quayle	Mr D Quayle
Mrs J Croxton-Smith	Mrs R Gatfield
Mrs I Ryall	Mrs C Houchin
Mr J Houchin	Mrs M Anderson
Mrs D Masters	Mr D Masters
Mr K Harris	Mrs A Bridge
Col A Cattaway	Mr R Macgregor-Oakford
Mrs J Marsden	Mrs P Evers
Mr M Burroughs	

1. Apologies for absence

Mrs J House	Miss W Malet
Mrs V Tomlinson	Mrs S Jenkins
Mr R Jenkins	Mrs J Peel
Mrs J Gardner	Mr M Gardner
Mr R Dyer	Mr T Trouton
Mrs H Palmer	Mr R Richardson
Mrs M Honnywill	Mr H Honnywill
Mr L Gatfield	Mrs B Robinson
Mr N Robinson	Mrs S Menzies
Mrs J Blashford-Snell	Mr J Blashford-Snell
Mr D Desborough	Mrs A Cattaway
Mrs M Metcalf	Mr M Metcalf
Mrs R Welch	Mrs C Bryant
Mr A Bryant	Mrs S Matthews
Mrs A Browell	

2. Special General Meeting

The rules of the Society of Friends of Silton were agreed at a meeting held on 16th March 1988 and since then they have served the Society well. However, circumstances have changed and there is now a requirement to put forward an amendment to one of the rules. The Treasurer explained that Rule 4 states:

“The Trustees shall be the Secretary, the Treasurer and one of the two Churchwardens of St Nicholas Church, Silton, nominated by the Silton Parochial Church Council. “

The appointment of the Secretary and the Treasurer are among the gift of the meeting but the appointment of a third Trustee needs the agreement of the PCC. Whilst David Masters was a Churchwarden this was also straightforward but he has now relinquished this post and under the Society's present rules he can no longer be a Trustee. However, he is willing to remain as a Trustee if the Society wishes it and he has the support of the present Churchwardens, Anne Bridge and Peter Williams. If it is

the wish of the Society that David retains this position, Rule 4 would need to be amended.

The proposed amendment is as follows:

“The Trustees shall be the Secretary, The Treasurer, a Churchwarden or former Churchwarden or a member of the PCC of St Nicholas Church, Silton nominated by the PCC.”

The Treasurer asked David Masters to confirm that he wished to remain as a Trustee of the Society and he confirmed his agreement.

The amendment to Rule 4 was proposed by Col A Cattaway and seconded by Mrs S Williams. There was unanimous agreement.

3. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 10th July 2018, were read, approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed by Mrs J Houchin seconded by Mrs E Marriot and carried unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not covered by this meeting.

5. Election of Chairman

Mrs Rita Showering kindly agreed to continue as Chairman if elected. She was unopposed. Proposed by Mrs D Masters, seconded by Mr P Williams. Unanimous agreement.

6. Election of Secretary

Mrs Jackie Dyer kindly agreed to continue as Secretary if elected. She was unopposed. Proposed by Mrs A Bridge, seconded by Mrs K Harris. Unanimous agreement.

7. Election of Treasurer

Col Chris Woodhouse agreed to continue as Treasurer if elected. This was unopposed. Proposed by Mr D Masters, seconded by Mrs E Marriott. Unanimous agreement.

8. Election of Members of Committee

Mrs April Browell, Mr Keith Harris and Mr John Houchin agreed to continue as Committee members and were unopposed. Proposed by Mrs I Ryall and seconded by Mrs L Woodhouse. Unanimous agreement.

9. General Report and Accounts to 31st May 2019

The Treasurer, Col C Woodhouse, submitted the report, and highlighted various items under income and expenditure. The following points were explained:

- a. The accounts have been audited by John Houchin and have been found to be correct as at 31 May 2019. Copies are on your seats together with your agenda.
- b. In addition to the cash held in the bank some **£10,000** is invested in a Virgin Charity Account and a further **£23,500** with the Charities Aid Foundation. These investments have served us well in the last year particularly the Charities Aid Foundation.
- c. **Virgin Account.** Brief details. Interest rates for this account are a paltry .75% and as I mentioned at our last meeting your committee has decided to run down this account and use the money here to pay for any major bills. As it happens we have not had to touch the account this year or indeed last year either so it still has a healthy credit balance.
- d. **Charities Aid Foundation.** The object of the Charities Aid Foundation is to provide an average annual real return of 5% over a business cycle. Investments are held in UK equities, overseas equities, property, bonds and cash. To date we have not had to withdraw any funds from this account, and our original £15,000 investment is now worth £23,593. However, as I mentioned

earlier the funds are subject to the fluctuations of the stock market and they have not performed quite so well in the last 12 months as they did previously. Currently this account is returning a yield of about 3%.

- e. As you can see from the accounts, last year we had an excess of income of **£2296** but this year our account is only **£654** in credit. This is largely because of the most generous bequest from the estate of Miss Florence Screen, more than £1400, which we received in the financial year ending May 2018 and the large bill for repairs to the Church with £5574 being paid out this year. Apart from that all the other sums are broadly comparable.
- f. Details of the grants made to the church are detailed in the account and amount to **£5574**. We also paid for the Village Hall to be redecorated at a cost of **£480**.
- g. As many of you know, a Quinquennial Review of the Church was carried out recently and we await details of the Architect's report. However, we know there is a need for restencilling to be carried out on the West Wall once the wall has completely dried out and the Village Hall committee have plans to carry out a number of improvements, particularly to the entrance to the Hall adjacent to the kitchen. There is still some £2000 being held on account that the Village Hall can call on for further improvements when they require it and your committee has also agreed to look favourably on other requests also.
- h. On page 2 of the accounts is a profit and loss comparison which shows what each event actually made after expenses were deducted.
- i. In general the fund is in pretty good shape but we are aware of a pending bill from the church for repointing and re-stencilling the west wall and doubtless there will be other bills coming our way also.

The Treasurer asked for any questions.

Mrs D Masters raised the issue of the village leaflet. A new printer is required meaning that the cost, which is currently £32 approximately two monthly, may go up.

Mr K Downie asked whether the Treasurer had taken any independent advice regarding the CCLA account. The Treasurer confirmed that he had not but that Mrs S Matthews has had a similar account for the PCC for longer than the Society has held an account with them so she may have had such advice.

The accounts for the year were proposed by Col A Cattaway and seconded by Mr D Masters. Unanimous agreement.

10. Annual Report by the Chairman

The Chairman, Mrs R Showering, submitted her report to the meeting, and talked through the following points:

Finances. You have heard from the Treasurer that income exceeded expenditure by some **£564** last year and we did not have to draw on any of our reserves. Overall therefore I believe your Society is in a reasonably healthy financial situation and I do not propose to carry out any specific fund-raising measures, over and above what we normally do at present, although as the Secretary will explain there will be some changes.

Four years ago I reported that we had spent some **£6400** on the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Village Hall. It was estimated that this investment would be repaid over a 10-year period and as you can see we have already received nearly **£2400** back in feed-in tariff since the panels were installed so we seem to be well on track to recover this investment on time.

This year we have spent nearly **£5,500** on the church repairing parts of the West Wall and we have a reasonably clear idea of what still needs to be done to the fabric of the church and over what timeframe although we still await the findings of the recent Quinquennial Review with interest. I know the PCC will keep us abreast of what needs to be done.

We have already discussed the improvements being planned for the Village Hall although we have yet to receive an estimate of the costs. As the Treasurer has already stated, the Village Hall has £2000 on account to help defray these costs and we will look favourably on any other requests as well. We have continued to run several enjoyable social events over the last 12 months including 2 Pub Quiz nights, a Plant Sale, a Wine Tasting, a Coach Trip and a fascinating talk by John Blashford-Snell.

During the course of this Financial Year, the 2 Pub Quiz Nights raised over **£1200**, the Plant Sale a record **£1100**, the Wine Tasting **£500**, the Coach Trip to Berkeley Castle over **£1100** and the talk by John Blashford-Snell an amazing **£1400** although the profits from this last event were shared with Bourton as we used their Village Hall.

Our sincere thanks go to those members outside the Committee, who have helped organise these very successful events. In particular to the many members who have kindly cooked for our Pub Quiz nights and the Coach Trip and contributed to and supported the Plant Sale.

Thanks to the Treasurer, we were able to reclaim Gift Aid of some **£613** from the Chancellor and as I mentioned earlier we are well on track to recover the cost of installing solar panels on the roof of the Village Hall.

The committee, the organisers of each event and I would like to thank everyone who gave their support, attended or helped in any way to make these events such a success. We hope we can continue to benefit from the unwavering help we receive from every member of the Friends so SOFOS can continue to be such a successful organisation. A sincere thank you.

The Chairman asked for questions. There were none.

11. Annual Report by the Secretary

The Secretary gave the following report to the meeting on the present membership position and proposed plans for raising funds over the next year:

Membership. There were 85 paid members at the end of last year and subscriptions are coming in daily following our membership renewal letter which was sent out in May. There are now some 33 members paying their subscription by standing order and this figure is increasing all the time.

100 Club. Last year we had 99 members in the three draws we ran but we really need more members, ideally at least 100.

12. Future Events 2019 / 2020

The Secretary explained that the committee proposes to run two Pub Quiz Nights, one before Christmas on 16 October and one in the Spring, probably in March.

The committee has been in touch with Colonel John Blashford-Snell who has agreed to talk to SOFOS members once again. It would not be a repeat of his first talk as he has several other subjects up his sleeve and the committee plan to hold the event in Silton Village Hall this time. Further details will be circulated once the event has been confirmed.

John Houchin has agreed to mastermind another Plant Sale in May next year and now has a target of £1100 to beat.

Two very successful themed lunches have been held in recent years and the committee is looking to hold another such event in the Spring of 2020. More details will follow.

Sadly after more than ten years, the committee believe it is time of draw stumps on the annual Coach Trip. Tremendous thanks go to April Browell, who was unable to attend the AGM, for organising some

wonderful trips with superb venues and splendid picnics. The committee is looking to run another Canal Trip, however, at Bradford on Avon, similar to the one held two years ago but with a plan to sail in the opposite direction along the canal.

The Secretary asked that if any members have suggestions for future events that they let her know.

13. Any Other Business

On behalf of Peter Williams and the PCC, Ann Bridge thanked the committee for the financial support provided to the Church and extended her thanks to all the volunteers who help with the fundraising events. She reiterated that they were still waiting for the results of the Quinquennial Review but that it was hoped that no major works would be required other than the painting of the West Wall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.30pm.

R. Showering
Chairman

J. Dyer
Secretary