

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 10th July 2018 at 7:00 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
Mrs S Matthews	Mr K Downie
Ms D Brockton	Mrs C Cattaway
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

1. Apologies for absence

Mrs J House	Miss W Malet
Mrs V Tomlinson	Mrs S Jenkins
Mr R Jenkins	Mrs F Odhams
Ms C Gullis	Mrs J Gardner
Mr M Gardner	Mr R Dyer
Mrs H Palmer	Mr R Richardson
Mrs M Honnywill	Mr H Honnywill
Mr L Gatfield	Mrs B Robinson
Mr N Robinson	Mr A Palmer
Col A Cattaway	Dr M Plaxton
Mrs J Plaxton	Mr R Macgregor-Oakford
Mrs J Marsden	Mrs A Cross
Mrs A Weston	Mrs S Kennedy

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 27th June 2017, were read, approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed by Mrs S Matthews seconded by Mrs E Marriot and carried unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

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

4. Election of Chairman

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

5. Election of Secretary

Mrs Jackie Dyer kindly agreed to continue as Secretary if elected. She was unopposed. Proposed by Mrs S Matthews, seconded by Mrs L Woodhouse. Unanimous agreement.

6. Election of Treasurer

Col Chris Woodhouse agreed to continue as Treasurer if elected. This was unopposed. Proposed by Mr P Williams, seconded by Mrs I Ryall. Unanimous agreement.

7. 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 L Woodhouse and seconded by Mr P Williams. Unanimous agreement.

8. General Report and Accounts to 31st May 2018

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 2018. 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 **£23,400** 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. Even so as you can see from the accounts your committee decided to transfer £5000 from the Virgin Money Account to the CCLA Account where it could provide a better return.
- 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, in fact, as I have just mentioned, we have recently purchased a further £5000 of stock by selling some of our Virgin Money shares. As you can see the value has risen steadily which reflects its exposure to the stock market which has been doing well recently. 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 expenditure of **£750** but this year our account is some **£1500** 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 July last year. Apart from that all the other sums are broadly comparable.

Details of the grants made to the church are detailed in the account and amount to **£4470**. There have been no grants to the Village Hall this year although I have just paid a decorator's bill, some £480, and the Village Hall committee have plans to carry out a number of other improvements, including work in the car park, the entrance to the Hall and the heating. There is still some **£2,500** being held on account that the Village Hall committee can call on for further improvements to the hall when they require it and your committee has also agreed to look favourably on other requests also.

On page 2 of the accounts is a profit and loss comparison which shows what each event actually made after expenses were deducted.

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. There were none.

9. 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 **£1570** 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.

Three 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 **£2000** 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 **£4,500** on the church. This included the cost of re-stencilling the East wall, providing new lead for the tower and repairing the path from the Lych Gate to the loos.

We have a reasonably clear idea of what still needs to be done to the fabric of the church and over what time frame and I know the PCC will keep us abreast of what needs to be done.

As the Treasurer mentioned earlier there is a need to repoint parts of the west wall and work has already started. Costs are not yet known but initial estimates indicate that it will cost some £10,000 plus VAT. However, when the east wall was repointed the PCC was able to apply for grants from various charities to help defray the cost and we know they have done this again.

We have continued to run several enjoyable social events over the last 12 months including 2 Pub Quiz nights, a Coach Trip, the Italian Lunch and a Plant Sale.

During the course of this Financial Year, the 2 Pub Quiz Nights raised over **£1100**, the Plant Sale more **£900** and the Italian Lunch organised by Mary Anderson, Mandy Burroughs and Jackie Dyer raised nearly **£500**. In addition, the Coach Trip to Tyntesfield raised more than **£700** and although not being reported in this FY the Summer Wine Tasting evening that took place a few weeks ago raised a further **£500**.

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 **£624** 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.

10. 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 75 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 93 members in the three draws we ran but we really need more members, ideally at least 100.

11. Future Events 2018 / 2019

The Secretary explained that it had been suggested that SOFOS run a car boot and produce sale in the Village Hall and on the recreation field in September this year. A provisional date of 15 September has been selected but before the committee expend any further energy on this idea the committee needs the members' views. The idea would be for the stalls to use the car park, the shelter and the village hall and for all visitors to park in the field.

The Secretary asked for comments on this proposal and the overwhelming feeling was that it was a good idea. Mrs S Matthews asked what time of year was being considered for such an event as the Spring would not be ideal given the number of other events in the calendar at that time of year. The Secretary said that September had been considered but felt that this coming September was perhaps too soon and that maybe the committee should consider running this event in September 2019. There was general agreement that this was sensible.

The committee proposes to run two Pub Quiz Nights, one before Christmas on 24 November 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. He lives in Motcombe and he and his wife Judith are regular attenders at St Nicholas Church. The earliest date he would be available is mid to late February and we have provisionally booked him for either 16 or 23 February next year. Currently he is in Mongolia on yet another expedition! Some of the members will be aware of Operation Raleigh and Operation Drake. Both these operations were sponsored by Prince Charles and were designed to offer young, often disadvantaged people, between the ages of 17 and 24 the opportunity to travel and test themselves in unfamiliar environments.

The Secretary asked the members for their thoughts and their feedback was very positive. The Treasurer explained that he had spoken with Peter Williams, SOFOS member and resident of Bourton, about holding this event in Bourton Village Hall which is much bigger than Silton Village Hall and could accommodate up to 120 people. It has been suggested to charge £15 a head to include a glass of wine and nibbles. John Blashford-Snell will not charge for his time.

Following on from the very successful Italian lunch in March the committee has decided to hold another country-themed lunch next year, possibly Spain or France. Further details will be distributed nearer the time. Liz Marriot offered her help with this event.

John Houchin has agreed to mastermind another Plant Sale in May next year and the committee is considering organising an Open Gardens Day in the village in June or July with a number of different gardens open for viewing. Clearly this will require some members to volunteer to open their gardens to make this a success. The Secretary asked for views on this proposal and it was felt that June would be better than July as there is more in the garden for people to view in the month of June.

The Secretary concluded that, as always, the committee welcomes any suggestions from the members, and asked for any fundraising ideas that could be followed up.

Denise Brockton commented that the Barn Dance in Milton had been very successful.

Diana Masters suggested laying on a Wedding Dress Display in the Village Hall over a bank holiday weekend.

A musical / choral evening was also suggested.

12. Any Other Business

On behalf of Peter Williams and David Masters, 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. The work recommended in the last Quinquennial Report is almost complete and another Quinquennial Review is fast approaching next year. Mrs Bridge went on to say that the PCC understands how much hard work is put into raising money.

The Chairman commented that fundraising is what SOFOS is for.

The Treasurer mentioned that on 11th November the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One would be celebrated in Silton in the barn at Manor Farm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40pm.

R. Showering
Chairman

J. Dyer
Secretary