

The Society of Friends of Silton

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Society of Friends of Silton, held virtually at Silton Village Hall on Tuesday 1st July 2025 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT

Mr C Peel
Mrs L Woodhouse
Mr K Harris
Mr T Dutson
Mrs W Harris
Mrs J Peel
Mrs D Masters
Mrs M Metcalf
Mr P Williams
Mrs S Hall

Col C Woodhouse
Mrs J Dyer
Mrs R Dutson
Mrs M Honnywill
Mrs J Marsden
Mrs A Bridge
Mr D Masters
Mr M Metcalf
Ms W Christensen

1. Apologies for absence

Mrs S Menzies
Mrs S Williams
Col J Blashford-Snell
Mr M Hall

Mr D Desborough
Mrs A Weston
Mrs J Blashford-Snell
Mr R Dyer

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 16th July 2024, were read, approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed by Mr D Masters, seconded by Mr M Metcalf 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

Mr Charles Peel kindly agreed to stand again for the position. The Secretary asked for any other nominations but Mr Peel was unopposed. Proposed by Mrs D Masters, seconded by Mr P Williams. Unanimous agreement.

5. Election of Secretary

Mrs Jackie Dyer kindly agreed to continue as Secretary if elected. She was unopposed. Proposed by Mrs D Masters, seconded by Mr D Masters. Unanimous agreement.

6. Election of Treasurer

Mr Mike Hall kindly agreed to continue as Treasurer if elected. He was unopposed. Proposed by Mr P Williams, seconded by Mrs A Browell. Unanimous agreement.

7. Election of Members of Committee

Mrs April Browell, Mr Keith Harris and Col C Woodhouse agreed to continue as Committee members and were unopposed. Proposed by Mr P Williams and seconded by Mrs L Woodhouse. Unanimous agreement.

8. General Report and Accounts to 31st May 2024

On behalf of the Treasurer, Mr M Hall who was unable to attend the meeting, Col C Woodhouse submitted the report, and highlighted various items under income and expenditure. The following points were explained:

The accounts have been audited by Peter Williams and have been found to be correct as at 31st May 2025. Copies were distributed to those present at the meeting. The committee is very grateful to Mr Williams for carrying out the audit.

In addition to the cash held in the bank some £46,934 is invested with the Charities Aid Foundation. This investment is continuing to serve us well following the original investment of £10,000 in 2010.

Virgin Account. This account ran its course and is now closed. The committee decided to allocate this investment to pay towards the Church Roof repairs. In total we transferred the value of £10,570.97.

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 investment of £15,000 is now worth £46,934. The last couple of years has seen the investment fluctuate. However, the Treasurer is glad to inform the members that it has remained fairly stable and the account continues to perform very well for the Society.

For the financial year to 31st May 2025 the Society recorded an excess of income over expenditure of £6,678.95. We were able to reclaim the VAT payment of £3,340 that was made to the PCC in the previous year.

During the year 2024/25 the Society made one grant of £2,242.50 to the Village Hall. This was budgeted for and paid for a bat survey which was required as part of the planning application to extend the Hall. There are further works planned for the Church later in 2025 to repair the stained glass window saddle bars and also some ceiling repair work.

In general, the fund is in good shape but we must be aware of and prepare for pending bills from both the Church and the Village Hall.

The Treasurer thanked Mr P Williams for the auditing of the accounts which were proposed by Mrs A Browell and seconded by Mrs A Bridge. Unanimous agreement.

9. Annual Report by the Chairman

The Chairman believes that the Society is in a healthy state and he did not propose to carry out any specific fundraising measures over and above what is normally done.

The Society's social programme included the D-Day celebration, two Quiz Nights, a Christmas Drinks Party and another successful Plant Sale. The Quiz Nights and Christmas Party raised over £3,000 between them and the Plant Sale took £1,005. The Chairman wished to thank those members who contributed to this fantastic sum. These fundraising events rely on a huge amount of goodwill and support and the committee is extremely grateful to all those who have volunteered their time and generosity to make them a success.

We had a sad loss this year with the passing of Sue Matthews. Sue has done a tremendous amount over the years in helping SOFOS with her generosity and culinary delights. She will be dearly missed. We are very grateful to her family for the donation of £618 which was a share of the fund donated at her funeral.

The Chairman would like to sincerely thank everyone who has helped with organizing events and also those who have supported by attending them. He hoped that the Society can continue to be such a successful organization that benefits from the unwavering help it receives from every member.

10. Annual Report by the Secretary

The Secretary gave the following report to the meeting on the present membership:

Membership. There were 58 paid members at the end of last year.

100 Club. Last year there were 61 members in the three draws that were held. We have welcomed a few new members but, as always, we do need more members to replace those who have moved away or decided not to renew their membership.

11. Future Events 2025 / 2026

It is proposed to run two Quiz Nights during the year, dates to be confirmed. The Secretary expressed her thanks for all those members who continue to support the quiz nights by offering to cook and organise the kitchen.

Colonel John Blashford-Snell has agreed to give another talk on 20th September. He will describe his Great Congo River Expedition in Bourton Village Hall. More details to follow.

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

12. Any Other Business

Mrs A Bridge thanked the Chairman and committee for the support The Society gives to the Church. They would not be able to do what is necessary to keep the Church in good repair without The Society's fundraising efforts.

The Secretary closed the meeting at 6.20pm.

C. Peel
Chairman

J. Dyer
Secretary