

## **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 Thursday 13th July 2023 at 6:00 pm**

#### **PRESENT**

Mr C Peel  
Mrs L Woodhouse  
Mr K Harris  
Mrs S Hall  
Mr P Williams  
Mrs A Bridge  
Mrs C Cattaway  
Mr R Dyer

Col C Woodhouse  
Mrs J Dyer  
Mr M Hall  
Mrs S Williams  
Mrs S Matthews  
Mrs M Honnywill  
Col A Cattaway

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Mrs S Menzies  
Mrs A Browell  
Mr D Masters  
Mrs J House  
Mrs M Metcalf

Mr D Desborough  
Mrs J Peel  
Mrs D Masters  
Mr M Metcalf

#### **2. Minutes of the last AGM**

The minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022, were read, approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed by Mrs J Dyer, seconded by Col C Woodhouse 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 Col C Woodhouse, seconded by Mrs A Bridge. Unanimous agreement.

#### **5. Election of Secretary**

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

#### **6. Election of Treasurer**

Mr Mike Hall kindly agreed to continue as Treasurer if elected. He was unopposed. Proposed by Mr R Dyer, seconded by Col C Woodhouse. 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 Mrs S Matthews and seconded by Mrs A Bridge. Unanimous agreement.

#### **8. General Report and Accounts to 31st May 2023**

The Treasurer, Mr M Hall, 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 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023. Copies were distributed to those present at the meeting.

In addition to the cash held in the bank some £10,559 is invested in a Virgin Charity Account and a further £40,770 with the Charities Aid Foundation. These investments have served us well in the last year particularly the Charities Aid Foundation although recent fluctuations in the stock market and the negligible interest rates have reduced some yields.

**Virgin Account.** This account has run its time and despite the increase in interest rates, Virgin Money has been very slow to pass on any interest rate increases. The committee has therefore agreed that we withdraw this money and allocate the investment to the upcoming church repairs.

**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 \$40,770. 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 around £2,000 has been regained following a dip in the previous year. The Treasurer is pleased that this account continues to perform very well for the Society.

During the year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 the Society had an excess of income over expenditure of £3,615. Two grants were made to the Village Hall. These were budgeted for and amounted to £7,500. There are further major works planned for the Church in 2023/24 that have been budgeted for and in total the Society will be allocating £10-15k for these repairs. There are also proposed works at the Village Hall but at the current time planning permission has not yet been granted.

Donations to the charity amounted to over £5,500 this year.

The Treasurer pointed out that at the bottom of the accounts there is a profit and loss comparison which shows what each event actually made after expenses were deducted.

In general, the fund is in good shape but we are aware of 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 Col C Woodhouse and seconded by Mr R Dyer. Unanimous agreement.

## **9. Annual Report by the Chairman**

The Chairman explained that he believed 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 social programme included two quiz night which raised just short of £1,000 and a plant sale which raised £1,047. The Chairman thanked those members who contributed to this fantastic sum.

The Chairman went on to say how the members must work hard to encourage new and younger members particularly among Silton village residents and church-goers. It is the responsibility of the younger generation as much as the older generation to keep the Church going. Mrs S Matthews pointed out that the Church is used and loved, with some 30 worshippers attending every Sunday, but that it needs help with maintenance costs as there is no money in the Church for this. The Chairman went on to say that the Village Hall is very important for the community and if it is presented in good condition money can be raised from renting it out.

The Chairman finished by saying that he would like to thank everyone who has helped with organizing events and also those who have supported by attending these events. He hoped that the Society can continue to be such a successful organization.

## **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 the membership renewal letter being sent out in June.

**100 Club.** Last year there were 74 members in the three draws that were held.

## **11. Future Events 2023 / 2024**

A Quiz Night has been booked for 7<sup>th</sup> October. The Secretary expressed her thanks for all those members who continue to support the quiz nights by offering to cook and organise the kitchen.

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

## **12. Any Other Business**

Col C Woodhouse informed the meeting that an event is to be held in the village on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. Beacons will be lit across the country including in Silton.

Mrs S Matthews suggested putting a small paragraph in the village newsletter explaining the role of the Society in the village. She also suggested having flyers with this same information that could be distributed at the Plant Sale / Village Barbecue / Coffee Mornings etc.

Mrs A Bridge, Church Warden, thanked the Society for all it does for the Church. Both she and fellow Church Warden, Peter Williams, are very pleased to have the Society's support.

Mr K Harris echoed Mrs Bridge's words on behalf of the Village Hall. He commented that it will be very important to keep events going to bring the community together. Mrs S Hall added that it will be important to encourage new residents to join in with village and SOFOS events.

Mrs S Matthews thanked Mrs A Browell for organising another very successful coach trip which this year was to Powderham Castle.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and emphasized that it would be good to get the younger generation involved in SOFOS. The Treasurer suggested that existing members could encourage their children / grandchildren to become members of the 100 Club.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.45pm.

C. Peel  
Chairman

J. Dyer  
Secretary