

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 16th July 2024 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT

Mr M Hall
Mrs L Woodhouse
Mrs A Browell
Mrs S Hall
Mr P Williams
Mrs A Bridge
Mr R Honnywill
Mrs C Cattaway
Mr R Dyer
Mr D Masters

Col C Woodhouse
Mrs J Dyer
Mrs A Weston
Mrs J Marsden
Mrs I Ryall
Mrs M Honnywill
Mrs W Harris
Col A Cattaway
Mrs D Masters

1. Apologies for absence

Mr C Peel
Mrs J House
Mrs M Metcalf
Mrs S Williams

Mrs J Peel
Mr M Metcalf
Mr K Harris

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 13th July 2023, were read, approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed by Col A Cattaway, seconded by Mrs A Bridge 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 Browell. 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 Mrs A Browell. 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 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 Mr P Williams and seconded by Mrs S Hall. Unanimous agreement.

8. General Report and Accounts to 31st May 2024

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 31st May 2024. Copies were distributed to those present at the meeting.

In addition to the cash held in the bank some £46,938 is invested with the Charities Aid Foundation. This investment is continuing to serve us well.

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 £46,938. 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 investment has grown a further £6,000 over the course of the year. The Treasurer is pleased that this account continues to perform very well for the Society.

During the year to 31st May 2024 and despite the considerable expenditure for Church repairs the Society had an excess of income over expenditure of £329.35. Two grants were made during the year, one each to the Church and to the Village Hall. These were budgeted for and amounted to £21,096 with £20,619 being allocated to the Church and £477.60 to the Village Hall for a bat survey which was required prior to the submission of the potential planning application to extend the Village Hall. There are further major works planned for the Church in 2025 which we will continue to need to raise funds for.

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 A Cattaway and seconded by Mrs A Bridge. Unanimous agreement.

Col A Cattaway thanked the Treasurer for all the work that goes into managing the Society's Accounts. Mr P Williams wished to congratulate the Treasurer and remarked on his excellent organisation of the Accounts and particularly the transfer of them onto Excel. He also thanked the SOFOS members for the generous support for the Church. The roof repair could not have been completed without the grant from SOFOS. There is still a timber repair project to come.

9. Annual Report by the Chairman

The Secretary presented the Chairman's report in his absence. 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 two Quiz Nights, a trip to Powderham Castle, a Christmas Drinks Party and another successful Plant Sale. The Quiz Nights and Christmas Party raised £2,000 between them and the Plant Sale took £1,020. 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.

Thanks to the Treasurer the Society reclaimed Gift Aid totalling £1,749.38 from the Chancellor. The Treasurer will submit a further claim in the current financial year.

The Chairman would like to 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 68 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 70 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 2024 / 2025

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.

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

12. Any Other Business

Mrs A Browell asked the meeting whether members would like to continue with the annual coach trip. There was general agreement to continue with an outing but perhaps another canal trip or a steam train ride would be most appropriate.

Mrs D Masters suggested running a pub night with games and pub-style fayre. She also mentioned that Mr D Masters would be happy to do a talk for the Society. The Treasurer suggested that Col J Blashford-Snell could be approached for another lecture on the subject of his travels. A band and barbecue was also suggested as a possible fundraising event which could be jointly organised with the residents of Bourton. The Secretary explained that the committee would be meeting in early September to plan the Programme of Events for the year.

The Treasurer pointed out that the Village Events Calendar is now live on the Village Website.

The Secretary closed the meeting at 6.30pm.

C. Peel
Chairman

J. Dyer
Secretary