

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 5th July 2022 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT

Mr C Peel
Mrs L Woodhouse
Mr M Hall
Mrs S Williams
Mrs M Metcalf
Dr M Plaxton
Mr D Masters
Mrs Honnywill
Mrs J Marsden
Mrs S Matthews
Mrs J Croxton-Smith
Mrs C Cattaway
Mr R Dyer

Col C Woodhouse
Mrs J Dyer
Mrs S Hall
Mr P Williams
Mr M Metcalf
Mrs D Masters
Mrs A Bridge
Mr H Honnywill
Mrs G Barter
Mrs R Gatfield
Ms D Brockton
Col A Cattaway

1. Apologies for absence

Mrs S Menzies
Mr K Harris
Mrs M Anderson

Mr D Desborough
Mrs A Browell
Mrs J Peel

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 6th July 2021, were read, approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed by Mr M Metcalf, 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 Mr P Williams, seconded by Mrs J Marsden. Unanimous agreement.

5. 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 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 Col A Cattaway. 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 D Masters. Unanimous agreement.

8. General Report and Accounts to 31st May 2021

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 2022. Copies were distributed to those present at the meeting.

In addition to the cash held in the bank some £10,517 is invested in a Virgin Charity Account and a further £38,678 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. Interest rates for this account were a paltry 0.1% in the last financial year and the interest gained over the year was only £10. We have not invested anything further in this account for a number of years and, as advised at previous AGMS, the committee has allocated this fund to be drawn down as and when any major Church or Village Hall repair bills are received.

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 £38,678, a decrease of approximately £40 in the last twelve months. As a comparison, there was an increase in the investment's value of £6,000 in the previous year. This was the figure quoted to the Treasurer on 31st May, the end of our financial year. Considering the turbulent times we live in, the fund has remained relatively stable and the committee is pleased with how it has performed.

As at 31st May 2022, there was £14,501.89 in the current account and last year the Society had an excess of income over expenditure of £3,342. It has been good to have things return to normal after the restrictions of the pandemic which curtailed many of the Society's social events and fundraisers. A quiz night and a plant sale were held during the year and the Treasurer expressed his thanks to everyone who had given their time and support to make them a success.

Donations to the charity amounted to over £5,000 this year and a further £302.50 was donated by Jennie Peel and Sandra Menzies from the proceeds of the refreshments that they provided when they opened their gardens for the NGS Open Gardens event held in May.

We have made two grants to the Church in this Financial Year. These amounted to £5,052 - £4,140 for repairs to the Church wall and £912 for the Conservator to inspect and assess what critical repair work is required to maintain the structural integrity of the Church Chancel, Nave and South Aisle. Following his report, repair costs are thought to be in excess of £30,000. This figure will be met through a combination of eligible grants and further fundraising with the difference being made up by SOFOS. Despite not making any grants to the Village Hall this year, there are plans to improve the entrance in August 2022 and the committee awaits further details.

The Society was able to secure the village's website hosting for three years at a cost of £362 which is a saving of £130 over the three years.

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 and doubtless there will be others also.

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.

This year the Society made two grants to the Church as the Treasurer had explained and the Village Hall still has £2,000 on account to improve the entrance hall and the committee will look favourably on any other requests from either the PCC or the Village Hall Committee.

The social programme included a quiz night which raised £623 and a plant sale which raised £1,177. 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 members particularly among Silton village residents and church-goers. It will be important to keep fundraising or the Church may not be in use any more in a few years' time. The Chairman said that he would do all that he could to keep raising funds for the Society.

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 70 paid members at the end of last year and subscriptions are coming in daily following the membership renewal letter being sent out in June. There are now some 30 members paying their subscription by standing order and this figure is increasing all the time.

100 Club. Last year there were 71 members in the three draws that were held.

11. Future Events 2020 / 2021

A Quiz Night has been booked for 8th October and a Cheese & Wine Tasting will be held on 26th November.

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

12. Any Other Business

Mrs Sue Matthews suggested that the Society place a paragraph in the Silton Newsletter to give details of what the Society is about and to encourage people to become members.

Mr David Masters said that the Church is not just for church-goers but also for people who want to visit it and to see it continue. Mrs Matthews pointed out the Church is Grade 1 listed so could not easily be assigned for a change of use.

The Treasurer reminded members that they should make their membership cheques payable to The Society of Friends of Silton and not SOFOS.

On behalf of Mr Peter Williams and the PCC, Mrs Anne Bridge thanked the committee for the financial support that is available. She particularly mentioned the finished wall and the funds the Society had provided for the Conservator's report. She expressed a hope that the Church wall will soon be repaired and that the PCC would call on any grants that might be available to help pay for this work.

Mrs Marian Honnywill thanked the Society for its continued fundraising and she expressed a hope that funds can be made available for the improvements to the Hall's entrance. The Chairman mentioned to her that there is some damp in the Hall that should perhaps be looked at.

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 6.30pm.

C. Peel
Chairman

J. Dyer
Secretary