

38th Yateley Society Annual General Meeting

MINUTES

Date

28th February 2019

Location:

The Red Cross Centre, Monteagle Lane, Yateley

Attendees: There were 28 members of the Society present including 6 EC members as per the attached list.

The meeting opened at 8 pm

Roger Coombes welcomed all to The Yateley Society's 37th Annual General Meeting. It was noted that there were sufficient members present to form a quorum.

1.0 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following members:

Mary & Tony Hocking, Jean Mcilwaine, Ernie Coles and Adrian Collett.

2.0 Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting (22nd February 2018)

The minutes of the previous AGM were unanimously approved (Proposed by Roger Coombes Seconded by Philip Todd).

3.0 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4.0 Chairman's Address

The Chairman then gave his address which is reported verbatim:

Following my previous practice I should like to introduce, for the benefit of any new members and visitors present, the retiring Executive Committee and Trustees, in no order of hierarchy.

*This is **Roger Durdle** who is the Hon. Secretary. Roger has guided the Trustees through the multiple responsibilities which are attached to our roles, within a constitution which follows a model devised by the Charity Commission. He has also communicated with external bodies and kept all our paperwork in order (I should add that most of it is now digital). He has prepared the agendas and reports for meetings of the Executive Committee and taken the minutes of those meetings. He will be minuting this AGM. Roger has been responsible for the composition of the Annual Report for 2017 - 2018 which I shall be inviting you to adopt very shortly. During the early part of last year Roger also edited and produced the Society newsletter when it looked as though it might fall by the wayside through lack of a volunteer from the membership. Regrettably, notwithstanding one offer of assistance with layout, there have been no offers of help in the long term and having made it clear that this would only be a temporary custodianship and being overworked, Roger relinquished the role, which is why the Society currently does not have a newsletter. I am sorry to say that Roger is not standing for re-election and that we have received no nominations for the role of Hon. Secretary which will be vacant after this meeting, unless a volunteer comes forward.*

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This is **Philip Todd** who represents Eversley and is very knowledgeable and experienced in planning matters, bringing an insight into what local authorities and developers are up to. He was a member and researcher of the Local History WWI Team and is the longest serving Trustee and member of the EC. He is standing for re-election.

Alan Stuckey, has been the Hon. Treasurer for three years. His accountant's background has sharpened up the way we budget our income and expenditure. He also works with Alison Hewitt, Membership Secretary, in keeping an eye on which members have paid their subscriptions, and possibly more significantly, those who haven't. Alan was also a member of the Local History WWI Team. I am pleased to say that he too is standing for re-election.

Abby Roper has been involved with the Society for a number of years and has served as Membership Secretary and Chairman of the PR Committee. She has also had a major input to our programme of events, such as the walks, the May Fayre, Civic Day and garden parties. Unfortunately for us, Abby's role as a mother of two young children and her work for Vision 4 Youth meant that last year she had to scale back her activities in the Society but she wishes to continue as a Trustee, and hopes that once Jonathan starts pre-school in September she will have more time available.

Alison Hewitt has been a Trustee for three years, Membership Secretary for the last two and is also a member of the PR Committee where she is very much involved with social media. In the absence of a newsletter we are relying more on email and social media to communicate with members, although we are conscious that some members do not have access to these. Alison is kept busy reminding lapsed members when their subscriptions are overdue, some of whom simply forget [and I would add here that setting up a standing order or Direct Debit is a convenient way of ensuring that you don't forget] while others simply disappear! Alison also takes a keen interest in the work of the Conservation volunteers on the common, led by **Mike Mann**, and has been responsible for the discussions with the Countryside Rangers over the creation of the Daphne Kirkpatrick Nature Trail, which is being funded by the Society from the interest on Daphne's legacy.

Colin Broadley, has been a trustee for two years. Colin hosts the meetings of the Trustees (known as YSEC - Yateley Society Executive Committee). He is on the PR Committee and contributes to promoting the YS brand at the May Fayre and the Christmas Market. The Membership Packs and Gift Packs and the bookmarks, introduced in 2017, were his idea and design.

These are the seven current trustees whose term of office expires at this meeting, and as I have already indicated only six are seeking re-election. A year ago an eighth trustee was elected but as I am sure everyone is aware, Barry Moody, who was Vice-Chairman, Webmaster, Planning Registrar and Chairman of the Planning Committee, died in March. Despite our best efforts the remaining trustees have been unable to replace him, which we had the power to do by co-option. I make no apology for referring you again to the Annual Report which emphasises that since Barry's illness and death the Society has been unable to fulfil the planning aspects of its Object clauses. In the early days of the Society there were several members who had, or quickly gained, experience in planning matters. They were kept very busy. Over the years they retired, passed on or moved away, and were not easily or always replaced. Foreseeing a situation where the Society might have no-one to cover planning matters, in 2011 the Trustees organised in co-operation with neighbouring civic societies a series of planning seminars to encourage and

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inform members on all matters pertaining to planning. These were well attended and appreciated - but only by members of the other societies - not one member of this Society attended, other than the trustees who had set it up. Eight years later, without Barry most of the original team retired, the scenario which we sought then to avoid has become reality. Despite many appeals and approaches no-one has offered to become involved with this vital aspect of the Society's work.

*Before I move on to present other difficulties to you I wish to thank others who have contributed to the work of the Society. **Chris Willis** who ran the distribution network of the printed copies of the newsletter. That of course was when we had a newsletter to distribute. **Jo Hill** has continued to host and minute the meetings of the PR Committee, and stepped forward to assume and expand Barry's role as Webmaster, including a major redesign and revamp. We are all extremely grateful to Jo for this. On top of that she designed another excellent Yateley Society Calendar. I have already mentioned **Mike Mann** who, although he doesn't get to many meetings, has been active within the Society for many years as the Co-ordinator of the Conservation Volunteers. I commend his section of the Annual Report to you. I like to think that each and every one of you has a copy of Yateley in the Great War. That is entirely possible because since we started taking orders at last year's May Fayre we, the Society, have sold 550 copies at our meetings and other public events in and around Yateley. That figure does not include publisher sales through bookshops and online. It was **Peter Tipton** who conceived the idea of the book and his name is on the cover as author. I wish to thank Peter and the team of researchers who are acknowledged in the book's preface for their sterling work over a period of five years in bringing this book into print and thereby raising the profile of the Society. As we are enjoying our cups of tea and coffee from these 'Society mugs' I must thank **Rosemary Durdle** for preparing and serving our refreshments at our monthly meetings and for suggesting and sourcing the china mugs which during last year replaced plastic disposable ones, an environmentally ethical decision of which we should be proud. Thanks also to Yateley Town Council for giving us a grant to purchase the mugs. Rosemary is also a member of the Society's PR Committee, which also includes Jo Hill, Alison Hewitt, Colin Broadley, Abby Roper and myself.*

Having made my introductions I must now mention the election of trustees. You will shortly be asked to vote on the candidates for election. This is also your chance to step forward.

I have been writing and updating this address over recent weeks, and at the time of its completion there have been no nominations for Trustees other than the six who are re-standing. The EC should have four officers; we have nominations for just two. To have only six trustees would make the Society woefully shorthanded in its Executive Committee. As has been indicated in the Annual Report, in letters sent to members by email and in social media, some aspects of the Society's work are not being done because there are not enough people to do them. This includes planning, archiving and of course producing a newsletter – I should point out that these roles do not require you to be a trustee – just a commitment to get involved.

Maybe you are tempted but are held back by the thought of the responsibility or lack of experience. I would say getting more involved with the Yateley Society is an ideal way to start – we are small, friendly and welcoming. Mentoring and training can be provided if you are prepared to give your time.

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If nobody comes forward this evening the Executive Committee have little option but to seriously consider how the Society can continue to operate and meet its charitable objects. One of the options staring us in the face is to wind up the Society. (SLIDE 6) Such a decision would not be taken lightly and there is a process to be followed allowing further opportunities for members to have their say.

How sad it would be if the Society ceased to exist at a time when it is being commended for the success of its book and our monthly meetings have been attracting higher attendance during the last two years than in the previous five or six.

The Trustee's Annual Report and Accounts had been circulated to all members ahead of the meeting. The Annual Report was adopted unanimously (Proposed by Roger Coombes, Seconded by Jo Hill).

5.0 Treasurer's Report

Compared to 2017 The Society has benefitted from a 21.7% increase in its income. The major source of income this year has been the sale of the new book called 'Yateley in the Great War', at September 2018 sales brought in £2,070 of income (after deducting costs we had a profit of £1,502). In addition the Society received its second £500 advance of royalties from the publisher Pen & Sword. However if the sale of these books is removed from the figures the income is not so good at £3,005, a drop of 27.9% on 2017, the income shortfall effects almost all activities. Subscription income was up on the previous due to two new life members joining at the very end of the year. Had it not been for these two new life members the subscription income would have been down on the previous year despite an increase in numbers of 30. We closed the year with 148 paid up members (2017 - 118).

In December 2018 the executive committee approved the Society joining 'The Open Spaces Society' at an annual subscription of £45. In addition a donation of £2,014 was made to help fight the application to deregister part of Yateley Common. This was funded from the Daphne Kirkpatrick bequest £1,014, and Planning Reserve £1,000. The expenditure associated with the website upgrade, £875, will be included in next year's accounts.

The Accounts were approved unanimously. (Proposed by Roger Coombes, Seconded by Jan Whillier)

6.0 Election of Officers.

Roger Durdle (who was stepping down as a trustee) was asked to take over the Chair for this section of the agenda. He explained that the Officers had been proposed in advance as required under the Constitution. Two of the Officer posts remained vacant: Vice Chairman and Honorary Secretary. The nominations for each of the other posts were noted:

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman:	Roger Coombes	Tony Hocking	Chris Willis
Treasurer	Alan Stuckey	Jo Hill	Peter Tipton

There being no other nominations, under the Constitution these were elected unanimously.

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7.0 Election of Committee Members.

At the request of the Chairman Roger Durdle continued for this section of the agenda. It was noted that the following members had been proposed for the committee before the meeting:

Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
Philip Todd	Chris Willis	Roger Durdle
Abby Roper	Roger Durdle	Tony Hocking
Alison Hewitt	Peter Tipton	Rosemary Durdle
Colin Broadley	Rosemary Durdle	Jo Hill

The committee members, who were standing for re-election, were elected en bloc, nem. con.

8.0 Resolutions

Part Year Membership Fees (Proposed by Alison Hewitt, Seconded by Alan Stuckey)

The proposed Resolution had previously been circulated, with the agenda, in advance of the meeting. A copy is attached to these minutes for reference.

The Resolution was carried with Peter and Elizabeth Tipton abstaining and no votes against.

9.0 Discussion – Charitable Spending Plans

Roger Durdle set the scene by explaining why the allocation of surplus income, which could not be spent within a reasonable period of time, into designated reserves or funds was considered best practice by authorities like the Charity Commission. Peter Tipton then presented the following motion which was seconded by Roger Durdle:

1. This Annual General Meeting of the Yateley Society, noting that the success in selling its book "Yateley in the Great War" in its area of benefit has resulted in a large increase in funds, considers that the decision to allocate such funds to pursue its charitable objectives should be made by members at this meeting.
2. This Annual General Meeting further notes with satisfaction that the Trustees have donated £2,000 to the appeal by the Open Spaces Society to support their professional defence at the Public Inquiry to deregister part of Yateley Common, the donation having depleted the Daphne Kirkpatrick bequest and reduced the Planning Contingency Fund.
3. In consideration thereof this Annual General Meeting directs the Trustees to add £1,400 to the Planning Contingency Fund and to set up two new designated funds each with an initial sum of £1,000; one fund to be called the Biodiversity Action Fund and the other to be called the Education Fund.

It was clarified that the motion was only intended to apply to the current financial year and would not necessarily set an ongoing precedent but could be reviewed at subsequent AGMs. Following further discussion the proposed motion was carried with no votes against.

10.0 Any Other Business

Peter Tipton gave an update on the Commons Deregistration Public Inquiry which will take place at Elvetham Hall, starting on 2nd April 2019 at 10.00 am and is schedule to last 3 days. Members of the Society were encouraged to attend.

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The Chairman closed the meeting with a call for more volunteers to come forward in support of the Society's activities.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Roger Durdle
Secretary
28 February 2019

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List of attendees:

EC Members	Members	Non Members
Roger Coombes	Nigel Hewitt	Jean Morgan
Alison Hewitt	Alison Stein	Sue Warren
Colin Broadley	Robin Strange	Diane Gardner
Roger Durdle	Peter Tipton	+ 1 other
Alan Stuckey	Elizabeth Tipton	
	Chris Willis	
	Chris Bunch	
	Graeme Tucker	
	Sheila Martin	
	Philip Martin	
	Rosemary Durdle	
	Jo Hill	
	Margaret Woodward	
	Austin Charters	
	Alan Kinnaird	
	E Banks	
	Jan Whillier	
	Don Manning	
	Rita McCambridge	
	Stephane Pattenden	
	Ron Pattenden	
	Mike Mann	

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AGM Proposed Resolution – 28th February 2019

From: Yateley Society Executive Committee

Subject: Part Year Membership Fees

Following consultation with both the Membership Secretary (proposer) and the Treasurer (seconder) the Executive Committee recommends the following be considered and adopted by this Annual General Meeting to make the part year membership fee arrangements more transparent:

- The membership fee for a single person remains at £10 per year.
- For people that join between October 1st and December 31st the fee will remain at £10.
- For new members joining between January 1st and September 30th, the fee will be reduced by £1 per month until the next renewal date. So, a new member joining in January 2019, will pay £9 and then £10 on 1st October 2019 for the new membership year. New members joining at the May Fair, will pay £5 for the remainder of the membership year.
- For a household, the fee remains at £15 per year for those joining between October 1st and December 31st the fee will remain at £15.
- For new household members joining between January 1st and September 30th, the fee will be reduced by £1.50 per month. New members joining at the May Fair, will pay £7.50 for the remainder of the membership year.