

Littlewick Green Society

Preserving and improving the character of our village and local community

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Minutes of Littlewick Green Society Annual General Meeting & Annual Village Meeting held at Gilchrist Hall at 7.45pm on 21st April 2023

1. Welcome and introduction

Richard opened the meeting and welcomed everybody. He set out the agenda and explained the two main aspects to tonight's meeting will be Mark Spencer-Smith, our guest speaker for the evening, who will talk about fast broad band options for the village and also Seb Moore who will be talking about the planned village celebrations for the forthcoming Coronation celebrations next month.

2. LGS AGM

Treasurer's Report

Geoff gave a summary of the Annual Report as reviewed by Caroline Barker. Monies received by the Society amounted to £3,584 and included donations from

- the National Lottery £1,944
- WWPC £400
- Hurley PC £130

Monies paid out for various Events totalled £3,374, giving a net surplus from the Events of £210.

The administration costs of the Society amounted to approximately £1,000 the principal costs being for Insurance, Web site costs, and Gazebo repairs.

The funds in our bank have therefore reduced from £3,477 to £2,663 by 31st December 2022, a reduction of £814 for the year.

Geoff expressed concern at the reducing level of funds and believed that the Society should be aiming for a fund level of £4,000. He said that to achieve this level we should think about collecting additional donations from Members, or increase the charging for various events or having other fundraising activities.

The signed-off schedule of accounts will be uploaded to the village website.

Review of Minutes form 2022 AVM

Andrew explained there are a few copies of the minutes from our meeting last year (8 April 2022) at the back of the hall. Copies can also be found on the village website (littlewickgreen.org) under the “Event Tab” and then AVM.

Andrew said whilst there aren't any particular matters arising, he did want to mention that last year Martin brought up the point about the Montessori school and the fact it had ignored the enforcement notice to replace the new plastic windows it had put into the building. LGS did write to Planning after the meeting to express concern that the endorsement notice hadn't been acted on. We never got any sort of response.

Some discussion prevailed about this point and Richard said that the LGS would write once more and follow up on the last letter last year.

The minutes were formally approved by a show of hands.

Election of Officers and Committee

Andrew said that stepping down this year is Jim Hadden and Liz Sankey. He thanked them for their support over the years.

The three current officers have been nominated and agreed to present themselves for re-election:

Richard Moores - Chairman
Geoff Ormsby - Treasurer
Andrew James - Secretary

Seven committee members have been nominated and agreed to present themselves for re-election namely Jane Durgan, Seb Moore, Rob Morse, Lisa Peacock, Matthew Smith, Paul Spencer and Simon Thirlby-Smith.

The officers and committee members were formally re-elected by a show of hands.

Refinement of our Constitution

Andrew reminded us that last year we updated our constitution to modernise and make more relevant. Specifically, there were 3 main changes. First, we added the social and community aspects as a specific purpose. Prior to that the Society was only focused on protecting the rural nature of village and proactively lobbying against unwanted change.

Second, we changed membership model from a paying subscription society to a one where all residents of the village are automatically members, free of charge.

Third, we made the committee more flexible, allowing sub-groups of villagers to be co-opted to assist with specific projects (for example upcoming Coronation celebrations).

Andrew said there is one further proposed refinement that the committee has agreed to present for approval today.

We propose to add into the constitution a single sentence, a new clause 8iv.

‘Each Officer should serve for no more than 3 years with at least 1 new Officer being elected to a post each year’.

Andrew explained this will hopefully make the Society feel more dynamic and more accessible to everyone - whilst at same time reducing the long-term burden of those administrating the society.

This change was formally approved by a show of hands and Andrew said the revised constitution will be available for reading on our website (www.littlewickgreen.org).

3. Chairman’s Report

Planning

The society has been very active during the last year. We continue to view planning applications and where necessary, offer comments and in some cases objections to planning proposals.

The one application we have objected to is the proposals to change the use of the Maidenhead Office Park. We met planners and applicants, attended the open days. The major concern has been the massive increase in heavy goods vehicles entering and exiting via the Bath Road. The report prepared by the applicants traffic experts, suggests up to 750 movements every day, which is very concerning. We will continue to monitor.

Jubilee Celebrations

The highlight of the village social year was the Jubilee party on the green. Seb and his team worked so hard to plan such a successful day. The society was also successful in our application to the Lottery for funding and received just short of £2,000. Seeing our very own ‘QUEEN’ arrive in front of Theresa May was certainly a sight to behold. Seb will be telling us later about our plans for the forthcoming village celebrations for the King’s Coronation.

Kick Off to Christmas

Richard gave a big thank you to Sally and her team. The Kick Off to Christmas children’s party in December was well attended and the new format a great success. Our Christingle service that followed, also broke records. Richard said that Sally and her team worked so hard and thanked them all.

Lost Friends

The village was saddened to lose some of our long-standing residents. Nick Hooper and David Penfold before Christmas and Derek Woolford and Alec Rowland after Christmas. Alec and Derek were previous Chairmen of LGS and also involved in so many activities in the village. They will be so missed by us all. We also mourned the loss of Fran Russell, also a past committee member and marvelled at her determination to fight her illness.

Parish Councils

We have worked closely with both Parish Councils and are grateful for the donations both White Waltham and Hurley have provided. From these donations we funded the planting of seven trees in the village. As part of the Jubilee celebrations the society bought seven English trees, one for each of the Queen's seven decades of her Reign. Two were planted on the green and five offered to villagers (including two to Cherry Garden Lane), via a ballot draw.

Thanks

Richard thanked by name each of the committee members for their help and support throughout the year. To Jim Hadden and Liz Sankey who are stepping down this year. And to Caroline who reviews and examines our accounts and also to the many villagers who offer our lovely village such support. We truly live in a blessed place.

Richard also thanked Rowena and Nigel from The Cricketer's for offering us such hospitality and a warm and welcoming place to hold our meetings.

Closing remarks

Richard said it has been his great pleasure to chair our Society over the last eight years. He has already indicated to the committee that this will be his last year as serving as Chairman, feeling it is time to pass the baton onto the younger villagers to drive LGS forward.

4. Guest speaker

Mark Spencer-Smith from our own village gives a talk presenting the various options for broadband to the village followed by a Q&A session.

5. Coronation Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in the Village

Seb Moore has been organising a sub-group to prepare for the Coronation celebrations on scheduled for Sunday 7th May.

Seb explained that a flyer has been distributed setting out the key dates and times for the party. More information will be forthcoming. In summary, we are planning a classical street party, around lunch time, to be held on the lower green, making use of Gilchrist Hall too. There will be the usual events, races, tug of war and many other activities, with children at the centre. Tables will be set up along Gilchrist Way and villagers will be invited to bring food and drink. Like the Jubilee celebrations last year, we have decided not to follow our traditional village party BBQs approach as there were concerns it would impede people eating together, on this special day. The LGS gazebos and scout tents will be erected along Gilchrist Way. By popular demand, the dog show will be back again this year.

Final planning continues but with all the effort so far, we have a village coronation party in the making to remember.

Some question arose about how this information will be communicated and whether leaflets will be posted. It was reiterated that we are moving away from posting 350 leaflets through doors and have shifted to a digital distribution on various village WhatsApp groups, Facebook pages and such like. Of course, we recognise that for the elderly villagers this may not be the most effective way to communicate so we are supplementing the digital communication with posters which will be put up on various notice boards and telephone poles around the village. We are confident that this approach coupled with the traditional 'word of mouth' will ensure everyone will receive the information.

6. Closing Remarks from Chairman

Richard closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending, especially our guest speaker Mark Spencer-Smith for sharing his insights and ideas and to Seb and his helpers who are planning our next Village party on May 7th.