

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Approved MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Weston Village Hall

6.00 pm Thursday 11 May 2017

Present: Jose Wilson (Chair), Caroline Elmitt, Chris Bailey, Chris Chowney, Gill Evans, Eleanor Bette-Bennett, Katie Lewis; Joy Kinsman; John and Helen Wilson, who deliver the newsletter in Ryeford

Apologies: Nick Birch

Minutes of the AGM of 12 May 2016 were approved with one amendment, proposed Chris Chowney, seconded Chris Bailey.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Annual Reports

Treasurer: Chris Bailey presented the audited accounts for the year ending 28 February 2017, and circulated copies of the receipts and payments for the year, which showed receipts of £1,978.05 and payments of £1,580.66, a surplus of £397.39. He also circulated a table of costs from year to year. Variations occur partly because of the timing of invoices and of payment for advertising, and there have been some big purchases of equipment. Balances in the two accounts on 28 February 2017 were £547.41 and £2,607.77, but these had already changed by the AGM to £771 and £2614.29. Money had never been transferred from the reserve account, which no longer bears much interest. The committee had discussed advertising charges, which have been frozen for some time, but decided to keep them at the same level, because they cover expenditure and the regular advertisers might be deterred by higher rates. The situation may change as circulation rises, and will be reviewed regularly. Chris had tried to set up a community account with HSBC, but it had proved too difficult and he had given up. Chris was grateful to Nigel Stewart for auditing the 2016–17 accounts. Chris resigned as treasurer and from the committee on the day of the AGM, and was thanked. Joy Kinsman was to discuss the role with him with a view to possibly becoming the new treasurer. Katie Lewis asked about the honorariums mentioned on the balance sheet, and was told that they went to four committee members (chair, editor, advertising and treasurer) to cover the costs they incur in their roles. The committee will consider these further. Chris Chowney proposed the acceptance of the treasurer's report and accounts and Gill Evans seconded.

Editor: Caroline Elmitt reported that the year had gone well, with no complaints received but lots of compliments. There had been two colour covers, and cover designs included sketches of the churches and other motifs. Caroline was now resigning the editorship,

having held it for nearly 11 years, and now planning to leave the area. Her last issue would be the July one. Lori Weber had agreed to take over from Caroline from the September issue. Caroline thanked everyone for their support.

Chairman: José Wilson welcomed Katie Lewis as secretary. She reported that the magazine has been flourishing because of Caroline and the production team, and she thanked Caroline for her time as editor, which was in excess of her original promise of 10 years. Chris Bailey, the treasurer, was also resigning and José thanked him for his time in the role. She also thanked everyone who helps with the folding and stapling and who delivers the magazine – 596 copies in two parishes – without whom the magazine couldn't survive. She explained that Joy Kinsman was present as an observer, with a view to joining the committee and possibly taking on the role of treasurer.

Elections: José had been planning to stand down as chairman, but would hold on for another year because of all the other changes. Caroline was to remain as editor for a few months.

Officers:

Chairman	José Wilson
Editor	Caroline Elmitt
Secretary	Katie Lewis

These nominees were proposed by Chris Chowney and seconded by Chris Bailey and unanimously elected. The post of treasurer has become temporarily vacant.

Committee members:

Stewart Ross would no longer be on the committee because of moving house.

Committee members Nick Birch, Gill Evans, Chris Chowney and Eleanor Bette-Bennett were proposed by Caroline Elmitt, seconded by John Wilson and unanimously re-elected.

David Howell is to be invited to future committee meetings, and other new members of the committee would be welcome.

6. AOB

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 6.32 pm.