

Finchampstead Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on **22 March 2018**.

Present: Neil Doody (AGM Chairman), Kate Barrie, Adrian Hobbs, Chris King, Gordon Wrigley, Bryan Chinn, Bev Kemp, and Jane Parle (members of the Committee) and members.

1. Apologies: Tim and Felicity Workman, Ian Hossack (outgoing chairman) and Simon Weeks.

2. 3. Minutes of the AGM held on 30 March 2017

The minutes were agreed and no matters arising.

4. Chairman's report

Neil Doody summarised Ian Hossack's report.

Although membership numbers had fallen a number of new dynamic committee members had been attracted and he expected the Society to prosper and to continue with exciting new events. A holy carol concert and superb Autumn supper at Jacksons were notable for 2017 as was the quiz night. Ian said that this was the second episode of chairing the Society - the first lasted 13 years - and it was time to 'quit'. He thanked the committee for their support, pledged to remain a member and continue supporting the exciting programme but also watching the development of the village with interest hoping for not too much more development within the village envelope.

5. Treasurer's report

The treasurer reported that the Society's finances remained sound and that his report for the year had been audited and signed by R.L.Brown. The accounts showed a balance of £6197 (2017: £6356). Bev Kemp proposed adoption of the accounts, seconded by Kate Barrie and unanimously agreed.

6. Environment report

Gordon Wrigley reported on developments with an effect on Finchampstead. During the past twelve months there have been several planning applications for unsustainable housing in the Finchampstead

area submitted by speculative builders who claim that WBC are not meeting government targets. WBC claim they have granted planning permission sufficient for the next few years but developers are not building fast enough. WBC have lobbied government ministers, the PM and the matter has been raised in the Commons.

The Arborfield Green development is progressing. Hogwood Farm has been sold to L&G who plan to build prefabricated units off-site and then erect them at Hogwood Farm. There will be a public exhibition at the Community Centre on 28 March.

Crest Nicholson have published proposals for a District Centre but at a public meeting in January it was revealed that the inclusion of a health centre was unlikely. The northern section of the Nine Mile Ride extension has been completed but the southern section is well behind schedule; L&G will now undertake construction and a planning application is expected this summer. Construction of Arborfield relief road is expected to start in spring 2019 and be completed mid 2020.

A new two way bridge is to be built at the existing one-way Barkham bridge; construction will start in Spring 2019. The Greenway connecting the FBC to Arborfield Green was opened in December 2017. The surgery extension was completed in November 2017 but regrettably with too few extra parking places.

The transfer of land at Manor Farm and Fleet Hill farm from Cemex to the RSPB has been delayed because of irregular internal land transfers. Despite the unspecified delay we are assured that the transfer is not at risk. The first phase of California Country Park upgrade began in September 2017 to be completed Autumn 2018. Design work has begun to improve traffic flow at California Cross Road a public consultation will follow.

Finchampstead now has an additional bus service: a No. 3b from Reading to Bracknell via Finchampstead and Arborfield. Hence a half hourly service to and from Reading.

An attendee commented that although there was an extra bus there remained a 2.5 mile walk from the village to the bus stop and what could be done about it ? No one was able to provide an answer

A second attendee raised concern as to whether or not CEMEX remained committed to transfer land to the RSPB. Adrian Hobbs explained that the problem was internal to CEMEX who nevertheless remained committed to the transfer which was not at risk albeit the RSPB will not accept responsibility for the transfer until matters at CEMEX are resolved.

7. Membership Secretary's report and annual subscription

The membership secretary reported that membership continued to fall to 184 members – 2017:216, 2016:252 – possibly because of the reduced number of events. Subscription remained at £3 per adult, which can now be paid by BACS and standing orders, details have been sent by email. Payment can be online from within the new website, details required will be post code identifier not the surname. Full details have been circulated by Adrian Hobbs who noted that paper records are no longer needed.

On 25 May 2018 GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) will be enacted. The Society has chosen the option of Legitimate Interest Provision whereby it is assumed that details provided by members can be used for contact, for example, to advise of forthcoming events. A privacy notice has already been distributed to members. There were no questions.

The new constitution had been circulated. The previous version related to individual and family members, now there are only individual members and children are admitted free. Also, the voting rights had been changed to rectify anomalies related to members and committee members.

A new Web Site has been developed, the old one was out of date, and can be accessed though the new address 'www.finchampsteadsociety.org'; there will be more information and

more additions to the site in due course. Neil Doody raised a very appreciative vote of thanks to Steve Arnold, unanimously agreed, who had voluntarily provided the new website and would continue to be responsible for changes and maintenance.

8. Election of officers and committee

The officers are Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of which only the post of treasurer was occupied, by Neil Doody.

Chairman: Adrian Hobbs was nominated and proposed by Gordon Wrigley, seconded by Kate Barrie and elected unopposed; there were no nominations for the vice chairman.

Secretary: Bryan Chinn was nominated and proposed by Adrian Hobbs, seconded by Wendy Graham and elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Neil Doody was nominated and proposed by Gordon Wrigley seconded by Keith Graham and elected unopposed.

Committee: Kate Barrie, Gordon Wrigley, Jane Pearle, Simon Weeks, Chris King and Bev Kemp were proposed by Chris Driver, seconded by Wendy Graham and elected unopposed.

9. Independent Examiner

Robin Brown agreed to continue, proposed by Adrian Hobbs seconded by Kate Barrie and elected unopposed.

10. AOB

Kate Barrie proposed a very appreciative vote of thanks to Wendy Graham for the considerable effort in Archiving the history of Finchampstead; unanimously agreed.

Also, the web site now has direct links to Adrian Hobbs as membership secretary and Chairman, and Wendy Graham will be added as archive contact. Rob Norris Grey will be contacted regarding the closure of the old website.

11. Jones VC Trophy

Neil Doody commented that the silver gilt trophy was originally presented to Colonel Jones VC and his wife in 1913 on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. It was later given to Finchampstead Society by their Granddaughter to present in recognition of significant voluntary contribution to the local community. It was awarded this year to Audrey Metcalf who arrived in 1953 and continued to serve Finchampstead in many ways even though she celebrated her 90th birthday in June.

12. Talk

Following the conclusion of formal business, David Tinker gave a humorous presentation entitled 'Wish You Were Here'. He told the story of the development and rise in popularity in Britain of day trips and holidays at the seaside, with the use of slides. Examples of humorous post cards were included as well as attractions such as the Blackpool Tower with its ballroom and rising organ.

Bryan Chinn, Secretary

10 April 2018