



Vale of Evesham Civic Society

The 45th Annual General Meeting was held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11th April 2017 at Ecgwins PMC, 117, High Street, Evesham WR11 4EQ.

Attendance

The Chairman Mr. James Powell opened the 45th Annual General Meeting by welcoming those present. Members and guests were asked to tick the attendance sheet and they were:-
Caroline Abbey, Mr Tom Ashley, Mr & Mrs Richard Ball, Mr Galen Bartholomew, Mr. & Mrs C. Blundell, Mr C Bostle, Mrs Barbara Bryan, Mrs B Campbell, Mr Brian Chilver, Mrs Patricia Coombs, Mr & Mrs N.S. Downs, Mr. John Dunn, Mr & Mrs J. Goodwin, Mr Tony Haugh, Lizzie Noyes, Mr & Mrs D Osbourne, Mr Adian Peake and Julie Jenner, Mr Jim Powell, Dr & Mrs P.J. Rooke, Mr & Mrs V.J & J.A. Scutt, Mr & Mrs I Stanton, Mr & Mrs. C Tether, Mr Brian Turrell, Mr. Michael & Mrs. Wendy Wagstaff

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Dr Sue Ablett and John Dickman, Annie Chaplin, Mr & Mrs B Reid, Mr & Mrs R Thomson, Mrs Jill Haycock, Mrs Pat Chilver, Mrs J. Powell, Mr & Mrs R Allen.

Presentation of Merit Awards

John Goodwin at the request of the Chair, explained that the recipient AJ & SC Properties Ltd could not be present this year. This was the second year running that the same company had won the award but Stuart Homer could not attend because the previous day he and his family attended the inquest on his Son. The award has been made to Albert and Fred Homer at Stuart Homer's request. The citation reads "A Mews development and improvement to an important and historical area of Evesham in 2016". The properties are located at the rear of the old Working Mens Club, Merstow Green, Evesham. It was proposed that an official presentation would be made on site at a mutually convenient time and date.

Commendation Awards

Two Commendation awards were proposed this year for the Valkerie Bar in the Town Hall undercroft and the Thai Restaurant in High Street, Evesham. Brian Turrell and his guest had attended representing the Valkerie was given a copy of the Commendation letter and was advised that the normal procedure was to visit and present the commendation again at a mutually convenient time and date. The Thai Restaurant had not responded to our requests to present them with the commendation letter so it will be withheld until a reply has been received. All were congratulated on their efforts in improving the street scene and facilities and showing confidence in the future of Evesham.

Minutes of 44th Annual General Meeting

The minutes were accepted and duly signed.

Matters arising

The Chair asked if the name change item had been now resolved. He advised that no further action would be taken on this matter. He also asked if the cycleway and footpath link to the Valley had been resolved. Mr Clive Bostle had been involved with this and the river path and said there were access issues with landowners that could not be resolved. It was hoped that there would however be a satisfactory outcome in the future.

Annual Report

As a resume of the years achievements, projects and events had been included in the Spring Edition of the Newsletter the Secretary did not propose to read them out. When asked if those present at the meeting would like him to give a summary of the main topics it was thought not necessary. Egwins were thanked for the use of the meeting room that evening and for all the monthly committee meetings. Sue Campbell had provided an excellent programme during the previous year and was thanked by the Chairman. Mrs Sue Campbell was invited by the Chair to talk about forthcoming trips and she explained reservation forms had been sent out with the Newsletter but there were spare forms available in the room. The Trip to "The Other Place" in Stratford had only one place left but there was lots of availability for other trips. When asked about the costs, she highlighted it was based on previous experiences and 20 seem to be the numbers worked on when calculating the cost of a coach. She thanked Chadbury Farm Shop for past and future use of their car park for trips.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Adrian Peake reported on the Income and Expenditure Sheets that had been circulated prior to the meeting and highlighted some of the changes that had occurred since 2016 / 17 accounts were presented. Subscriptions were down 110.00, he asked if the members present could urge others to join to help keep numbers up in the future. Subs had been increased to 15.00 for couples from 10.00 so the drop was more significant. Profit on trips was up, mainly due to the Birmingham trip but the proceeds from meetings was down due to the cost of speakers at 231.00. Brian Chilver pointed out that the Treasurer had managed to claim back Gift Aid owing from previous years and expressed his thanks for achieving such a good outcome. The Chairman added his thanks on behalf of the Society for the Treasurer's hard work in producing the accounts and for his efforts throughout the year. It was proposed by Mrs Sue Campbell that the accounts be adopted, seconded by Mr Cefn Blundell and duly approved by the meeting.

Election of Officers

These proceedings were conducted by the Secretary, John Goodwin.

He advised that prior to the meeting he had received two applicants, Mr Ian and Mrs Pat Stanton.

He said he felt it "was a first" in having a husband and wife as members of the committee, but was reminded by Mr Brian Chilver that many years ago Mr Denis and Mrs Grace Falvey, served on the committee for many years. Mr Ian & Mrs Pat Stanton were proposed by Mr Colin Tether and seconded by Mr John Goodwin and duly elected to the committee. There were no further proposals from the meeting despite a plea that more active members were needed to try and carry out all the actions needed to run the Civic Society effectively. It was felt that so much had been achieved but that so much more could have been done if the human resources had been available. He hoped that even members not wishing to stand on the Committee might consider taking on some roles such as assisting with planning. This would just involve looking through the weekly planning notices and advising committee of items that might need further investigation. Unfortunately Mr Colin Tether had decided to stand down from committee this year because of his other commitments, not least of all his duties as a Town Councillor. He was the most active member of the committee, and a hard act to follow especially because of his great knowledge of local issues and concerns. He had served the Society as its Chairman and in many other capacities over the years and would be sorely missed.

Chairman - The Society's constitution states that a Chairman is required and Mr. James Powell had agreed to fill that post, for 2016/17, when the Society was without one. He has again expressed his willingness to stand for 2017/18 if there was no other nominations. Mr John Dunn in making his proposed nomination expressed thanks on behalf of the Society for Mr. Jim Powell's actions in stepping into the breach last year, and for the work he has carried out in performing his duties as Chairman of the Society. Mr Jim Powell's nomination was seconded by Mr Cefn Blundell. Mr Powell said he was humbled and honoured in accepting the position of Chairman for a further year he believed he had received significant support during his previous term by other members of the Committee.

Vice Chairman - Jill Haycock said she was happy to stand again providing there were no other nominations. As there were none, Mrs Jill Haycock was proposed as Vice Chairman by Brian Chilver and Seconded by John Goodwin.

Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary, Adrian Peake and John Goodwin respectively, said they were prepared to carry on with their present duties unless there were other Society members interested in taking over these roles. They were duly re-elected.

Election of Executive Committee - Mr Ian and Mrs Pat Stanton would be newly elected members and with the exception of Mr Colin Tether all the existing committee members were happy to stand again for the next year. Mrs Sue Campbell, Mr Brian Chilver, Mr Richard Thomson, Cefn Blundell were duly re-elected as members of the executive committee.

Apointment of Auditors - Mr Ind had said that he would be standing down now from his position as Auditor. The Treasurer took the opportunity to thank Mr. Ron Ind for auditing the 2016/17 account and for carrying out the duties as unpaid Auditor over the past few years. He requested the Society's appreciation be recorded.

Any Other Business and Forum

1. Mrs Pat Stanton raised the question of water retention on the new bridge. After a rain storm the

- drainage kerbswere not performing adequately. This needs to be taken up with WCC Highways.
2. An item on litter was raised by Clive Bostle. Mr Colin Tether said as well as the Civic Society's own efforts at litter picking, the Town Council under Councillor Gerry O'Donell is leading the anti litter strategy. At the moment it involved awareness with a poster campaign about to be carried out. Clive Bostle raised a question on litter, based on his association with the CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England), about a national litter group organised by them. He noticed that Evesham was not listed and suggested that the Town Council should be made aware of the group and consider registering. Mr John Goodwin said that he had emailed the Town Council about litter, grass verges and footpaths and keeping paths clear of overhanging hedges at the end of Davis Road at its Junction with Cheltenham Road. This was done as an individual not through the Civic Society. The Town Clerk, Stuart Carter, had responded promptly advising that he had notified the relevant Authorities about the complaint. Replies came from Wychavon stating the email had be forwarded onto WCC, and from WCC with a reference telling him it will be investigated and reported back within 28 days. WCC bounced the litter aspect back to Wychavon, being the Authority responsible for litter. It seemed very much like going round in circles with Wychavon & the Town Councils relying on voluntary help to improve the system. Mr Jim Powell felt that some sort of policing was the only way forward as no Authority seemed prepared to clean it up.
 3. Members were reminded by Adrian Peake that subscriptions for 2017/18 were now due and forms were available in the hall for members wishing to renew.
 4. John Goodwin mentioned that Dr. Sue Ablett had asked if programmes could be displayed in the hall for the forthcoming Festival of Words.

The Chairman, Mr Jim Powell thanked everyone for attending the AGM and ended the meeting at 9.00 pm.

John Goodwin introduced the guest speaker Mr. Colin Tether. He mentioned again how he would be sorely missed by the Committee especially as he was generally the one to give a vote of thanks after the invited speakers had finished their talks. It was after one such vote of thanks when Nigel Huddleston MP, was the guest speaker and all the proceedings had been taped, that he was heard to remark that he was always asked to give thanks for the speaker but never asked to be one. Colin's talk was assumed to be on his experiences in Local Government, Civic Society and local Councillor, but no he had decided to talk about Getting to Birmingham from Evesham.

Colin Tether gave a power point presentation about the historical, present and future means of getteing to Birmingham by train. His talk was well received and he took questions from the meeting at the end.

John Goodwin proposed a vote of thanks.

JG 20.04,17