

Amberley Society – Notes of the 47th Annual General Meeting 23 February 2024

Apologies for absence were received from:

Sue Adams, Hazel Allinson, Jeremy Crump and Kate Trench, Mel Edge, Ian and Valerie Galbraith, Jane Joseph, Pam Keeble, Cyndy and Steve Kennett, David and Lillis Lyon, Geoff and Heidi Uren, Viviane and Tony Whitbread.

There was a silent pause to remember the lives of Pat Ashby, John Keeble and Charles Shaw.

The Chairman's Report together with the Archive Report and Website Report were circulated before the meeting.

The Chairman said there was only one item to report on from the previous year's AGM. There had been unanimous approval for the Committee to continue to challenge Horsham District Council over unresolved disputed breaches of planning regulations. The work was still ongoing and therefore a further vote was taken, with unanimous approval, to continue to seek answers and accountability from HDC.

It was reported that Membership stood at around 225. The treasurer reported the present bank balance was up on last year at £5,278. There would be future expenditure on professional digitizing of archive material, hopefully, an automated electronic mailing system and there was unanimous approval for the Committee to decide on an appropriate donation to the Amberley Eco-hub. Membership fees had remained unchanged for 14 years.

There was discussion on the concerns about increased shooting on the Wildbrooks. It was agreed that a working group should be set up to investigate operations, and to monitor, record and report any illegal activity.

Despite requests for new volunteers to join the Committee there were none. The Chairman had been asking for several years to relinquish his position. Without any offers to take over, he reluctantly stated that, after 17 years in office, he would be standing down. He was prepared to remain on the Committee and give any assistance, if required, to a new Chair.

Dates of forthcoming meetings would be announced and would probably include an Extraordinary General Meeting to ratify a new Constitution.

Following the meeting there was a talk by Alex Briggs on the 'Weald to Waves' nature recovery project.

February 2024