

Minutes of
The 140th Haslemere Society Annual General Meeting

15 November 2024 at 7:30pm

At Haslemere Hall

Attendees:

Mr Chris Harrison (Chairman & Trustee)
Mr Richard Mason (Trustee)
Mr David Dullaway (Treasurer & Trustee)
Mrs Sonja Dullaway (Trustee & Minutes)
Mr Gareth David

Apologies:

Mrs Dawn Brown (Trustee)
Mr Howard Brown (Trustee)
Apologies were also received from members: Rosalyn Rees, Stephen & Sarah Mulliner, Andrew & Wendy Neate, Mary & Jonathan Beauclair, Brian Deller and Edward Nicol.

1. The AGM was quorate, there being more than 20 members of the Society in attendance.
2. The Chairman welcomed members and attendees to the 140th Annual General Meeting of the Society. He noted apologies from two Trustees, Dawn and Howard Brown, who are away skiing, but said that they had indicated their willingness to stand again. A number of members had also sent their apologies along with proxy votes and these would be noted in the minutes (see above). He introduced the other Trustees. Finally, the Chairman introduced the Town Mayor, Oli Leach, who is a strong supporter of the Community Fridge and had agreed to be a late joiner of the panel for the discussion later.

Minutes of the last AGM

3. The Chairman asked if anyone had any comments on the minutes of the previous AGM, which are available on the website and were circulated with the invitation to this meeting. There being no comments, the Chairman called a vote and the minutes were agreed by a show of hands with no objection or amendment raised.

The Chairman's Report

4. The Chairman commented that the Trustees' main focus over the past year has been to expand the range and number of outings offered to members and to increase collaboration with other local societies. He reviewed a number of the key events through the last year, including the Tyndall lecture, held in collaboration with Transition Haslemere. In terms of events, aside from the usual Spring Meeting and Summer Party, the Society had run a visit to Fishbourne Abbey, two separate visits to the Blackdown Ridge Winery and a visit to Waverley Abbey. The Society had also made contributions to support the conservation of an original Haslemere Society of Artists poster at the

Museum and the Community Fridge, which attendees would hear more about during the panel discussion.

5. The Chairman announced that the 2025 Spring Meeting would be held on 4 April at Undershaw and would include a speaker from the Sherlock Holmes Society.
6. The Chairman noted that the Autumn Newsletter had recently gone out and took the opportunity to thank Gareth David for editing and producing it. He also thanked Di Keeley, who puts a lot of time into producing the diary of events section of the Newsletter, and Simon Mackie who produces the cartoon.
7. Turning to planning, the Chairman thanked the members of the Planning Group, noting a new member, Helena Bradford, and the assistance provided by Sam Jackson on heritage issues. In total the group had put in 16 letters of comment or objection over the year, representing a significant amount of work. The Chairman commented on three particular planning matters. First, the Royal Junior School site, where he noted thanks to Charles O'Brien of Pevsner, who, together with Sarah Sullivan, had managed to get the building listed where before it was only a 'heritage asset'. The new status will protect not just the external fabric of the building but also the wonderful arts and crafts interior. The development proposal to date had been to keep the building but rip out the interior as part of the conversion into flats. On the Fairground site, the Chairman referred to his other role as co-chair of the Farnham and Bunch Lane Residents Association, which has taken a close interest in development proposals and is undertaking a number of parking surveys to test Waverley's assertions on this point. The Chairman noted that the Society's Planning Group is reserving its view until an actual planning application is made. And finally, the Chairman turned to the Red Court Phase Two proposals. He referred to a recent note sent to members about this and said that it was rather frustrating to have to go through the entire appeal from scratch due to errors on the part of the Inspectorate. There will be a case management meeting in January to determine the scope of the appeal. The Chairman has confirmed to the Haslemere South Residents Association that the Society will join with a Rule 6 Group for this Inquiry. Should there be any request for financial assistance, the Society will invite any members who wish to do so to make a contribution.
8. The Chairman stated that next year the AGM will be held on a Thursday to try to avoid clashes with other events in the busy run-up to Christmas.
9. Finally, the Chairman noted that the Trustees are planning to survey members about what they want from the Society, and encouraged members to engage with that process.

Treasurer's Report & Accounts

10. The Treasurer noted that the accounts had been circulated with the invitation to the AGM.
11. In summary, he stated that the Society had had a good year, with a total profit of just over £3,000. However, that is very much due to a very generous donation of £3,000 by a member. The Treasurer noted that the member wished to remain anonymous, but he took the opportunity, on behalf of the whole Society, to thank them for their generosity. Without the donation, the Society made an overall loss of £300 for the year. This is very much in line with the normal up and down from year to year.
12. The Society's main source of income is subscriptions and this amounted to some £2,800. There was also some interest earned on funds held and income from people paying for

events. Nearly all expenditure through the year was on actually doing the things the Society was set up for, e.g. the donation to Tyndall's gravestone restoration and the various events held. There were small administrative costs for things like insurance.

13. Overall the Society has around £18,000 of assets. This is mainly cash at the bank and some money owed to us by HMRC as well as a bit of wine, which would doubtless be drunk through the evening.
14. The Treasurer asked if anyone had any questions. There being no questions, he proposed that the accounts be accepted. Christopher Ashton-Jones proposed acceptance of the accounts and seconded by Fay Foster. The proposal was passed on a show of hands with no objections raised.
15. The Treasurer then thanked the External Examiner, Clare David, for her work in reviewing and signing off the accounts year after year. The members gave a round of applause.
16. Finally, the Treasurer invited any members who wishes to pay their subscription during the evening to speak to him or Richard Mason.

Election of incoming Chairman and Trustees

17. The Chairman stated that he and all the Trustees were standing for re-election. The Chairman asked if members were content to vote on the election of the Trustees as a group. That being confirmed, Diana Serman proposed the motion and Jane Stopford-Russell seconded it. The vote was carried by a show of hands with no objections.

Election of the Independent Examiner

18. The Chairman stated that Clare David had acted as the Independent Examiner for many years and was willing to continue in that role. He invited members to vote on her re-election. David Smith proposed the motion and Fay Foster seconded it. It was approved on a show of hands with no objections.

Panel discussion

19. The formal business of the AGM being completed, the Chairman introduced and chaired a panel discussion on food waste and food want in Haslemere. The panel - Dan Slatter, manager of the Surrey & Sussex Branch of FareShare; Jennifer Edwards and Michelle Wuisan from Love Haslemere, Hate Waste; David Rice, joint founder of The Haslemere Food Bank, and Mayor Oli Leach, also proprietor of Oliver's in Charter's Walk - shared different perspectives on the topic, including insights into the Haslemere Foodbank and the shortly-to-be-launched Community Fridge.

This was followed by drinks and canapes and the evening ended at around 10:30pm.