



Minutes of the Haslemere Society's 135th AGM

The 135th AGM of the Haslemere Society was held on Friday 1st November 2019 in Haslemere Hall.

The Chairman, Chris Harrison, welcomed members of the Society and visitors, before reviewing the activities of the year as set out in the annual report under four headings: planning, heritage, environment, and events. He particularly highlighted the significant planning applications during the year, the two new blue plaques unveiled during the year, and the success of the Society's newsletter.

The Chairman then turned to the future of the Society. He noted that 2020 will be the 75th anniversary of VE day and in commemoration a blue plaque will be unveiled at Amesbury school, where Field Marshall Montgomery had his Rear HQ. He also noted the Society's intention to carry out a membership survey during the year.

The Treasurer, David Dullaway, then presented the accounts to the members and reported that the Society was in a robust financial position. The members duly approved the accounts. The Vice Chairman, John Greer, and the Society's Secretary, Ann Fitchett, stood down at this AGM. After a vote of thanks and a short speech from John, the remaining trustees were unanimously elected for a further year. Barbara Smith, who was unable to attend due to illness, was also elected as a trustee and as the new Secretary. This concluded the formal part of the AGM.

This was followed by an excellent presentation by Prof David Evans, Trustee and former Chairman of the Civic Trust, on the theme of "Decline or transformation: the future for our high streets" and a discussion on the same topic with Prof Evans and a panel of local independent retailers.

The evening ended with refreshments and canapes, which were enjoyed by all.