

The Haslemere Society: 136th Annual General Meeting
 Friday, 20 November 2020 at 19.30 hours.
 Held virtually by Zoom call under Covid-19 restrictions

Minutes

Trustees attending:
 Chris Harrison (Chair)
 Dawn Brown
 Howard Brown
 David Dullaway
 Gareth David
 Jane Stopford Russell (joined the meeting at 19.57)
 Barbara Smith (Minutes)

Members attending (from zoom ID's: note, some joint members shared one login:

Shirley Harrison	Jill Bancroft
Susan Emden	Jennifer Radford
Tony Bishop	John Greer
J Larkin	Sarah Barnes
R Lane	Anthea Brock
Roscelin	David Smith
Christopher Ashton-Jones	Haslemere Rotary
Sonja Dullaway	Don Cremer
Chris Boobyer	Edward
John Robini	Fiona Carter
Paul Bagshaw	Joan Margetts
Ken	

1.	Welcome Chris Harrison introduced himself as Chair of The Haslemere Society and welcomed Members to the AGM, setting out how it would run virtually.
2.	Apologies Apologies had been received from Melanie Odell, David Round, David and Monique Smith and Lorraine Wilson. Proxies were sent in by Marion and John Dell and Edward Pickle.
3.	Minutes of last meeting

	<p>The minutes of the 135th AGM held on Friday, 1 November 2019 were unanimously approved without changes.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Chris ran through what The Society has done during the past, difficult year when three member events had to be cancelled because of the pandemic and also necessitated this meeting being held via Zoom. As engaging with members has proved so challenging, regular emails covering a range of subjects have been sent. Three years ago the format of the newsletters was changed and the two copies sent out this year under the editorship of Gareth David have been very well received. A Zoom Meeting will be held on Thursday, 10 December with a panel made up of John Robini, Haslemere Town Mayor; Chris Bessant, Rector; Craig, McGowan, Haslemere & District Chamber of Commerce; Maria Mateo, Citizens' Advice Bureau, who will all share their experience of Lockdown and how Haslemere can build back better.</p> <p>The Society has three main areas of focus and Chris ran through each of these in turn.</p> <p>Environment: THS contributed to the Haslemere Biodiversity project and are waiting to receive the initial report. It is hoped that this report will document and help us to understand the green lungs of the town and that this in turn will inform our planning process. Chris explained that a tree planted by THS and the Twinning Association fell down earlier in the year and detailed the plans to replace this, probably with a cherry tree, after improving the condition of the soil. Christopher Ashton-Jones said that at the time of planting a plaque had been provided by the Twinning Association. Christopher offered to provide a free of charge plaque (he runs Sheen Botanical Labels) an offer that Chris readily accepted. In connection with the project to introduce beavers to Black Down, Chris advised that, despite Lockdown, this would still be going ahead with the beavers due to arrive in the spring. The National Trust has raised £35,000 of the £50,000 needed to fund this project, and donations are still welcome.</p> <p>Heritage: A leaflet with a map showing the locations and giving information on the blue plaques in Haslemere is now available from The Hub, but unfortunately Lockdown has meant that interest has been lower than anticipated. The blue plaque at Amesbury School to commemorate Field Marshall Montgomery was due to be unveiled during 2020, but this has had to be postponed twice and the ceremony will now take place at some point in the future.</p> <p>Planning: Chris introduced the members of the Planning Committee: Chris Boobyer, Sonja Dullaway, Bob Lane, Hugh Fraser and David Smith to the meeting. During the course of the last year the committee sent 12 letters to Waverley Borough Council, the most significant of which concerned The Heights, Red Court and Longdene Road. A detailed response to the Jenrick White Paper was also submitted. An objection was registered to the proposed redevelopment of Appletrees in Court's Hill Road which had been brought to our attention by several members as it was considered not to be in keeping with the Haslemere Conservation Area. As members are interested in the future of The Georgian Hotel, Chris explained that the property had been due to go to auction in September, but had been withdrawn just before the date, though it was not known why.</p>

	<p>Finally, Chris invited any members who would normally pay their subscriptions by cheque when attending the AGM in person either to send a cheque by post or to make a bank transfer, details of both are on the website.</p> <p>Having concluded his report, Chris noticed that there were several members who had been waiting to be admitted to the meeting, which he did at 19.57 hours.</p>
5.	<p>Treasurer's Report DD</p> <p>Introducing himself, David Dullaware ran through the highlights of the accounts, explaining that there was less to report than usual as there was lower income and expenditure with events cancelled because of the pandemic. However, the day to day expenses (website, stationery) remained the same. Membership rates had dropped, but have now steadied. There was a donation to Haslemere Vision in relation to the Biodiversity Project. Legal advice was sought and paid for regarding The Georgian Hotel.</p> <p>Chris invited questions and when there were none, Bob Lane proposed the accounts be adopted and David Smith seconded this. Chris then asked for attendees to indicate their approval with a thumbs-up sign which everyone did.</p> <p>With regard to membership Fiona Carter suggested that consideration should be given to increasing the membership fees, pointing out that these are currently relatively low. However, she acknowledged that during the economic uncertainty brought by Covid-19, this was probably not the time to implement any increase, but to bear it in mind for the future.</p>
6.	<p>Election of Chairman and Trustees</p> <p>The Chair and Trustees stand down each year and all but Barbara Smith are offering to stand for re-election. The proposal to accept their re-election was accepted and proposed by Christopher Ashton-Jones and seconded by Fiona Carter. Chris asked members to indicate approval with a thumbs up sign which again was unanimous. Chris explained that Barbara is standing down as secretary as she is moving away from the area and asked if anyone was interested in taking on the role to get in touch.</p>
7.	<p>Election of Independent Examiner</p> <p>Clare David, wife of Gareth, acts as the Independent Examiner, a role without remuneration, and is happy to continue. David Dullaway proposed this motion and David Smith seconded.</p>
8.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Robini, Town Mayor, wished to say that he will always listen to the recommendations put forward by THS but that he is not able to comment because of his civic role. He explained that the Neighbourhood Plan will be considered by the Town Council in the next 10 days and will then be passed to Waverley Borough Council. Chris thanked him for his contribution. • Chris Hinton advised that 29 April 2021 is the 800th anniversary of the first known mention of Haslemere in the historical record. Chris thanked him for this information and said he was sure this was something of interest to THS and will investigate. • Continuing this theme, Christopher ?? mentioned that June 2022 will be HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee and suggested this should be put on the agenda for the future consideration and Chris agreed that this should be done.

9.	Chris invited further questions and when there were none forthcoming he thanked Members and Trustees for attending and the meeting closed at 20.14 hours.
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