The 141st Haslemere Annual Society Meeting held at Haslemere Hall on Thursday 13 November 2025 at 7.30pm

Attendees:
Chris Harrison, Chairman and Trustee
Howard Brown, Trustee and Planning
Dawn Brown, Trustee and Membership Secretary
Anthony Johnson, Trustee
Nicola Miller, Treasurer and Trustee

Item	
1.	Welcome to Members The Chair welcomed members and attendees to the 141st Annual General Meeting of the Society. The AGM was quorate, there being more than 20 members of the Society in attendance. Apologies were noted from Richard Mason, Trustee due to illness but he has indicated his willingness to stand again and the Chairman introduced the other Trustees at the table including newly appointed Trustees, Anthony Johnson and Nicola Miller. All Trustees are happy to be voted in for another year.
2.	Apologies Apologies were received from the following members: Marion Dell, Jo and David Allen, Tim Bentley, Norman and Louise Robson Proxy votes: all appointed the Chairman as their proxy for resolutions.
3.	Minutes of the last year's AGM held on 15 November 2024 The Chairman asked if there were any comments or questions from last year's minutes that had been circulated in advance of the AGM. There being no comments, the Chairman called a vote and the minutes were approved by a show of hands with no objections or amendments raised. The Chairman conveyed to members the sad passing of Robert Serman, former Chairman and President, a loyal Haslemere Society Member who had done so much to promote and support the Society. Our thoughts and prayers are with Diana Serman who was our Membership Secretary for many years. We will keep everyone informed about a memorial service which is likely to be held next year.
4.	Chairman's Report – this was taken as read with the main points mentioned below: Since the lockdown, which curtailed all meetings and the majority of our events, the Society have been endeavouring to arrange a variety of trips and events for Members to enjoy. These have included; trips to Waverley Abbey in Autumn 2024 and 2025; Members' Garden Party in June; wine tasing at the Weybourne Estate vineyard in July culminating to a trip to Goodwood House in August. More events are being planned for next year.

Red Court Appeal update

A second appeal took place in April by the developer lasting 2 weeks, seeking a different decision with regards to further development of 111 houses behind Scotlands Lane. The Inspector unfortunately ruled in favour of the developer. The first official ruling by the previous inspector in favour of not developing on protected land was overturned on a technicality. Thanks were given to Howard Brown who attended the hearing on a daily basis as part of the Rule 6 group and for all his endeavours. Any updates will be shared with Members. The Rule 6 Group is pressing Waverley to get an opinion from their KC on whether there are grounds to challenge the ruling although this would need to have a strong chance of success to warrant further action.

Other Planning Matters

It was noted that Haslemere Society no longer have a planning group, but do try and look at any major planning developments that are of concern to protect and preserve view of local residents. Any new major planning issues should be raised with Howard Brown.

Fairground Site – see update from Greg Stafford below
There is no further update on the Royal Junior or Senior Schools.

Blue Plaques

Haslemere Society have had the pleasure of erecting a second blue plaque at Amesbury School in honour of Squadron Leader Melvyn 'Dinghy' Young who lost his life during the war. Melvyn was a student at Amesbury as well as being a brave pilot and Dambuster. We will also be erecting a plaque in honour of Sir Jonathan Hutchinson in March 2026.

Civic Voice

There is some uncertainly in regard to the continuance of Civic Voice due to funding issues and it may well close. Unfortunately, Civic Voice had continued to collect yearly subscriptions, for which we duly paid. The Board is recommending closure and as Civic Voice is solvent there may be a prospect for a refund.

Update from Greg Stafford

Dawn and Howard Brown, Trustees formerly met with Greg Stafford, MP who gave his full support in challenging the decision to build on protected land behind Scotlands Lane. Greg Stafford's statement of support was read verbatim to Members. This also included support of the fairground views put forward from the local neighbourhood group in relation to support of keeping parking and social housing for this land.

5.	Trustees' Report and Accounts – period ending 30 June 2025 These were circulated in advance of the meeting. Nicola Miller, newly appointed Trustee and Treasurer confirmed that the current assets stood at £25, 360 and invited any questions from Members. There were none. The accounts were proposed as being accurate and complete. These were approved by a show of hands, with no objections raised.
6.	Election of Incoming Chairman and Trustees Chris Harrison, Chairman and Trustee Howard Brown, Trustee and Planning Dawn Brown, Trustee and Membership Secretary Anthony Johnson, Trustee Nicola Miller, Treasurer and Trustee The above were put forward and all proposed for re-election. This was carried unanimously by members present by a show of hands. There were no objections.
7.	Election of Independent Examiner Our thanks and appreciation were given to Clare David who will be stepping down. Clare has been our independent examiner for over 25 years. Any interested Members with financial acumen are encouraged to contact our Chairman, Chris Harrison.
	Please note that further information on Society events can be found on the Haslemere Society website: www.haslemeresociety.org