

**Minutes of the THIRTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
BISHOP'S WALTHAM SOCIETY
held in the Church Hall, Free Street at 7.30 pm on 15th February 2018**

Chairman Tony Kippenberger welcomed members to the meeting. He said he wished to take this opportunity to apologise to Paul Emmerson for the incorrect spelling of his surname, using only one "m", despite several reminders from Ray Crump! His rather weak excuse was that he had worked with a Peter Emerson at the Financial Times in the 1970s and was therefore more familiar with that spelling. He added that with a surname like Kippenberger he understood the need to get names right!

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Pat Morris, Moira Dean, Margaret & Roger Pilling, Sarah & Mike Berry, Sarah & John Hetherington, Diane & David Mclean, Patricia Morgan, Anita Taylor and Carol Woodfine.

MINUTES of the 31st AGM having been circulated to members with the newsletter; these were accepted as a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING from the minutes: John Hayter referred to the comment in the Minutes that membership would not be restricted to those living within the parish of Bishop's Waltham. He welcomed this as he said the age of a number of members meant that they had moved to be closer to relatives outside the area. Tony Kippenberger thanked John for his comments.

MINUTES of the 32nd AGM having been circulated to members with the newsletter; these were accepted as a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING from the minutes: There were no matters arising.

RECEIPT OF THE EXECUTIVE REPORT: Tony Kippenberger highlighted the fact that membership now exceeds 300 and that last year's meetings were well attended, with an audience of 80 at many of them. He commented that we have broken even on the re-publication of Alan Inder's book "The Changing Face of Bishop's Waltham" and said that there are a number of other books in the pipeline.

He said he wanted to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to a number of people. Firstly, he wanted to thank all the distributors – last year this involved delivery of three newsletters, information about the possible public purchase of the Palace grounds and the 8-page AGM document. He commented that this is in an invisible task but wants to try and stop it being thankless. He also thanked Pauline Mousley who, despite not being a trustee, is heavily involved in the planning committee. Finally, he thanked Debbie and Ray Crump who have served on the committee for a number of years, variously filling the roles of Treasurer and Secretary, but who are this year stepping down – he said they would be badly missed.

The Chairman then asked for comments on the Executive Report. John Hayter raised a number of matters.

Firstly, he commented on the completion of the works to the North Pond and wanted to thank Alan Inder and other members of the North Pond Conservation Group (NPCG) who brought that to a conclusion.

Secondly, he raised the issue of homelessness and the fact that many younger first time buyers cannot afford to purchase a property. He also commented that the Society has objected to a number of planning applications on the grounds of trying to stop additional traffic and although this would be a benefit to some in Bishops Waltham, it would prevent the building of much needed homes in this area. He said that since the local plan was produced, the Office for National Statistics and the County Council have estimated that we will need to double the number of houses we provide. He said that the process of updating the Local Plan had

already started and that the Society would have to play catch up unless they got involved straight away. He added that we could learn lessons from Eastleigh and elsewhere.

Pauline Mousley responded by saying that where we have raised traffic objections, these have been on the basis that there are safety concerns in getting access onto the main roads and that we are looking for improvements to the plans in order to make that access safer rather than a straightforward reduction in numbers. One member then raised the issue of getting out of Tangier Lane and asked whether there was a Tree Preservation Order on the large oak tree which obstructs the view on to the Winchester Road. It was agreed that there were probably TPOs on all the oak trees along the Winchester Road.

Robert Shields spoke as Chair of the Parish Council Planning Committee. He said the Committee meet once a month on Monday evenings and consider 10-20 applications per session, although this is usually to an empty forum and they would welcome the involvement and input from Society members. With regard to trees, the PC have recently recruited two new tree wardens who will be reviewing all trees in Bishop's Waltham, including those on planned development sites. So far as the need to increase new housing is concerned, the committee is setting up groups to start looking at the next phase of housing developments and where these might be. All of the parish land is to be considered, including areas such as the Cricket Ground and Allotments.

Tony Kippenberger thanked everyone for their comments. The adoption of the Executive Report was proposed by John Hayter and seconded by Doris Grover.

RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL REPORT: The Treasurer, Keith Fry, referred to the financial report circulated with the newsletter and asked for comments.

John Hayter said that last year he had criticised the large bank balance and was told that this was rainy day money. This year only 5% has been spent on grants which is less than we received from gift aid. He referred to the work done by the North Pond Conservation Group and that whilst Friends of St Peters have raised thousands of pounds for this, the Society have not made any contribution. He said that the Society should have checked the North Pond funding situation and then offered to fund more seats and a lay-by near the viewing platform in order for a refreshment van to pull in. He also said that many members would have seen Alan Lovell on TV the previous evening regarding the financial situation of the Hampshire Cultural Trust. He felt that Alan Lovell should be asked how and by how much the Society could help.

The Chairman commented that the Society had previously given a donation of £1,000 to the North Pond Conservation Group when they were seeking funds. We were not aware of any recent appeal for money but if there had been, we would have considered that.

He added that if we had made any donations to Hampshire Cultural Trust (who run the museums and cultural activities across Hampshire) we may well have been seen to have stepped outside our current constitution.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the adoption of the financial report was proposed by Ian Leesmith and seconded by Mike Rainey.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Tony Kippenberger confirmed that there is currently no Vice-Chairman in place, but that the other officers of the committee were all willing to be re-elected: Chairman Tony Kippenberger, Treasurer Keith Fry and Minutes Secretary Eileen Rainey. Proposed by Gill Forrester, seconded by Pauline Mousley. Nem Con.

ELECTION OF UP TO EIGHT TRUSTEES: Fred Woodfine, Robin Shepherd, Pat Morris, Jonathan Simmons and Sandra Boyd are all prepared to stand again. This leaves space for three members – if anyone is interested, they should speak with Tony Kippenberger. Proposed by Jenny Williams, seconded by Doris Grover. Nem con.

APPOINTMENT OF THE EXAMINER OF THE SOCIETY'S ACCOUNTS: Keith Fry thanked Paul Emmerson for turning around the accounts within a 24 hour period. He confirmed that Paul is prepared to remain as examiner. Proposed by Mike Lukey, seconded by Ray Crump.

PROPOSED REVIEW OF THE SOCIETY'S CONSTITUTION: Tony Kippenberger commented that at last year's AGM a number of points had been made about extending the Society's objects. The committee had started to review these, but then considered it would be an ideal opportunity to think about what our objects should be for the 21st Century as these will no doubt have changed from when the society was formed 32 years ago. It was decided that the whole constitution should be looked at in an open manner and in full consultation with the membership. The proposal is to start by forming a brainstorming group made up of a broad cross-section of members, with the ideas from that group being put to all members for their views. Tony Kippenberger asked if anyone had any comments on the proposal.

John Hayter said we need to be able to demonstrate our objects and powers – this is what we are going to do and this is how we are going to do it. This would enable the Exec Report each year to show progress, or lack of it, against each object. Tony Kippenberger thanked John for his comments and said that whilst preparing this year's Exec Report, he had seen examples on the Charity Commission website set out in such a way and confirmed we are proposing to move to that format in the future. He added though that the objects need to be achievable in the first place.

No other comments were made.

MEMBERS' FORUM – ANY OTHER BUSINESS: No AOB items raised by members.

Tony Kippenberger raised one item – the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (a new EU law effective from 25 May 2018 and which replaces the Data Protection Act). This introduces new regulations on how organisations handle personal data. Keith Fry has been appointed Data Controller and new IT equipment will be purchased to prevent hacking. A Privacy Notice will appear on our website and also on new membership application forms. We have decided to seek 'new consent' from every member for us to hold their information and to use this for appropriate purposes. Members will receive a letter explaining the background and asking for their specific consent to use various means of contacting them (post, email, telephone etc.). We are conscious that address details are given to those who deliver newsletters and we will be addressing the security aspect of that as well. One member raised the situation where an individual doesn't want the society to have their details and whether this would prevent them from attending meetings they have seen advertised in the Parish News? Keith Fry clarified that members are able to decline all methods of communication, but this would effectively mean resignation from the membership as we are unable to distribute newsletters, etc to them without their consent. This wouldn't however prevent them from attending meetings.

Tony commented that this exercise will help us with the constitutional review as it will enable us to address all members, so the two processes will run concurrently.

CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN: The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their input to the meeting. Debbie Crump then proposed thanks to Tony Kippenberger for all his hard work on behalf of Bishop's Waltham Society and said we would not be where we are today without him. This was agreed and met with applause.

After the AGM members enjoyed cheese and wine and this was followed by an interesting talk given by Alan Inder on "The History of London from the 18th Century".