

Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting of THE WIGGONHOLT ASSOCIATION

A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered Charity Number 1129002

at Pulborough Village Hall on Monday 5th April 2016 at 7pm

The meeting was chaired by David Burnet, Director and Treasurer of
the Association

1. Apologies for absence: Annie and Julian Atkinson, Hugh Gilbert, John Glazier, Lewis Golden, Anne and Ian Jenkinson, Lee & Christine Higham, Rosemary Jones, Michael and Jane Joseph, Tony Whitbread, Trevor Rose

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising: The Minutes of the Sixth AGM were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman. Matters arising: it was incorrectly stated that Elizabeth Zeschin would retire by rotation in 2016, and this was amended.

3. Directors' Report (given by the Chairman)

We have mainly concentrated this year on the emerging Minerals Plan, which is going to be discussed in detail under Item 8. There has been a long wait for the draft plan to emerge but it is now on a roll and key dates have been published.

We are very aware that some of you miss the Wiggonholt Newsletter, which was regularly published to a high standard by our former chairman, Peter Flatter. Our doings can be found on Twitter but this is not for every Member, so shortly we shall begin a news-sheet to be sent to all Members as an email attachment. Those of you not on email will get a copy by post, and if in the meantime you are 'converted', please let us know.

Planning matters have included taking part in the Storrington Neighbourhood Plan. We also took part in the second consultation on the South Downs Local Plan, which contains policies of particular relevance to a National Park, such as dark skies and tranquillity. When this is adopted it will be used as the major guidance for decisions in the Park, though it is already given weight in planning applications. You will hear a report from Martin Vasey shortly on these strategic plans.

In the meantime, we have not always been impressed by the National Park Authority's interpretation of legislation, policy or precedent in planning matters. This has been apparent in the latest planning permission – a complete revision - to turn one of the farm buildings in the Greatham conservation area into a house. Unless the Authority can identify more clearly with legislation for the historic environment, we fear that more disturbing decisions may result. On a brighter note, Horsham DC refused permission for the conversion into a house of a cart house complex at Rackham and here they found that the proposal was inappropriate to the original buildings. Our thanks to Robert Houston and Martin Vasey for keeping an eye on the planning lists for us.

In May 2015 the Allegri Quartet and two of Peter Flatter's favourite instrumentalists performed at a packed Leconfield Hall at a concert in his memory. This was organized by Anna Hill whose skilled direction resulted in a concert worthy of Peter. Other events in the past year included a garden party at The Old Rectory, and our annual boat trip. The first attracted a fine day and a good crowd of members and their guests. The second took place again in a heatwave – is this Wiggonholt Weather? Forty-five of us joined the present and the former chairman of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust for the unveiling of a plaque (by Doreen Mann) in memory of Peter at the new Visitor Centre. We then cruised down canal to see some new projects of the Trust including a magnificent new lock, and disembarked for a picnic on a shady part of the riverbank. The boat trip will take place this year on Saturday 13th August and we hope to see you again. Last year's was almost at capacity so do express an interest as soon as you can. We don't always have a Christmas party, but we want to know whether you would like one this year and would volunteer to help organize it. Please let us know via the Secretary.

The North Stoke telephone kiosk continues its function as an information point, an interesting role in an interesting place. Doreen Mann and Janet Aidin have been looking after the kiosk, keeping it clean and well stocked. If you are interested in helping out with this, please make yourself known as above. We are always looking for people to give their energy and knowledge to all or any of our projects.

Before the referendum at the end of June we plan to hold a public discussion on the environment and the European Union. The advent of the EU resulted in a great many directives and other initiatives to protect the environment. If we leave the EU these will remain in place, but the stream of legislation, some good, some bad, will cease, as will a major area of funding. We need to look at this in the round and see what the losses and gains are likely to be, and we will keep you informed about this event and its speakers.

Finally, the memorial concert unexpectedly produced a small windfall for the Wiggonholt Association. We are planning later this year the first Peter Flatter Memorial Lecture on a subject suited both to the Association's aims and to the interests of its former Chairman.

Martin Vasey then spoke on strategic planning: Planning matters have including comment on the Storrington (with Sullington and Washington) Neighbourhood Plan, which we broadly supported. The plan is now with the independent examiner whose report is expected in early April. Subject to any changes he may require, the way will then be clear for the referendum (requiring 50% participation), which will be the final stage in the adoption of the plan. We have also followed the progress of the Pulborough Neighbourhood Plan, which is now under discussion with HDC. We have not participated in the Horsham District Local Plan where the emphasis is on how to absorb 13,000 new dwellings. The point about the Neighbourhood Plans is that they give the local community some say in where additional housing goes and what the target number should be. For both Storrington and Pulborough, each with a population of about 5,000, the target number is roughly 300.

We submitted extensive comments on the draft South Downs Local Plan in the course of last year's public consultation. This will become the development plan for the Park instead of (for our area) the Horsham District Local Plan. The draft plan contains a number of innovative policies, which we welcome regarding cultural capital, green infrastructure, tranquillity and dark skies. The consultation has generated 2,000 pages of

comment to consider so inevitably it is a slow process and it is not complete. The plan will probably be adopted in 2017.

4. Treasurer's Report and approval of accounts: David Burnet presented the accounts for 2015 by reference to the income and expenditure summary. Noted 83 paid members, and a concluding 2015 balance of £8,161.89. Copies of the full accounts in form required for Company and Charitable compliance have been available to Members. There were no questions on the accounts, which were approved by the meeting, proposed by David Burnet and seconded by Kate Glazier. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Philip Migdale for reviewing and inspecting the accounts.

5. Retirement of Directors by rotation: It was the turn of the following Directors to retire by rotation: Janet Aidin and Martin Vasey. These Directors were now deemed to have retired.

6. Appointment of Directors: Janet Aidin and Martin Vasey had agreed to stand for re-election. Janet was proposed and seconded by Elizabeth Zeschin and Audrey Rose; Martin by Michael Aidin and Diana van der Klugt. It was unanimously resolved to re-elect them.

7. WEST SUSSEX JOINT MINERALS LOCAL PLAN *see attached*

8. Future events:

- Closer to the date of the referendum there would be a discussion in which the Sussex Wildlife Trust has agreed to take part about the environmental effects of staying in the EU or leaving it. Details would follow.
- As noted, there would be a boat trip on the Wey & Arun Canal on Saturday 13th August. Janet Aidin would deal with requests for places (01798 872531 janet@aidin.co.uk.)
- Later in the year there would be a Peter Flatter Memorial Lecture. The Board would welcome ideas on a topic, which would be consistent with the aims of the WA and Peter himself.
- Christmas Party: please communicate your interest to Janet

9. Any other business: None. There being no further business the meeting was concluded.