

# Minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting of THE WIGGONHOLT ASSOCIATION

A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered Charity Number 1129002

at Pulborough Village Hall on Monday 27th April 2015 at 7pm

The meeting was chaired by Janet Aidin, Director of the Association

1. Apologies for absence: Rose and Robert Englehart, Henry Evill, Lewis Golden, Catherine McAllister, Helen Mayors-Peach, Diana van der Klugt.
2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising: The Minutes of the Fifth AGM were proposed by Michael Aidin, seconded by Michael Pirkis, and approved by the meeting. They were signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.
3. Directors' Tribute to the late Peter Flatter, and their Annual Report (given by Janet Aidin)

This year has been clouded by the final illness and death in November of Peter Flatter, our long-standing Chairman. Music was his great love, so a Memorial Concert is being held on Sunday 10 May in Petworth with some of the distinguished musicians he sponsored and promoted.

Peter joined the Committee of the Association in 1999. He and Viki lived right next to the prospective sandpit at Wiggonholt. The first Public Inquiry was over and things were looking hopeful. Peter saw the need for a change of direction. Many one-theme groups have fizzled out when the threat was removed. Peter had a wider vision and he brought his energy and ideas together in the production of a Millennium Manifesto. This gave a fresh purpose to the skills which had been developed within the Wiggonholt Association since 1996 and it led to the formation of the registered charity we know today.

Peter produced a fascinating newsletter several times a year, something we very much miss, though it is fair to say that we are now making a seamless transition to social media. Some of our Members are on the fringes of the new technology and we try to keep them engaged by regular bulletins. As well as a website we now have a Facebook page and a Twitter account. Both can be accessed through our website which has beautiful new images of the Wiggonholt area thanks to Elizabeth Zeschin. If you are new to the game and would like to learn more, Elizabeth and David Burnet are our experts and will be delighted to give you advice.

These techniques are only as good as the information they carry. Last summer West Sussex County Council and the National Park Authority published the first round of consultation on a Joint Minerals Local Plan to replace the one we had

battled over for so many years. There were two consultations, one in June on the policies, and the other, in September, on possible sites. The Wiggonholt site opposite the RSPB which cost us dear for so many years was excluded and it remains outside the Plan. But two other sites grabbed our interest, one at the Wickford Bridge in Pulborough and the other at Horncroft near Bury, both in the National Park. Both were said to contain silica sand, which had never been identified before in West Sussex. Silica sand has a high-profile at the moment because it is used in fracking, and it also gets special treatment because it is a scarce commodity. The day after Peter's death we held a large public meeting on these proposals and were lucky enough to persuade the expert planner, Richard Bate of Green Balance, who has considerable knowledge of minerals and silica sand to address the meeting. This proved to be of enormous interest and I will bring you up to date on the Minerals Plan shortly.

We held a small Christmas party mainly for new members at The Old Rectory Wiggonholt this year. We plan to get back to normal in 2015.

Because of Peter's situation we decided not to go ahead with the annual trip on the electric boat *Wiggonholt* which Peter and the Association sponsored some years ago for the Wey & Arun Canal Trust. The Trust contacted us early this year, and we are really grateful to them. We have arranged an outing for Members and their guests **on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August** departing from the Onslow Arms Centre, Loxwood, at noon. We've produced some leaflets and we so hope you will join us. It's a lovely way to entertain week end guests. The pleasure is enormous and the trip is free apart from the picnic food and drink you bring with you.

Meanwhile we have not ignored our planning interests. The decision to grant planning permission for housing conversion for the old farm buildings in the Greatham conservation area gave rise to real concern about the capacity of the South Downs National Park Authority to protect listed buildings and heritage assets. The decision in May 2014 was almost tied. A year later the planning permission has not been implemented and the length of the process has allowed eight more years of decay for these important heritage assets, which include a listed building. Martin will talk to us shortly about other important planning strategy in the area.

The Wiggonholt telephone information kiosk remains a landmark at the entrance to North Stoke where it is much used and arouses a lot of interest. Our thanks to Doreen Mann and Peter Legge for keeping it smart and attractive. We are always looking for volunteers to replenish leaflets and generally keep it up to scratch.

As we start on a new chapter in the story of the Wiggonholt Association I would like to thank my fellow Board Members for their charm, enthusiasm and engagement. Our meetings are full of interest. We are always looking for bright, energetic people to help, including taking the role of Membership Secretary.

**Treasurer's Report and approval of accounts: David Burnet presented the accounts for 2014. Copies of the full accounts in form required for Company and Charitable compliance were available at the Meeting and to Members on request. From 1 January 2015 we had**

implemented the slight increase in subscriptions (now £8 for individuals and £12 for families) voted on at the 2014 AGM. There were no questions on the accounts which were approved by the meeting, proposed by David Burnet and seconded by Martin Vasey. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Philip Migdale for reviewing and inspecting the accounts, and to David himself, as Treasurer.

5. Retirement of Directors by rotation: It was the turn of the following Directors to retire by rotation: Michael Aidin and David Burnet. These Directors were now deemed to have retired.

6. Appointment of Directors: Michael Aidin and David Burnet had agreed to stand for re-election and they had been proposed by Elizabeth Zeschin and seconded by Martin Vasey.

(Next year the following Directors would retire by rotation: Janet Aidin, Elizabeth Zeschin and Martin Vasey.)

7. Update on South Downs National Park Local Plan, and Joint Minerals Local Plan (see reports annexed to these Minutes).

8. Future events: As noted in the Annual Report, there would be a boat trip on the Wey & Arun Canal on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Janet Aidin would deal with requests for places (01798 872531 [janet@aidin.co.uk](mailto:janet@aidin.co.uk).) Members were also invited to a garden party in the orchard of The Old Rectory, Wiggonholt, at noon on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August. This and other plans would be notified in detail in the course of the year.

9. Any other business: None.

There being no further business the meeting was concluded.